

URBANWATERS

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

"We will revitalize urban waterways and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival."
- Partnership Vision



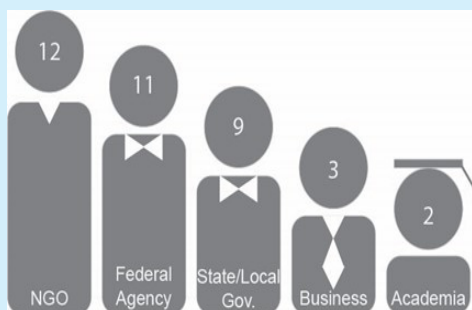
ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) seeks to reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways while encouraging stewardship.

Through the Partnership, communities gain economic, environmental, and social benefits, and collaborate with Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community-led efforts, to achieve common goals.

The UWFP designated 19 locations between 2011 to 2014. The 19 geographically dispersed locations are working to revitalize urban waterways and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked watersheds into community assets.

Local UW Partnerships: By the Numbers



Local UW Partnerships have an average of 37 member organizations from diverse sectors.



Urban Waters Partnerships are in place across the country and Puerto Rico. While this map shows them as cities, partnerships work with all municipalities in their watershed.

The UWFP is supported by 15 Federal agencies and more than 28 non-governmental organization (NGO) partners working in 19 designated locations.

Guiding Principles of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- Promote clean urban waters
- Reconnect people to their waterways
- Encourage water conservation
- Use urban water systems to promote economic revitalization and prosperity
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships
- Listen to communities in order to engage them
- Focus on measuring results and evaluation to drive future success

UWFP Priorities and Principles Advanced at Locations

Engaging people – A number of initiatives, including ENLACE in Puerto Rico, focus on public education activities to promote wider understanding of environmental issues.

Access to water – Three handicap-accessible boat launches were constructed in Northwest Indiana.

Restoration – At least six parks were restored or created in Urban Waters locations, including the San Antonio River Basin, the Delaware River Watershed, and the Proctor Creek Watershed.

Economic activity – New jobs were created for Baltimore residents focused on deconstructing and recycling old building materials through Humanim's Brick by Brick program.

Water quality – Due to improved citizen monitoring, the City of Atlanta has identified and addressed illegal sewage discharges that previously contaminated neighborhood creeks.

Why Are Urban Waters Important?

In many urban areas — especially those that are overburdened or underserved — every resource counts. Clean water is the one resource that is often taken for granted but is also most vital. Each of us relies on clean water every day — from the water we drink, shower, and swim in, to the water we use to feed our crops. But its value is larger than that. Clean water helps communities thrive, playing a key role in helping grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, and social opportunities in the areas through which they pass. Urban communities know this. All across the country, local groups are working to restore their water resources and reconnect their communities to them. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is committed to supporting these communities by helping them reclaim the water resources that are vital to their success.



ABOVE: Baltimore's vacant properties are being transformed through the use of green redevelopment strategies and tree plantings.

UWFP Accomplishments

Addressing Unmet Needs in New Mexico

The South Valley Commons seeks to become the “heart” of its New Mexico community. The project seeks to address the needs of this historically underserved South Valley area by providing access to early childhood development programs, affordable healthy food, and safe places. Once the site is complete, the Commons will include a Health Leadership High School; a farm and food hub, farm-to-table restaurant; a workforce training center; and a wellness center — all connected by walking trail.

Promoting Urban Agriculture for DC Residents

The Anacostia Urban Waters Partnership collaborated to create the East Capitol Urban Farm in the District of Columbia across from Watts Branch, the largest tributary to the Anacostia River. The project successfully transformed a three-acre vacant lot into a lively community space and creates opportunities for residents to grow their own food. The project has made strides to revitalize the city-owned property and bring social, health, and economic benefits to residents.

Revitalizing the Los Angeles River

The Taylor Yard area is widely known as the “crown jewel” of Los Angeles (LA) River revitalization. The Taylor Yard is a former 41-acre rail facility adjacent to the LA River, dealing with legacy contamination involving toxic heavy metals. The development of Taylor Yard has successfully launched efforts to clean up a brownfield site, restore the LA River Watershed, build low-income and affordable senior housing, and connect residents to the river.

Advancing Hurricane Recovery in New Orleans

The 1890s-era New Canal Lighthouse located on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) enlisted the assistance of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) and local citizens to rebuild the New Canal Lighthouse, transforming it into a museum and education center. The project has inspired public and private investment in related projects within the region, further restoring the community and watershed.