

URBANWATERS

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities



The Urban Waters Program helps urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.

Working with a diverse set of partners, we seek to help communities restore and protect water quality and revitalize adjacent rural, suburban, and urban neighborhoods throughout the watershed.

Through this partnership program, communities gain economic, environmental, and social benefits, and collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as community-led efforts, to achieve common goals.



National Reach, Local Results

- 15 federal agencies
- More than 28 non governmental organization partners
- 20 partnership locations.

Advancing Environmental Justice:

- **65%** of Five Star grants in low-income/minority communities
- Funded 12 U.S. EPA Environmental Justice grants in 2018 and 2019 (**\$540K**)
- Supported four local **environmental justice projects** in 2020 (over \$125K)
- Hosted two national training **workshops on equity**

Environmental Results Snapshot:

Reached
164,349

community members through events and campaigns

Removed
258,000

cubic yards of contaminated sediment and soil

Prevented
500,000

gallons of stormwater from entering waterbodies

Restored
155

acres of marshes, wetlands and fields

Collected
23,139

pounds of trash and 106 pounds of recycling

Engaged
3,550

volunteers and participants at events

The UW Program:

Funded Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grants to watershed projects that:

 Engaged more than **30,000 volunteers** across over **270 organizations** implementing dozens of projects across the country, which resulted in over **10,000 trees** and **20,000 marsh plants**, seeds and native grasses planted, preventing over **500,000 gallons** of stormwater from entering waterbodies.

Facilitated Information Exchange through the Urban Waters Learning Network:

 More than **580 members** in the online network connected to share best practices through seven webinars, five newsletters and **700 website visitors** per month.

Leveraged Funds:

 Secured more than **\$33 million** in grants and federal funding for Urban Waters projects.

Local Efforts, Watershed-Wide Impacts

Anacostia River (DC/MD) -

Released a river sediment cleanup plan in an **815-acre** area to make the river safer.

Patapsco River (MD) -

Distributed **376 trees**, over **39 cubic yards of mulch** and **121 recycling bins**; trained community members on stormwater management practices.

Bronx and Harlem River (NY) -

Developed **75 watershed-wide recommendations** for water quality improvement.

Delaware River (PA/NJ/DE) -

Restored **14 acres** of wetlands and enhanced coastal resiliency.



Grand River (MI) -

River habitat restoration expected to draw **500K** visitors and generate **\$15-19M** revenue annually.

Green Duwamish (WA) -

Engaged students in green infrastructure practices to support salmon recovery.

Lake Pontchartrain (LA) -

Monitored water health by using cyanobacterial sampling to determine that waters are meeting EPA recreational water criteria.

Los Angeles River (CA) -

Studied how urban riverbeds can be redesigned to provide improved habitat and fish passage, and stakeholders received funding to develop partial designs.

Meramec/Big River (MO) -

Coordinated and developed a plan to restore **1,600 acres** of degraded habitat.

Middle Blue River (MO/KS) -

Restored **23 acres** of wetlands, engaged **150 volunteers**, reached **150,000 community members** through its Renew the Blue Campaign.

Middle Rio Grande (NM) -

Opened Albuquerque's first "Mobile Pop-up Park."



Mystic River (MA) -

Led watershed community meetings to discuss and begin implementing nutrient reduction strategies.

Lower Passaic River (NJ) -

Reduced trash in the river through an education campaign.

Northwest Indiana (IN) -

Remediated **24 acres**, converted **40 acres** of farmland to native grasslands to restore water quality, restored **16 acres** of dune habitat.

Proctor Creek (GA) -

Installed trash capture devices to remove **80% of upstream litter** through a public/private partnership.



Salt and Gila River (AZ) -

Developed plan to improve **14 miles** of rivers, create **5 miles** of trails and improve **1,485 acres** of habitat.

San Antonio River Basin (TX) -

Advanced ozone and smog reduction planning efforts to reduce water contamination.



Martín Peña Channel (PR) -

Created Resilient Community hubs to address resiliency challenges and engage citizen scientists in environmental monitoring.

South Platte (CO) -

Updated Water Quality Assessment Tool to provide up-to-date data of important water quality parameters.

Western Lake Erie Basin (OH) -

300 citizen scientists entered **10 years** of historical data to a new water quality database.