



EPA's URBANWATERS Program

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June 2, 2017 at the Training Workshop for CWA 303(d) Listing & TMDLs



Urban Waters Federal Partnership

14 AGENCIES, MISSION & VISION

*“The Urban Waters Federal Partnership will help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are **underserved or economically distressed**, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.”*

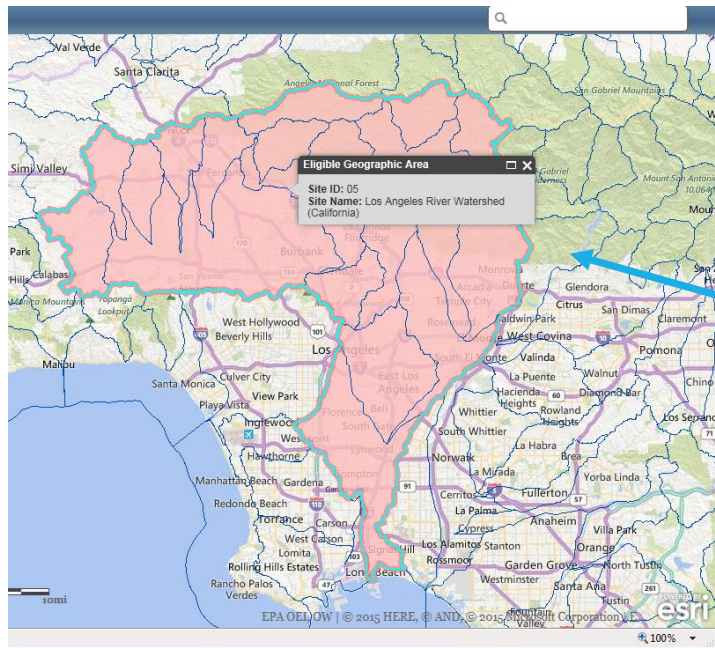
“We will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.”

And we use the Watershed Approach!



Darryl Haddock, Urban Waters Ambassador for the Proctor Creek location, during a cleanup event.

Urban Waters Partnerships



THE LOS ANGELES RIVER PARTNERSHIP LOCATION

19 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Partnership Workplan for 2016-2018: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/national-strategic-workplan-2016-2018>

Partnership Handbook: <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/building-and-sustaining-successful-urban-waters-partnerships-handbook>

Urban Waters Small Grants

PAST GRANTS, CURRENT CYCLE

*“Where water quality improvement
and community improvement
intersect”*

Awarded **\$6.6M** nation-wide to **114**
organizations across the country and Puerto
Rico.

Current Cycle (2015/2016):

- MS4 communities/Stormwater Management
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring



Community member from one of the poorest and most environmentally overburdened communities in San Juan explains the crops growing in her community’s urban farm – a project funded through this grant in an Urban Waters Federal Partnership location.

Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grants

“Develop community capacity for urban waterway restoration projects by funding diverse local partnerships”

- Public/Private Partnership funding by EPA, USDA-Forest Service, US DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company, FedEx, Alcoa Foundation, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company and a Foundation.
- **Over 270** projects over 5 years at about \$45K each and matched locally (by 2017 summer) and RFPs/grants in 2018 and 2019 are forthcoming



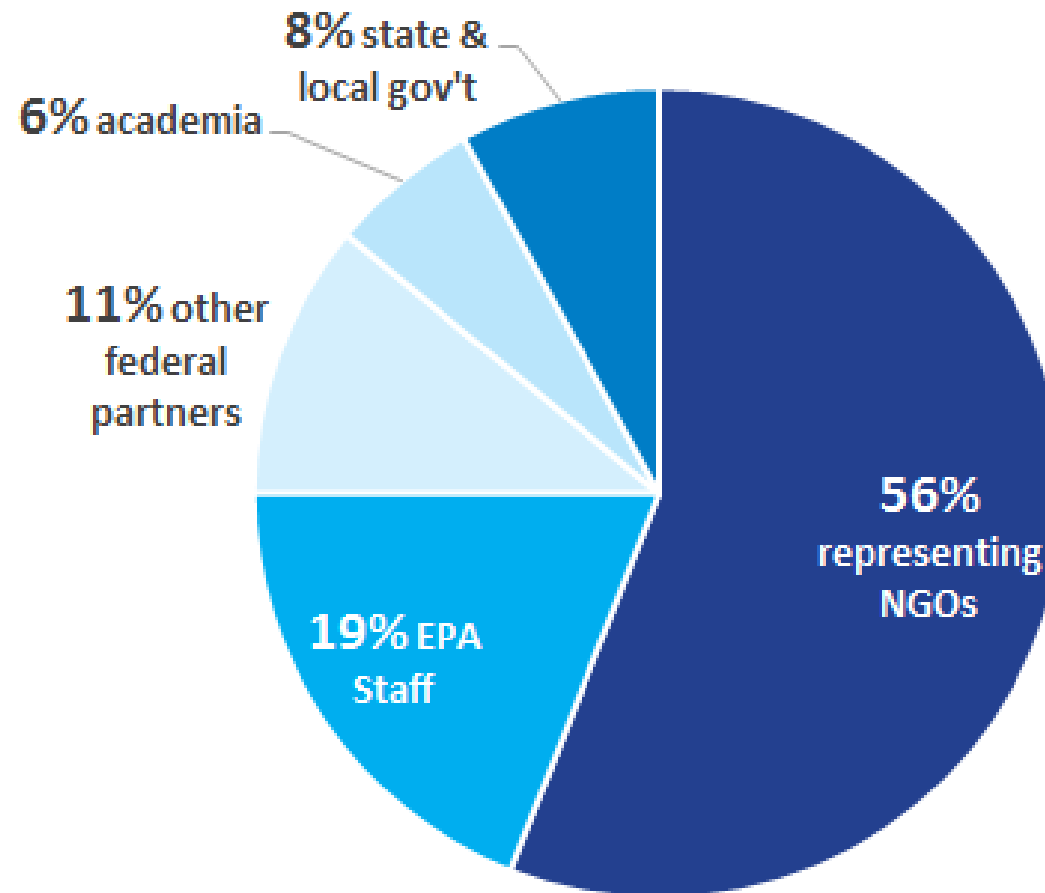
Plaster Creek partners planting in the watershed.

Urban Waters Learning Network

GROUNDWORK USA + RIVER NETWORK +EPA

“A peer to peer community where urban waters practitioners share experiences, tools, and resources to support on the ground projects and build local capacity” (395 members)

- Networking
- Training and knowledge sharing
- Mentoring and coaching
- Boosted effectiveness
- Funding and technical resources
- **Learning Network Awards (first in 2017)**



Urban Waters & TMDLs: A case from Bear Creek, Denver

Groundwork Denver (GWD), key member of the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership:

- Creating an analytic approach for addressing E.Coli
- Bear Creek runs through low-income suburb. Many homes have septic systems (suspect that some are not maintained well). GWD is connecting homes to the sanitary sewer system and/or helping people with their septic systems.
- DNA source typing the E.Coli in the creek to determine if it's human or animal.
- EPA provides lab & tech assistance and has given GWD a 319 grant and two Urban Waters Small Grants.



Volunteer monitoring in Lower Bear Creek. Photo Credit: Groundwork Denver, Urban Waters Learning Network

Final Reflections

- The Urban Waters Program, as part of OWOW, is going full steam ahead.
- The Program is committed to work toward the Clean Water Act goals for all urban watersheds using all the tools, methods, and provisions of the law.
- Therefore, the listing processes and TMDLs should be a big part of any Urban Waters Partnership's workplan.

