

GREEN-DUWAMISH URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP WORKPLAN - 2020

Background

The Green-Duwamish Watershed (GDW) flows for over 93 miles beginning at the crest of the Cascade Mountains ending as it empties into Elliott Bay in downtown Seattle, just beyond the Port of Seattle. Land use varies considerably across the watershed with the upper sub-watershed is almost entirely in forest production; The Middle Green is a mix of residential, commercial forestry and agricultural production. The Lower Green is characterized by residential, industrial and commercial land uses. Finally, the lower river, called the Duwamish Estuary or Duwamish Waterway, is split between residential and heavy industrial uses and is home to Boeing, the Port of Seattle, the Duwamish Tribe, numerous residential communities, and Superfund sites.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership was created in 2011 as an effort to “revitalize urban waterways and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban and community revitalization.” The Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership (GD-UWFP) was designated as a partnership site in 2013. The designation effort was led by the USFS PNW Research Station, with support from NRCS and EPA R10, Washington Operations Office. Since the launch, the programmatic work of the GD-UWP is led by the USFS PNW Research Station, and more recently has been supported by USFS R6 of State and Private Forestry.

Overall Goals

- Connect watershed recovery efforts with local needs and priorities
- Promote cross-agency partnerships
- Reconnect people to their waterways
- Advance social equity, environmental justice, local economic development benefits
- Monitor progress toward UWFP goals
- Promote the multi-benefit opportunities generated by green infrastructure, investments especially those framed by the health-nature nexus

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Program Information:

www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-and-green-duwamish-watershed-washington

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Purpose

This document serves as the workplan for the GD-UWFP Ambassador. It does not represent the comprehensive list of actions or objectives of GD-UWFP partners or networks. This workplan will guide a specific set of work, to be updated annually or as funding adjusts priorities. Accomplishments and catalog of actions completed will be collected in other documents.

Partner Recognition

Funders:

- USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station
- USDA Forest Service State and Private Region 6, Urban and Community Forestry

Core Additional Federal Partners:

- US EPA Region 10, Water Division

Participating Networks Include:

- WRIA 9 (Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA))
- Green the Green Network
- Duwamish Alive Coalition
- City of Seattle, Duwamish Valley Action Plan Implementation Team.
- Our Green/Duwamish Watershed program of King County
- NIPSC (Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities)
- Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/ Technical Advisory Group
- Emerald Alliance for People, Nature, and the Community

Ambassador's General Activities

- Local outreach and engagement with key groups throughout the watershed including potential funders to support the work and goals of the GD-UWFP.
- Ongoing engagement with national UWFP coordinators, other UWFP locations, and key UWFP contacts in DC, including routine communications related to GD-UWFP.
- Convene and participate in meetings of cooperating partners working in the GDW to better leverage research, policy, implementation efforts and project effectiveness including data, methods, and opportunities to connect with local stakeholders.
- Provide GDW-wide reporting and tracking information when feasible.
- Outreach and engagement with stakeholders to identify research, policy, and implementation needs, capacity, opportunities, and funding. Target connections with State of Washington Departments, Non-profit organizations, and Academic institutions and elementary schools.
- Support the existing organizational networks within the GDW, serving as a member, attending monthly or quarterly meetings, building agendas, and supporting implementation for, among others:

- WRIA9 Ecosystem Forum, and the various Technical Planning Committees
- The Green the Green Network Steering Committee
- Duwamish Alive Coalition Planning Committee
- Our Green/Duwamish network
- Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities (NIPSC)
- Emerald Alliance for People, Nature, and the Community
- Advance the connections between the GD-UWFP effort and EPA R10 Puget Sound recovery team.
- Advance the research connection between USFS PNW Research Station and EPA R10 scientists.
- Participate and track the Lower Duwamish Stakeholder and Superfund meetings and updates.
- Engage new federal partners and build relationships with federal entities not currently supporting the GD-UWFP.
- Explore the benefits of green infrastructure and human health and well-being in the GDW.
- Promote the Green-Duwamish watershed as an experimental landscape, advancing the Green Duwamish Learning Landscape (GDLL), and completing research and project implementation with this partnership.
- Identify and disseminate announcements and RFPs, and support partner applications with advice letters, and proposals for new funding opportunities for UWFP affiliated work in the GDW.
- Identify and implement projects to support urban and community forests in the GDW.

2020 Objectives

General Tasks

- a) Connect with the other UWFP sites via **monthly conference calls (12)** and through direct outreach.
- b) Engage with the Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN), **construct UWLN briefings (2-3)** and adopt best practices for use in the GDW.
- c) **Participate in UWFP Peer Exchange** calls hosted by EPA HQ.
- d) Participate in the Urban Waters National Training Workshop held about every 18 months in the greater DC area. Or in **River Rally** in years the Workshop is not held.
- e) **Submit monthly (12) location updates** from the GDW to the UWFP network.
- f) **Circulate program or funding opportunities (8-10 email digests per year)** to key GD-UWFP partners and networks.
- g) **Update the GD-UWFP website** with annual work plan, location contacts list, watershed related materials, and links to relevant watershed happenings.
- h) **Host monthly (12) Core Team Meetings** – Convene USDA Forest Service PNW Research and S&PF, and EPA Region 10 Urban Waters leads to manage the GD-UWFP.
- i) Participate in **Dept. of Interior (DOI) Urban Waters Fed Partnership call (4)**.
- j) Produce **annual project report and annual work plans**.

Facilitation and Convening

- k) Serve on the Duwamish Alive Coalition Committee. Co-develop and co-host **the 2020 Duwamish Alive Symposium**. Begin **planning for the 2021 Duwamish Alive Coalition Workshop**.

- l) Serve on the WRIA9 Ecosystem Forum – **Attend quarterly meetings (4)**, vote on materials, as needed. Attend **Technical Advisory Team meetings (2-3)**, as needed.
- m) Serve on the Green the Green Management Team. **Co-host quarterly (4) meetings** – develop priority agendas, facilitate speakers, compile feedback and learning.
- n) Continue **implementation of Green the Green Communications Strategy**, working with participants for incorporation of strategy into their efforts including targeting communication material construction.
- o) Monitor **ecosystem alternatives being constructed** by USDA FS PNW Research Station and Seattle University for the Desimone Oxbow site and connect assessment with actors in the watershed.
- p) Convene and facilitate **Green Duwamish Learning Landscape** core team meetings, approximately quarterly.

Technical Expertise

- q) **Participate in Our Green/Duwamish quarterly (4) meetings**, of the Stormwater group.
- r) **Participate on the Technical Advisory Committee** for Pollutant Loading Assessment with Department of Ecology.
- s) **Explore ecosystem services applications and opportunities** with EPA programing associated with the GDW
- t) **Support the ongoing development of the DRCC Air Quality Program.**
- u) **Draft Letters of Support** and provide technical expertise on grant applications and other funding opportunities perused by partners.
- v) **Participate in the Annual Green Infrastructure Summit** with the organization Stewardship Partners and others.
- w) **Participate in City Habitats workshops** organized by The Nature Conservancy and others.
- x) **Participate in Outside Citywide:** City of Seattle cross-departmental coordination of efforts to streamline investment in open space across the city, and a focus on the GDW community of South Park.
- y) **Advise on the King County’s 2005 Salmon Habitat Plan update.**
- z) **Provide additional support for the Green Duwamish Learning Landscape** and other research efforts and project implementation effecting the GDW.
- aa) Support and advise on the **American Rivers effort on assessing tax revenue shifts associated with riparian restoration**, including considerations for gentrification and displacement.

2020 - 2022 (3-year plan) Ongoing Objectives

- a. Complete a **Strategic Plan for the Green the Green Network** acting as co-lead of the network’s Management Team.
- b. Contribute to the completion of the **Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition’s Air Program**
- c. Contribute to the completion of the **Duwamish Valley Youth Corps’ Urban Forestry Curriculum**
- d. Contribute to the completion of the **City of Seattle’s Urban Forestry Management Plan**

- e. **Engage new federal and state partners and build relationships with federal entities** not currently supporting the GD-UWFP. Federal targets include: USGS, NRCS, the Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, and US Fish and Wildlife.
- f. Serve as convener and facilitator in the **establishment of an Upper Green River Watershed Plan**, consider additional upper watershed partners into the UWFP.
- g. Work with the USFS to **facilitate the connection of research capacity** with the relevant research needs of those engaged in work across the watershed, including those of EPA R10, EPA ORD, and other relevant federal, state and local entities.
- h. Work with the USFS to identify and implement high priority projects to **maintain and expand urban and community forests** in the GDW.
- i. Identify funding and partnerships opportunities to **advance GDLL projects and collaborative structure**.
- j. Collaborate with Western Washington University and other partners to develop a **National Science Foundation** Coupled Natural and Human Systems Research Project Proposal for the Green-Duwamish Watershed.
- k. Establish an **additional Federal funding source** beyond USDA Forest Service for UWFP-GD.
- l. Establish a **non-Federal funding source** beyond USDA Forest Service for the UWFP-GD.

2020 Budget Snapshot

Ambassador Time Funding Secured

- 2020 Ambassador - USFS State and Private Forestry and PNW Research Station - 49% time
- 2021 Ambassador - USFS PNW Research Station - 44% time
- 2022 Ambassador - USFS PNW Research Station - 22% time

Direct Project Funding Secured

- **\$7K** - Engagement and Outreach Materials and Dissemination for Georgetown/ South Park Moss Air Quality Indicator project
- **\$5K** – Economic Consultant for assessing return on investment of riparian restoration, working with American Rivers
- **\$4K** -Beacon Hill Moss Air Quality Indicator project participants (with WWU)

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