

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

2022-2025
STRATEGIC PLAN



April 2022

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership (SPRUWP) Strategic Plan is a three-year plan, developed to serve as a roadmap for SPRUWP partners and committees. The plan was developed through an engagement process that involved a survey of SPRUWP members and the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee to refine and develop the mission, goals, strategies, and actions of the partnership over the next three years.

The Strategic Planning Committee met a total of five times to develop the mission, goals, strategies, and actions of the partnership. Through the strategic planning process, the SPRUWP Strategic Planning Committee identified that the primary goals of SPRUWP are to collaborate, educate, and engage; connect people with water; protect and restore through leveraging resources; and communicate achievements and share technical information. For each of the goals, the South Platte Strategic Planning Committee identified high-level strategies and actions to make progress on them. The actions outlined in the strategic plan are intended to be completed over the next three years and discussed and prioritized during that time.



OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

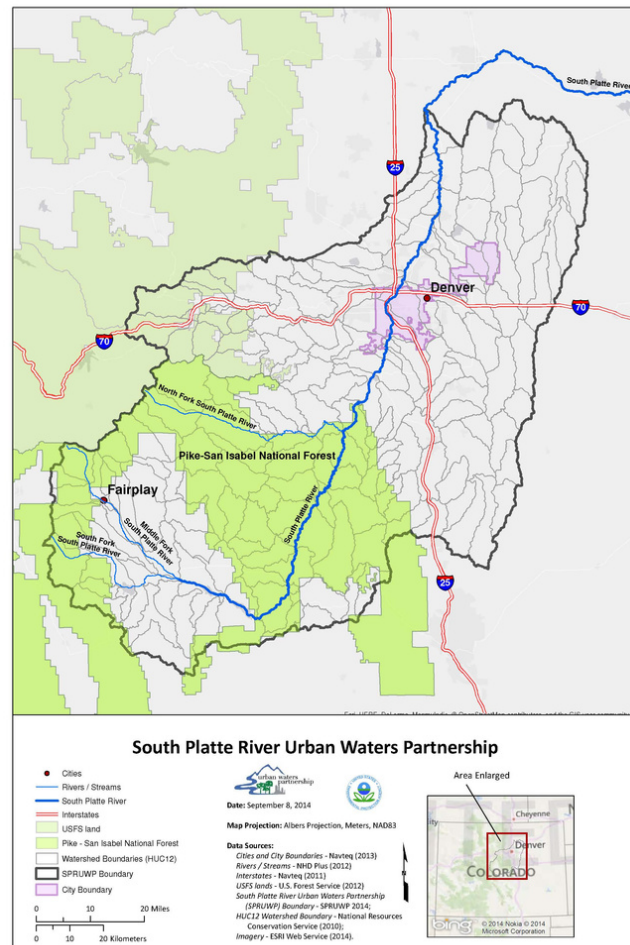
The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership (SPRUWP) is one of the original seven Urban Waters Federal Partnership pilot locations created in 2011. The geographic boundary encompasses over 6,600 square miles and includes the headwaters in the Colorado mountains, the Denver-metro urban and suburban area, and the plains out to Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir. The SPRUWP strives to protect one of Denver’s primary sources of drinking water, recreation, and economic development opportunities by supporting on-the-ground projects, education, research, and facilitating a growing population’s connection to its urban waterways.

OUR MISSION

SPRUWP collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities and to protect and restore the South Platte Watershed from the Headwaters to the Denver Metropolitan Area (Colorado) and Watershed.

WHO WE ARE

The SPRUWP is a collaboration of organizations and diverse stakeholders, working across governmental and disciplinary boundaries. It includes federal and state entities, local municipalities and water providers, nonprofits, advocacy organizations, academic institutions, and research entities, all coming together to benefit the silent partner, the South Platte River. Our aim is to protect and restore lands and waters in the South Platte River watershed. The partnership emphasizes stewardship and community connection, linking urban areas with forested watersheds and people with nature. Local or federal government action alone is less suitable to handle the complex challenges surrounding water, resource protection, and connecting people with nature. This partnership's diversity is its strength and includes a role for each individual, community, business, and agency.



Caption: SPRUWP Geographic Boundary

SPRUWP STRUCTURE

SPRUWP's organizational structure is based around four groups: the full partnership, the Advisory Committee, the Science and Data Committee, and the Education and Outreach Committee. Each of the committees has its own charge and members. Membership for all committees is open to any partner interested in joining.

SPRUWP Full Partnership

Meets quarterly for partners to connect, network, and hear about ongoing projects through presentations and identify opportunities for collaboration.

SPRUWP Advisory Committee

Oversees administrative and budgetary tasks for SPRUWP, including endorsing projects on SPRUWP's behalf.

SPRUWP Science and Data Committee

Develops projects devoted to improving and expanding access to data and scientific findings related to water quality and restoration.

SPRUWP Education and Outreach Committee

Provides opportunities for educators to collaborate on projects and share best practices related to expanding awareness and education of urban water issues and developing future water stewards and practitioners.

SPRUWP GOALS

SPRUWP has four goals:

- Collaborate, Educate, and Engage
- Connect People with Water
- Protect and Restore through Leveraging Resources
- Communicate Achievements and Share Technical Information



Mission Statement: SPRUWP collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities and to protect and restore the South Platte Watershed from the Headwaters to the Denver Metropolitan Area (Colorado) and Watershed.

SPRUWP STRATEGIES

For each goal, SPRUWP has associated strategies for partners to implement to make progress on achieving their goals.

COLLABORATE, EDUCATE, AND ENGAGE

- Advertise and host educational trainings for SPRUWP members
- Recruit new partners to promote outreach and education efforts
- Host a one-day conference/tour (annually or bi-annually)
- Continue to update partners about events and resources via email

COMMUNICATE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHARE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Update the Water Quality Assessment Tool
- Take time to celebrate partner accomplishments
- Develop a communications plan for shared social media to celebrate wins and spread information on successes
- Promote and improve the SPRUWP website to share information

CONNECT PEOPLE WITH WATER

- Promote educational efforts that help the public understand the source of their water supply
- Identify, consolidate, and compile existing public opinion survey data to create a comprehensive picture of public opinion in the South Platte Watershed
- Identify and amplify partners' programs and initiatives based on what they need from partners
- Develop tools to help people access water quality data
- Create and distribute resources to help partners plan and organize events (e.g., urban bike tours)

PROTECT AND RESTORE THROUGH LEVERAGING RESOURCES

- Track partner projects and initiatives across the watershed in an inventory
- Connect groups that are applying for funding to better leverage grant opportunities
- Connect groups that are creating models to try to align modeling efforts and promote modeling tools

COLLABORATE, EDUCATE, AND ENGAGE ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Advertise and host educational trainings for SPRUWP members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and host a training on federal grant writing • Organize and host a training on water equity • Organize and host a training on water data (e.g., Colorado Data Sharing Network, WQAT once ready) • Organize and host a funding workshop (i.e., meet the funders) • Organize and host a training on landscape conservation contractor certification program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of people trained through SPRUWP • Pre- and post-surveys for trainings
<p>Recruit new partners to promote outreach and education efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list of new partners to engage with SPRUWP (e.g., Meowulf and Raices Brewing Company) • Connect with the South Platte Basin Roundtable • Connect with watersheds groups within the basin • Convene a meeting with a focus on learning about watershed groups • Connect with the major state parks (Chatfield, Bear Creek, BMW, Cherry Creek) around the Keep Colorado Wild legislation • Invite above partners to give presentations to the whole partnership • Identify the lake appreciation dates for SPRUWP to participate in and promote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of new partners that have been recruited

COLLABORATE, EDUCATE, AND ENGAGE ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Host a one-day conference/tour (annually or bi-annually)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify different geographic areas across the watershed for a tour • Identify unique topics that SPRUWP should address on tours, particularly topics that bridge topics and interests (e.g., urban-rural divide) • Host a conference on optimal corrosion control treatment • Highlight success stories on conferences and tours • Host and organize a tour of SPUR campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of people in attendance on tours • Results of a post-attendance survey to see if people learned something from the tour
<p>Continue to update partners about events and resources via email</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out monthly emails with a list of resources and grant opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly emails to partners

CONNECT PEOPLE WITH WATER ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Promote educational efforts that help the public understand the source of their water supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a community tour that brings people to the water (e.g., fishing, boating, surf wave) • Host community tours on the watershed to talk about the source of water in the headwaters • Act as a channel to share partner events and activities • Create a pledge for people to sign to encourage sustainable water behaviors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of people engaged in community tours
<p>Identify, consolidate, and compile existing public opinion survey data to create a comprehensive picture of public opinion in the South Platte Watershed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify partners who have conducted pre and post-surveys (Water Education Colorado, Greenway Foundation, City and County of Denver) • Obtain statistics from Denver Water on their educational efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from existing pre and post-surveys are consolidated into one document (Water Education Colorado, Greenway Foundation, City and County of Denver, CWCB, Water Quality Control Division, Earth Force)
<p>Identify and amplify partners' programs and initiatives based on what they need from partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in partner events upon request to share information on SPRUWP • Engage with the Colorado Watershed Assembly's Christmas bird counting event • Connect and participate in the Lake Appreciation days • Explore options for creating a calendar of events and create one if the resources are available • Create an inventory of regular events (e.g., Lake Appreciation Days, confluence of the confluence, conferences) • Engage in the Water 2022 campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the number of events SPRUWP is promoting

CONNECT PEOPLE WITH WATER ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Develop tools to help people access water quality data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a data literacy workshop to give an overview of the Colorado Data Sharing Network and the Water Quality Assessment Tool and how to use them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people who participate in the data literacy workshop • Successful update of the WQAT
<p>Create and distribute resources to help partners plan and organize events (e.g., urban bike tours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share existing resources with partners who are interested in hosting these types of events • Help partners advertise events • Post the virtual urban bike tours onto the SPRUWP website as a resource for other partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of partners that have been linked to host their own events • Number of clicks of partners accessing resources on the SPRUWP website

PROTECT AND RESTORE THROUGH LEVERAGING RESOURCES ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Track partner projects and initiatives across the watershed in an inventory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide links to partners' event webpages on the SPRUWP website • Create a list of SPRUWP endorsed projects • Identify a list of projects occurring the Upper Watershed • Explore options to re-launch the GeoMapping tool with annual or bi-annual updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects tracked on the SPRUWP website
<p>Connect groups that are applying for funding to better leverage grant opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email funding opportunities to the group • Establish a reoccurring agenda item during SPRUWP full partner meetings to share funding opportunities • Host a grant writing workshop (<i>identified in previous section</i>) • Host independent meetings for Urban Waters-Specific Programs (e.g., Urban Waters Small Grants and NFWF Five Star Urban Waters Program) for partners to brainstorm ideas for grant applications • Work with the SPRUWP Science and Data Committee to prepare for the annual US Geological Survey Urban Waters funding opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of successful grant applications partners receive



PROTECT AND RESTORE THROUGH LEVERAGING RESOURCES ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
<p>Connect groups that are creating models to try to align modeling efforts and promote modeling tools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with the South Platte Coalition For Urban River Evaluation (SPCURE), South Platte Forum, and Sustaining Colorado Watershed Conference to host a one-day workshop that brings together different lake authorities to discuss modeling efforts • Connect with the Mile High Flood District and stormwater agencies/partners to engage them in the discussion around their modeling efforts. • Engage with the Mile High Flood District to give a presentation at a future SPRUWP meeting • Connect with Headwaters Engineering to determine if they have ongoing modeling efforts • Engage with Chatfield Watershed Authority to have them present on their watershed model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day workshop on South Platte River modeling and evaluation

COMMUNICATE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHARE TECHNICAL INFORMATION ACTIONS AND MEASURABLE OUTPUTS

Strategies	Actions	Outputs
Update the Water Quality Assessment Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get a sole source contract in place to begin the WQAT update • Work with Leonard Rice Engineers to begin the WQAT update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Phase III of the WQAT
Take time to celebrate partner accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a Metro Roundtable meeting and report out on SPRUWP activities • Add a SPRUWP accomplishment section to the monthly emails to celebrate projects • Host a social event to celebrate wins 	N/A
Develop a communications plan for shared social media to celebrate wins and spread information on successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the option to create content for partners to share through their social media pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social media posts shared
Promote and improve the SPRUWP website to share information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue working with EPA staff to update the website with recent information • Continue to update the SPRUWP website to make it a one-stop shop for information • Send events to EPA website manager to add to the website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people visiting the SPRUWP website



For more information on SPRUWP, please
visit our website at:
<https://www.urbanwaters.gov/splatte/index.html>

