

January 2017



LEARNING NETWORK SERVICES

UrbanWatersLearningNetwork.org

provides a "one-stop" public web site with resources that help local urban waters practitioners and advocates maximize their local impact. Learning Network services are available to all interested groups. Services include:

- **Urban Waters Tool Box** is a curated set of more than 90 tools, guides and templates, including stormwater calculators, rain garden design templates, monitoring protocols and outreach materials in a number of languages.
- **Impact Stories** describe how local projects are making an impact in their own communities. These stories allow urban waters practitioners and advocates to learn how their peers across the country are successfully implementing projects in communities and watersheds similar to their own.
- **Urban Waters Learning Forum**, is a chance for Network members to meet. Held just before the opening of River Network's River Rally, it brings together urban waters practitioners and advocates for this annual face-to-face learning event where participants exchange resources, technical expertise and connect with organizations facing the same challenges.
- **Members-Only Online Exchange** virtually connects members with each other so they can share resources, post questions and learn about training opportunities. Members can customize the content they receive based on their interests.

THE URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK

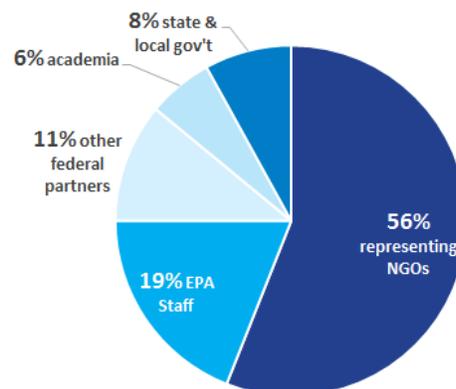
The Urban Waters Learning Network (Learning Network) is a peer-to-peer network of people and organizations working to restore and revitalize local waterways, many located in socioeconomically challenged and environmentally overburdened urban communities.

With funding from EPA's Urban Waters Program, Groundwork USA and River Network coordinate the Learning Network. To assist members, they draw on decades of experience helping local organizations with on the ground projects and capacity building.

Learning Network technical expertise includes:

- Stormwater & Green Infrastructure
- Outreach & Education (includes youth programs)
- Water Quality (includes trash and monitoring programs)
- Greenways, Blueways & Riverbank Restoration
- Environmental Justice

Over 389 individuals are members of the Learning Network:



How can my organization benefit?

The Learning Network strengthens the effectiveness of urban waters practitioners across the country by providing them with:

- **Opportunities to network** with peers on topics of their choice through conference calls, online exchange and face-to-face events
- **Training and Knowledge Sharing** which builds local capacity through webinars on technical and organizational development topics
- **Mentoring and Coaching** for individuals and organizations provided by River Network and Groundwork USA
- **Boosted Effectiveness** via access to proven methods that drive measurable results
- **Funding and Technical Resources** recommended by members to peers via the members-only online exchange

ACCESS LEARNING NETWORK WEBINARS

The Learning Network presents webinars based on what Members want to learn about and features Member projects. Check on upcoming webinars as well as ones already recorded (below) at www.UrbanWatersLearningNetwork.org.

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring: Getting Useful Data & Engaged Community Members

This webinar is for those who are thinking of launching or expanding their volunteer water quality monitoring programs.

- **Stacey Eriksen** with EPA covers the importance of framing your research question so the data collected can be used toward water protection and restoration goals. She outlines steps to take on drafting a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- **Jason Ulseth** with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in Atlanta, Georgia, speaks about their volunteer recruitment and training; data collection and management protocols; and how they've been so successful in just five short years.
- **Rachel Hansgen** with Groundwork Denver describes the key role that partnerships played in developing their three year-old monitoring program, particularly their collaboration with schools and a local university.



Creating Lasting Connections on Social Media

In this webinar, **Andrea Berry** of Idealware shows you what works on social media, how you can engage with your audience and move them up a ladder from a simple "like" to valued supporters, donors, or volunteers.

Urban Waters Outreach: Engaging Minority Audiences

When engaging our diverse and changing urban communities, it's essential to recognize different languages and cultural nuances. Reflecting this reality, this webinar presents initiatives by three urban waters organizations that have succeeded in building trust and engagement with minority audiences and among non-English speakers. Presenters include **Beverly Woods** with Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, Massachusetts; **Alberto Rodriguez** with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Seattle, Washington; and **Cheryl Jenkins** with the City of Nampa, Idaho.

Greenways: The Urban Waters Experience

- **Ryan Parker** with Freshwater Land Trust, Alabama, describes their grant-funded work to clean up brownfields; carve out green spaces for park land; and create a greenway along Village Creek.
- **Robin Corathers** with Groundwork Cincinnati, in Ohio, shares her organization's twenty-year effort, now in its last phase, to bring back green space in an environmental justice community.
- **Jill Erickson** shares the Heartland Conservation Alliance's unique project to develop tools to help find the best vacant city lots to preserve as open space in Kansas City, Missouri.

For more information please visit www.UrbanWatersLearningNetwork.org



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