

Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership Framework for Collaboration

This framework defines the Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership's six core "Partnership Activities" with respect to the river. The Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) is a collaboration of federal and state agencies, municipalities, and community-based organizations advancing cleanup, restoration, and stewardship of the Lower Passaic River and equitable, sustainable development along its banks. These areas of work were developed in alignment with, but not limited to, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership national Vision, Mission, & Principles.

Partnership Activity 1. Expand opportunities for walkable public access to the Lower Passaic River, including access to and from the water. Support programming that raises awareness of the watershed as a whole, and that integrates river stewardship into holistic, culturally-competent community development efforts.

Related Urban Waters national principle: Reconnect people to their waterways.

Partnership Activity 2. Facilitate collaboration between park stewards, affordable housing experts, and homelessness service providers in order to ensure access to the benefits of new riverfront parks for old and new residents, and minimize displacement. Connect stewardship and public-access advocates with best practices and local partners for advancing a housing-first approach to ending homelessness.

Related Urban Waters national principle: Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity.

Partnership Activity 3. Identify and implement local opportunities for advancing the Hudson Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan, particularly in the Partnership's core geographic area and in underserved communities. Support innovative means of restoring habitat despite sediment contamination as a barrier to habitat restoration.

Related Urban Waters national principle: promote clean urban waters.

Partnership Activity 4. Improve coordination with existing community outreach infrastructure for federal agencies engaging in the NEPA process. Work with agencies, academics, local business owners, and community-based organizations to identify and promote ongoing means for community members to participate in river-related environmental governance

Related Urban Waters national principle: Be open and honest, and listening to the communities is the best way to engage them.

Partnership Activity 5. Reduce sources of pollution to and within the Passaic River, and other related activities, in order to meet the fishable/swimmable goal of the Clean Water Act.

***Related Urban Waters national principle:** promote clean urban waters.*

Partnership Activity 6. Identify the impact of climate change on key public access, water quality, habitat, and equity goals. Implement means of improving social and ecological resilience to climate change.

***Relevant Urban Waters national activities:** National Urban Waters Federal Partnership workplan including the Middle Rio Grande/Albuquerque UWFP, LA River Watershed UWFP, Lake Pontchartrain UWFP, and others prioritizing activities addressing climate change.*