

An aerial photograph of the Delaware River watershed, showing the river winding through a landscape of green fields and urban areas. The text is overlaid on the image in a light blue color.

# The Delaware River Watershed Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Philadelphia / Camden / Chester / Wilmington

All Partners Meeting  
Academy of Natural Sciences  
April 4, 2014

# The UWFP Mission

- Break down silos between Federal agencies to improve services
- Help communities connect with – and improve – their waterways
- Boost under-served or economically distressed neighborhoods
- Engage effective community-based organizations
- Leverage existing neighborhood assets
- Collaborate with state and local government
- ***Establish strong partnerships!***



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## Greater Philadelphia Area/Delaware River Watershed



The Delaware is the longest un-dammed river in the United States east of the Mississippi, extending 330 miles from Upstate New York to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Over 15 million people (roughly 5 percent of the nation's population) rely on the waters of the Delaware River Basin for drinking, agricultural, and industrial use, though the watershed drains only four-tenths of one percent of the total continental U.S. land area.

The Greater Philadelphia Area/Delaware River Watershed Urban Waters Federal Partnership encompasses several major urban areas - from Philadelphia, PA to Wilmington, DE, and including Camden, NJ and Chester, PA - as well as the surrounding suburban and even rural landscape. The area along the Delaware River throughout the region has historically experienced a significant loss of economic benefits and environmental services provided by the river. Numerous local and regional initiatives are underway to reduce the negative impacts of urbanization on the quality of the river while reclaiming and restoring impacted riverfronts and economically revitalizing depressed areas. Challenges include stormwater management, erosion and flooding control, source water protection, restoring lost habitat, enhancing overall waterway health, protecting community investments, pursuing environmental justice, and promoting public access. Due to the geographic extent of the Delaware River Watershed and the diverse set of environmental and social issues at hand, restoration requires a larger scale focus while advancing small-scale on-the-ground implementation.

### List of Partners

#### Federal Partners

Partnership in Action Report (PDF) (59 pp, 3.8MB)

# More collaborations

- William Penn Foundation Delaware River Watershed Conservation Program
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Schuylkill Action Network
- Camden Collaborative Initiative
- Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed
- Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership
- The Circuit Coalition
- Others?



# Activity so far

- ‘Listening sessions’ in all 4 cities
- 1<sup>st</sup> annual Wilderness Inquiry paddling event
- Identified 5 main topics:
  - 1) Water Quality & Quantity
  - 2) River Protection & Restoration
  - 3) Climate Resilience
  - 4) Brownfields Revitalization
  - 5) Trails, Parks & Open Space
- Launched public website
- Periodic updates to all partners (~300 contacts)
- Convened today’s ‘All Partners’ meeting



# Planned activity

- Process today's feedback from participants
- Launch 'Communities of Practice' in 5 areas
- Develop website for partners & public outreach
- Hold 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Wilderness Inquiry paddle
- Support & promote projects that fit UWFP priorities
- Monitor progress, be resilient, and adapt
- What next...? We all decide – *together*





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