United States Environmental Protection Agency

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
MARCH 3–4, 2015

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- Vision, Mission and Principles (14 Federal agencies)
- Vision
  - To protect and restore America's urban waters and reconnect communities, especially underserved or economically distressed communities, to those waters.

- Program Components
  - National Partnership
  - 18 Locations (soon to add San Antonio)
  - Grants
  - Urbanwaters.gov

Powerful Inter-Agency Platform supported by WH CEQ and DPC

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

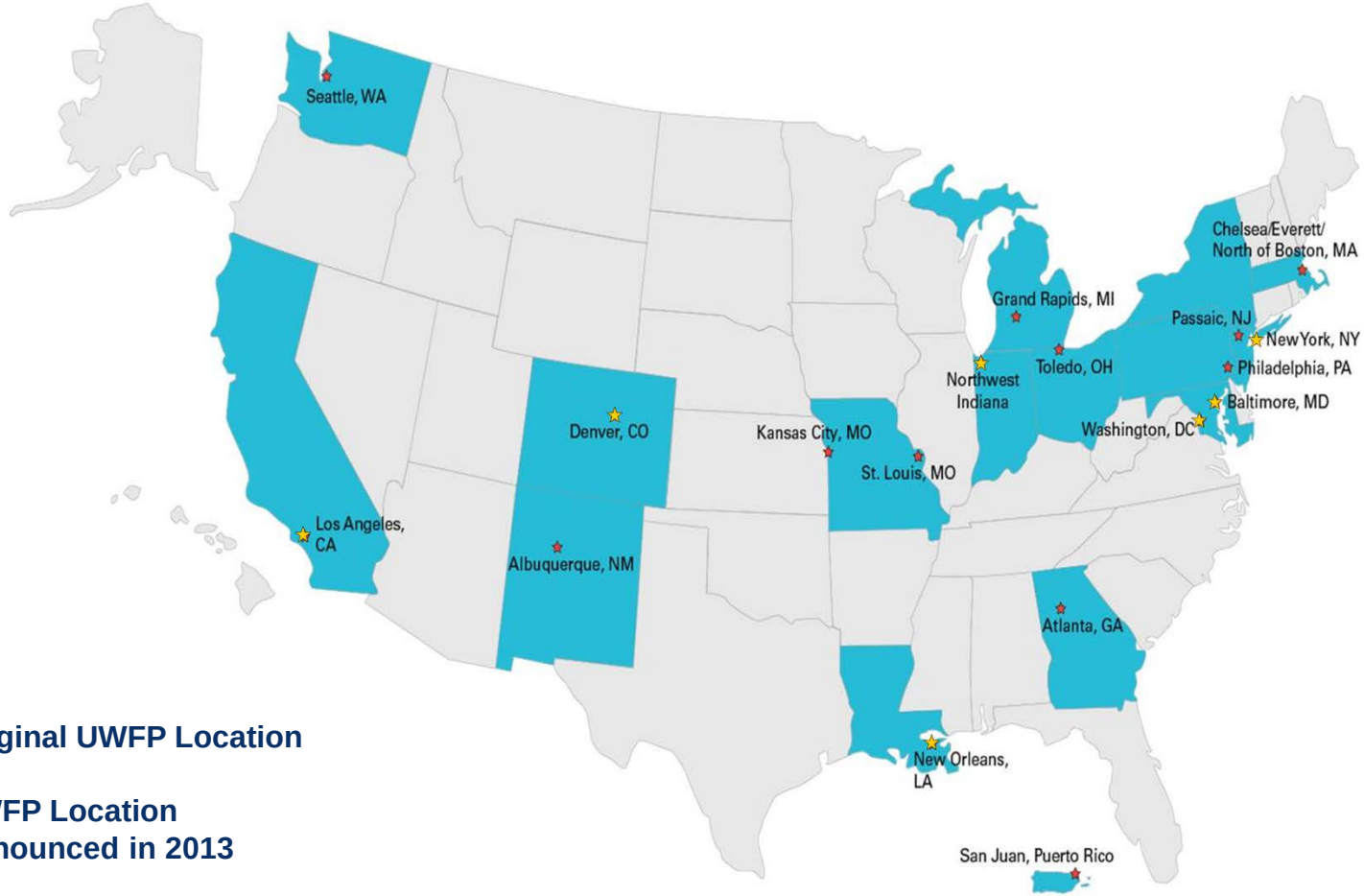
CDC

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

NIEHS

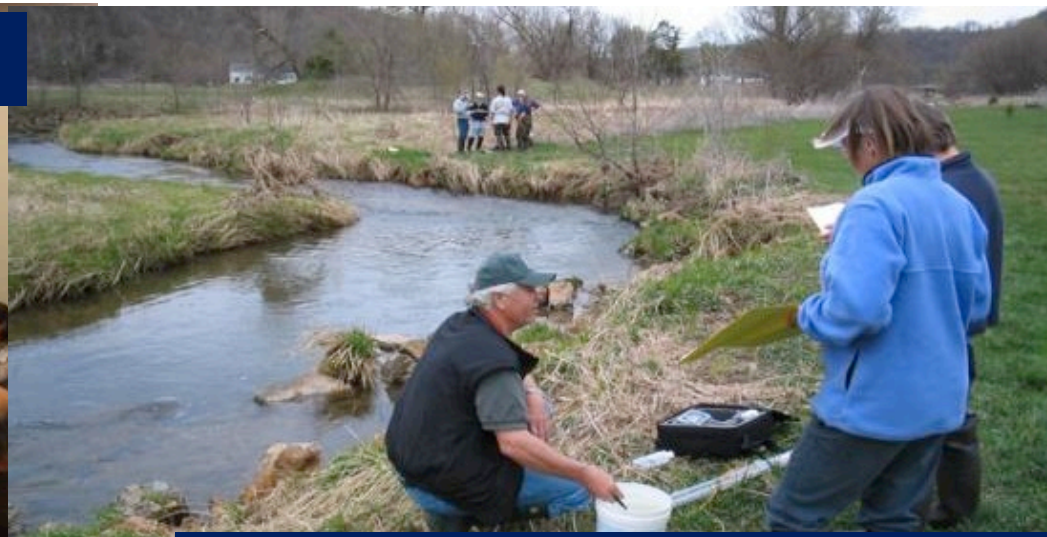
FEMA

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations



- ★ **Original UWFP Location**
- ★ **UWFP Location Announced in 2013**

Local Partnership Actions Achieve…



Partnership Resources

Leveraging Existing Programs

Focusing on Partnership Locations

Urban Waters Ambassadors
Grant Funds for Projects
Convening Support

Modest Investments by Lead Agencies

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

USDA

Urban Waters Learning Network for 200 + Communities

- Launched by EPA Urban Waters and led by program partners River Network and Groundwork USA, the Learning Network provides technical assistance and facilitates peer-to-peer knowledge sharing across the EPA Urban Waters grantee community via regular calls, topical Webinars, intermittent in-person gatherings, and online collaboration.
- Will be connecting to Strong Cities-Strong Communities National Resource Network for Cities
- Facilitates strategic planning and builds capacity within organizations.

USDA-Wide Approach

- The Forest Service in particular has authorities to work in urban areas. This builds on our "All Lands, All People" approach – recognizing that, to be effective and reach all people, managing natural resources knows no boundaries.

- We bring expertise in on-the-ground collaborative planning, and in social science to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

- To date, the USDA has contributed over $1.5 million to UW projects (plus staff time).

USDA – Forest Service and NRCS

- Forest Service is lead in 4 Urban Waters locations, and actively involved in others. Lead agenciess take responsibility for moving the partnership forward, inviting new federal and local partners, and acting beyond our individual mission area for the greater good of the partnership.

- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service is increasing its engagement, as are other USDA agencies.

DOI Urban Waters—Five Bureaus

Interior has multiple bureaus bringing resources and expertise to pilot sites—USGS, FWS, NPS, and Reclamation

DOI lead/co-lead at 3 pilots: Washington, DC; Grand Rapids; NYC

Collectively, Interior helping address climate, green infrastructure, economic development, recreation and access, restoration, public health, contaminants and water quality at pilots

DOI *is* an urban agency and—thanks to UWFP as a platform—now developing a department-wide urban agenda

101 urban refuges across the country within 25 miles of cities with a population of 250,000 or more

More than 75 urban National Parks featuring both historic and natural areas

245 million acres of Recreational lands that serve millions of urban residents

USGS already working in cities across the country providing water quality and quantity research, addressing contaminants, land-use data, flooding and hazards research, and more.

DOI Urban Waters

Interior awarded ~$5M for New York city for restoration projects along the Bronx and Harlem Rivers

DOI providing VISTAs to five pilot sites (college graduates helping alleviate poverty; work with Ambassadors)

Interior helped secure ~$25M in TIGER funds for 2 pilots—Washington, DC, and Boston

FWS funding environmental assessment for dam removal on the Grand River; USGS $100K for mapping; NPS RTCA technical assistance grants

Supports Key Administration Priorities

A Ladders Opportunity project: Partnership On-the-Ground: *South Platte Watershed / Denver*

Urban forestry projects provide youth job training, create green space and improve water quality

Growing the Partnership

EarthForce
The Sierra Club
American Planning Associations
The Chesapeake Conservancy
Alliance for Community Trees
Tree Care Industry Association
US Water Alliance
American Rivers
National Assoc. of Clean Water Agencies
Izaak Walton League
Society of Municipal Arborists
Wilderness Inquiry
National Wildlife Federation

City Parks Alliance
Amigos de los Rios
The Trust for Public Land
Arbor Day Foundation
The Conservation Fund
Arkansas Urban Forestry Council
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Forests
The Nature Conservancy
National Recreation and Park Association
The Intertwine Alliance
Restore America's Estuaries

Strategy for the Future

Moving from Pilots to a National Program

Leveraging Programs and Resources

Public-Private Partnerships