

SPOTLIGHT

Jordan River Commission

Through a 2012 EPA Urban Waters Small Grant, The Salt Lake County Division of Flood Control and Water Quality, Watershed Planning and Restoration Department in Salt Lake City, Utah with partner the Jordan River Commission, created a mobile website for place-based learning along the Jordan River. This mobile website will become a digital layer of interpretation of the river corridor, without having to actually install structures within the natural environment. They are using Smartphone technology and a series of interpretative stops along the Jordan River Parkway Trail and turning the river corridor into a nature center without walls!

They are targeting five categories of learning content:

- 1) Recreation; take a walk, identify recreational features and note information you would like to have available to you, and share your stories!
- 2) Human & Natural History; be a historian, describe your encounter with the river and maintain a river journal.
- 3) Water & Water Quality; take a picture or video, become a citizen scientist and create a list of actions for river stewardship.
- 4) Ecology & Restoration; take a field trip, go bird watching or on a nature walk.
- 5) Public Safety & Community Building; report safety problems, spot large trash items in the river, and identify community destinations.



ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants (UWSG) program is to fund research, investigations, experiments, training, surveys, studies, and demonstrations that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. This program recognizes that healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social, and employment opportunities in nearby communities.

As part of the Urban Waters Movement, our program is seeking to help communities, especially underserved communities, connect to their waterways and engage in restoration to improve water quality and, at the same time, revitalize their neighborhoods. The Urban Waters program strives to make a visible difference by working with a diversity of partners to support community-driven solutions that connect the intrinsic value of urban waters with improving the livability and economic health of the community.

Is My Organization Eligible?

Eligible applicants include States, local governments, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S. (including the District of Columbia), public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions/organizations, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies.

In general, projects should meet the following four program objectives:

- Activities to improve and restore local urban water quality;
- Engage, educate and empower local residents and entities;
- Support community priorities; and
- Involve underserved communities.

UWSG Recipients

The Urban Waters Small Grants are competed and awarded every two years. In 2012, EPA selected 55 organizations in 36 states and Puerto Rico to receive grants ranging from \$30,280 to \$60,000, for a total of \$3.2 million towards projects that will contribute to improved water quality and community revitalization.

The 2013/2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) has closed and EPA is awarding \$2.1 million to support individual grants of approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 each. This grant cycle has a geographic focus that aligns with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership designated locations. These locations are mapped at:
http://geoplatform3.epa.gov/UW_SmallGrantsMap/index.html

*We encourage all applicants to join the **Urban Waters Network**, where members are notified about new funding opportunities, other available resources for local efforts, and success stories about communities reclaiming their urban waters. To join, please go to www.epa.gov/urbanwaters and click on "Get Email Updates".*

PROJECT THEMES:

WHAT ARE COMMUNITIES DOING?

Integrating Environmental Justice

The Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (Seattle, Washington) has had great success in engaging and impacting the community in an unconventional way. Partnering with faith-based organizations, local schools, universities, community councils, non-profit organizations and others, their engagement strategy has been to create hands-on and creative strategies for involving people in EPA's river cleanup decision. During a 105 day public comment period, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition held over 50 community events, including a World Dance Party celebrating local culture and heritage, community-based workshops, and unconventional public meetings, including "floating classrooms," arts events, and multilingual public meetings with trained peer-to-peer educators. As a result of their efforts, the group reached over 3,350 community members, and generated 2,345 written comments and testimonials submitted to EPA in 10 different languages.

Volunteer Monitoring

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District (Bozeman, Montana) is establishing an integrated stream monitoring program in the greater Gallatin Watershed for the purpose of evaluating water quality conditions long-term. Volunteers from the Gallatin Stream Team are assisting in the collection of data for this project from six monitoring stations on Bozeman Creek and Mandeville Creek. Data collection includes water chemistry grab samples, stream flow, chlorophyll a, macroinvertebrates, field parameters, and Wolman pebble counts. The goal for the Gallatin Stream Team is to provide a framework for volunteer monitors to collect water quality data on local streams for long-term trend analysis, and to supplement the District's Surface Water Monitoring Network. In addition to providing scientifically-credible data to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the program facilitates public involvement in watershed monitoring and stewardship and creates a network of volunteers that can help recruit and train new volunteers.

Water Quality Report Cards

Columbia Slough Watershed Council (Portland, Oregon) program involves the watershed's youth, focusing on minority, low-income, and indigenous communities and others in the design, planning and performance of water quality sampling and data collection activities. Students engage in hands-on science inquiry projects through the Slough School Education Program, collecting and testing water samples at Whitaker Ponds Nature Park sites and upstream and downstream on the adjacent Whitaker Slough to determine the water quality of the Slough and Ponds.

Job Training

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is providing focused information and training to a variety of constituencies within the Tookany/Tacony Frankford (TTF) watershed, including inmates of the Philadelphia Prison System through their Roots to Re-Entry program, to build interest and provide skills needed to implement and maintain simple storm water green infrastructure projects. This project is encouraging the development of more green infrastructure within the watershed, furthering community beautification efforts, increasing the capacity of a variety of constituencies to implement and maintain green infrastructure and ultimately contributing to improved water quality and community involvement. Through these efforts, it is also raising the importance of protecting the watershed among the larger TTF watershed community.

Green Infrastructure

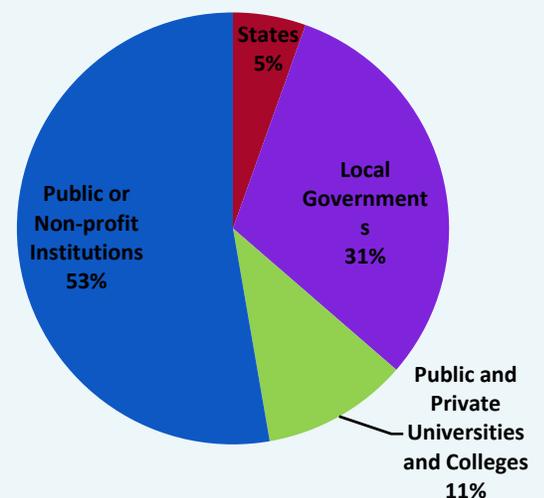
Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (Albuquerque, New Mexico) is improving the water quality of the Rio Grande on a watershed basis, by educating the public about stormwater management and green infrastructure. Through hands-on classroom presentations, they have reached hundreds of middle school-aged students about protecting the quality of their water, understanding the issues they face with stormwater runoff, and recognizing the need for natural resource management in their watershed. In addition, through outreach events, distribution of information and materials about the Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters program and opportunities to become involved have reached approximately 1,000 community members.

Percentage of Project Themes Supported by Grant Recipients



**Estimated based on 2012/2013 UWSG recipient survey data.*

Grantee Participants



**Estimated based on 2012/2013 UWSG recipient survey data.*

How to Apply:

Currently, there is no open Request for Proposals (RFP). Please regularly check our website for announcements on funding opportunities and other resources. <http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters>