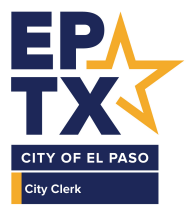


**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**



DEPARTMENT:

AGENDA DATE:

CONTACT PERSON NAME

PHONE NUMBER:

2nd CONTACT PERSON

PHONE NUMBER:

3rd CONTACT PERSON

PHONE NUMBER:

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED:

STRATEGIC GOAL:

SUBGOAL:

SUBJECT:

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

REPORTING OF CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

NAME	AMOUNT (\$)	DATE

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

Middle Rio Grande/Albuquerque Urban Waters Partnership Quarterly Project Report

Project Reporting Period: October-December 2024

February 15th 2025

For additional information or questions about this report, please contact:

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Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District

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Laurel Ladwig

Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

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Urban Waters Workplan Overview

During the project reporting period, the Middle Rio Grande/Albuquerque (MRG) Urban Waters (UW) Federal Partnership made significant progress toward the goals outlined in the [2024-2029 Work Plan](#). The national Urban Waters Partnership program is guided by the vision of restoring urban water quality, revitalizing communities, and reconnecting people to their urban waterways, with a particular focus on overburdened or economically distressed areas.

The MRG UW Partnership operates under four primary goals: (1) investing in healthy watersheds, (2) engaging in education and outreach, (3) facilitating economic revitalization and prosperity, and (4) fostering active collaboration and true partnership. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Partnership is prioritizing efforts to enhance its sustainability, expand Steering Committee participation, and continue advancing its core goals. Additional objectives include refining the format of quarterly partnership meetings, exploring methods for tracking collective outcomes, and implementing the Artist in Residence Program.

A summary of progress toward these goals is provided below.

Urban Waters Projects

Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Success Story

A major success for the MRG UW Program was securing a local home for long-term sustainability. One of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership's initiatives is to ensure that the program remains locally invested and community-driven. Previously, the Urban Waters Ambassador role was structured as an internship, limiting the ability to advance projects and build lasting partnerships. Now, with Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District stepping in to host the program, MRG Urban Waters has a permanent, full-time presence. This transition has already led to increased partnerships and expanded project opportunities, strengthening local engagement and ensuring that Urban Waters efforts continue to thrive in the watershed.

Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Backyard Refuge Program

During the project reporting period, the Backyard Refuge Program (ByRP) established a Steering Committee, which held its inaugural meeting. Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (Ciudad SWCD) joined as a core committee member, further strengthening the

program's leadership and support. Additionally, Urban Waters Ambassador Annie Montes joined both the Project and Fundraising subcommittees, contributing to the program's strategic growth. By the end of December, the ByRP had certified 454 backyard refuges, covering a total of 151.96 acres. To maintain program momentum, Ms. Montes drafted, finalized, and signed a Professional Services Agreement between Laurel Ladwig and Ciudad SWCD, ensuring continued progress.

During the reporting period, the program also conducted five outreach events, engaging a total of 65 participants in habitat restoration, environmental education, and conservation efforts.

Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Development Committee

Between October and December 2024, the Friends Development Committee was reestablished to support development initiatives at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The committee's goals include raising funds for habitat restoration, advocating for a bus line extension to improve access to the refuge, and supporting the Backyard Refuge Program (ByRP).

In December, the committee began preparing an application for the [2025 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#). Additionally, a strategic plan was drafted to guide the committee's efforts, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted between Ciudad SWCD and Friends of Valle de Oro to formalize their partnership.

Committee representation and outreach efforts included participation in the Valle de Oro NWR Quarterly Community Update Night on November 21st and active involvement in the Friends Fundraiser on December 12th, where partner organizations were engaged to support fundraising and awareness efforts.

Artist in Residence Program

Significant progress was made on the Artist in Residence (AiR) program during the reporting period. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was drafted and officially launched on December 2nd, with the application period closing on December 31st. To ensure broad outreach, the program's informational flyer was updated—including a Spanish version—and distributed through the partnership's network and the biweekly Urban Waters Newsletter.

The MRG UW Partnership also continued efforts to amend the agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ciudad SWCD to support the program. With guidance from the Advisory Committee, a rubric was developed to evaluate artist submissions, ensuring a structured and equitable selection process. Additionally, a pre-proposal conference was held on December 17th, providing potential applicants with an opportunity to learn more about the program and ask questions.

Tijeras Creek Watershed Restoration Project

The Tijeras Creek Watershed Restoration Project (TCWRP) is a key initiative supporting the MRG UW Partnership's goal of investing in healthy watersheds. Construction is scheduled to resume in January 2025, with completion anticipated by May 2025. Following construction, revegetation and native plant seeding will take place in January 2026, led by Rio Grande Return, to enhance habitat quality and ecosystem resilience.

Progress during the reporting period included securing Kimo Constructors as the construction contractor in December. Additionally, Ciudad SWCD and project partners requested an

extension for the River Stewards Grant from the New Mexico Environment Department, as revegetation efforts will extend beyond the current funding deadline of June 2025.

Efforts also continued to source root wads and footer logs for streambank stabilization and erosion prevention along Tijeras Creek, ensuring long-term watershed health and sustainability.

Tijeras Creek BioZone Education Center

Further downstream from the TCWRP, the Tijeras Creek BioZone Education Center continues to develop as a hub for community engagement and environmental education. During the reporting period, Ciudad SWCD staff began drafting a monitoring plan to support community-led data collection at the BioZone. The plan includes tracking the phenology of keystone species such as cottonwoods, conducting macroinvertebrate and arthropod surveys, and monitoring precipitation to assess watershed health.

On October 17th, Ciudad SWCD staff participated in a work session with City of Albuquerque Open Space (COAOS) staff to remove kochia, a non-native plant, from the creek bed to improve habitat quality. A major milestone was also achieved in December with the completion of an ADA-certified trail, enhancing accessibility for visitors.



Progress continued on the refurbishment of the Education Building, with meetings held between the project architect, Ciudad SWCD, and COAOS to review renovation plans. Additionally, efforts are underway to secure funding for green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), including a bioswale. Potential funding sources being explored include an application with the [Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance](#) and a [Water Quality and Conservation grant](#).

EMNRD Urban Waters Small Grant Program

The EMNRD Urban Waters Small Grant Program supports local communities, watershed health, and environmental education, aligning with the four primary goals of the MRG UW Partnership. In early October, the evaluation panel reviewed and scored five applications for community forestry projects within the MRG Watershed. As a result, \$42,317.65 was awarded to [Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps](#) (ALCC) to support wildfire risk mitigation in the Pueblo of Sandia bosque.



Throughout the reporting period, purchases and reimbursements for the ALCC project were managed, with final invoices submitted at the end of December. The project was successfully completed in December, contributing to the health of the bosque ecosystem while providing valuable professional development opportunities for youth engaged in conservation work.

Additionally, in late December, the Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2025 grants program was drafted and finalized, with plans to post it in January 2025, ensuring continued investment in community-led watershed initiatives.

Land and Water Summit

The Land and Water Summit remains a valuable platform for fostering collaboration among organizations within the MRG UW Partnership and facilitating knowledge exchange among land managers. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the summit continues to invest in future partnerships and collective action.

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in planning and logistics. A call-for-posters flyer was created, along with content for a dedicated landing page to streamline poster submissions. Inquiries from potential poster presenters were managed to ensure broad participation. Efforts were also made to enhance accessibility of flyers and related materials to ensure a reach to a wider audience.

In December, Urban Waters and its partners, alongside Ciudad SWCD Board Chair Steve Glass, applied for a \$60,000 EMNRD Community Forestry Assistance Grant. If awarded, these funds will help increase accessibility for the summit by supporting ASL and Spanish interpretation services, student scholarships, and poster printing for student participants. Ongoing work includes finalizing key logistics such as ticketing and organizing the poster session and associated workshop.

Candelaria Nature Preserve

During the reporting period, progress continued at the Candelaria Nature Preserve (CNP). On October 15th, a walkthrough meeting was held to map out the route for a planned tour of the Tree Nursery Tract and the broader CNP site. Additionally, feedback was provided on interpretive signage to enhance visitor engagement and education about the preserve's ecological significance.

Youth Engagement

Advancing the MRG UW Partnership's goal of engaging in education and outreach, several youth-focused activities were conducted during the reporting period. Participation in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps Mentor Mixer provided career guidance to 22 young participants, fostering their interest in conservation and environmental careers.



At the Rio Rancho Children's Water Festival, approximately 200 students learned about the MRG Watershed through hands-on activities using the Rolling River model. Additionally, through the RiverXchange program, stormwater pollution curriculum was delivered using the EPA Enviroscape Model at multiple schools, including North Valley Academy (~20 students), Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary (~80 students), and Puesta del Sol (~50 students). These efforts continue to build

environmental literacy and stewardship among youth in the region.

Urban Waters Partnership Meetings and Steering Committee

Urban Waters Partnership Meetings

On December 10, 2024, the MRG UW Partnership hosted a Walk and Talk event in collaboration with Pueblo of Sandia and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps. This gathering provided an opportunity for partners to engage directly with the Pueblo's landscape, learn about

ongoing conservation efforts, and discuss ways to strengthen collaboration in watershed restoration and stewardship. The event was a big success, with 34 attendees representing 16 partner organizations.

This Walk and Talk served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, relationship-building, and fostering deeper connections between partners and the Pueblo of Sandia community.

Urban Waters Steering Committee

The Urban Waters Steering Committee continued to play a vital role in guiding the MRG UW Partnership. During the reporting period, UW quarterly partnership meetings for 2025 were scheduled, ensuring a structured approach to collaboration and decision-making. In addition to these, the committee maintained regular monthly meetings to discuss ongoing initiatives and strategic priorities.

Efforts to expand committee membership remain a focus, with continued outreach to potential new members. Notably, Raven Zellers, Urban and Community Forestry Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service has expressed interest in joining, further strengthening the committee's expertise and connections.



San Antonio/Bexar County Urban Waters Partnership Semi-annual Report

Reporting Period: October 2024- March 2025

For additional information or questions about this report, please contact:

Keith Mecum

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador,

U.S Geological Survey

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Accomplishments

The San Antonio/Bexar County Urban Waters Federal Partnership has made great strides during the first half of FY 2025 to complete the Ambassador Workplan despite the ambassador welcoming a new addition to the family resulting in five weeks of leave during the 2nd quarter of FY2025, hence the delay in this report.

Steering Committee

A goal was set for FY2025 to establish a steering committee for the location. After a call for participants during a quarterly meeting, the steering committee slowly started forming. After some time, the participating organizations expanded to eight then contracted slightly to six active participating partners. Steering committee partners have been helping to guide the workplan, attending monthly meetings and assist in hosting quarterly meetings among other partner related tasks.

The active partners are as follows:

U.S. Geological Survey (Ambassador, USGS)

San Antonio River Authority (SARA)

National Parks Service (NPS)

The City of San Antonio (CoSA)

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA)

University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)

Gate 5 Camera

The camera at Gate 5 has been a critical resource for the CoSA and the community highlighting the value of imagery provided by static cameras. Unfortunately, the sign for increased community engagement planned for installation at Gate 5 had a broken QR code due to changes in the structure of Hydrologic Imagery Visualization and Information System (HIVIS) URLs (Figure 1). As a result, edits were made to the sign and the sign is currently being printed for installation with expected install in June 2025.

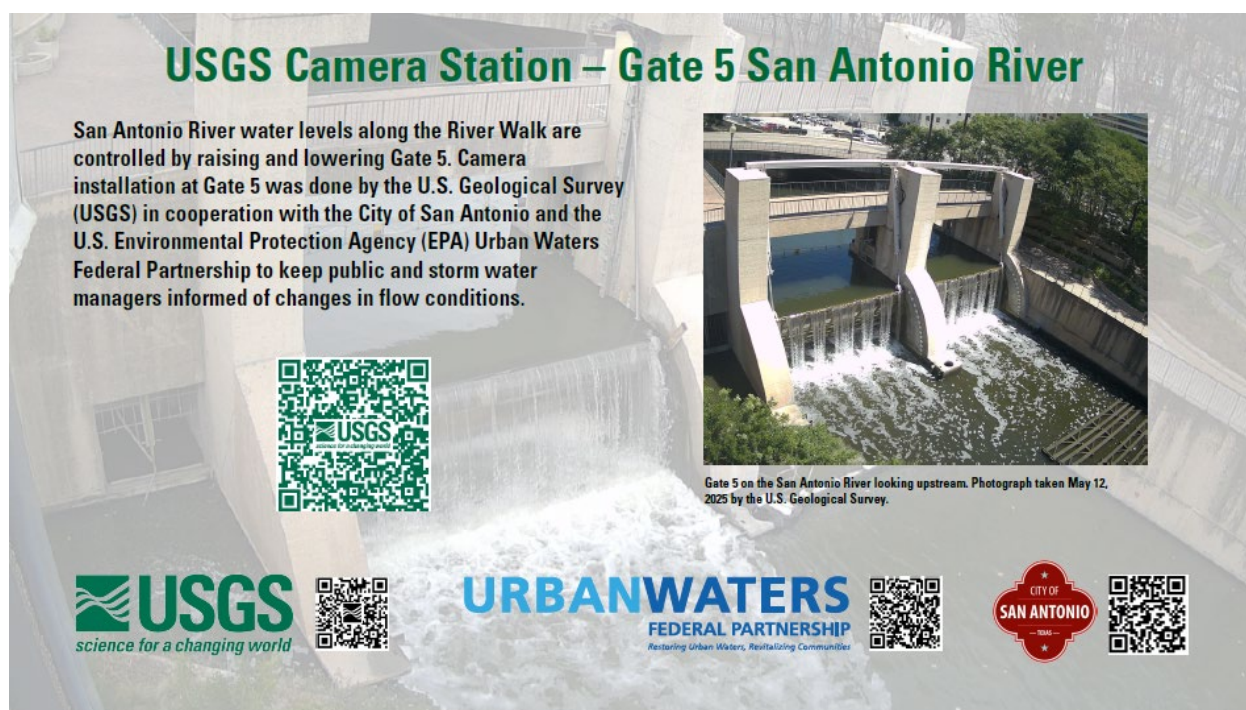


Figure 1. Gate 5 camera sign

CrowdHydrology

Efforts to install a community science sign hosted by CrowdHydrology is currently at a stand-still. The previous contact with the NPS moved into a different position prior to gaining permissions to install the sign on NPS property. Currently, the ambassador is waiting for a response from the NPS on permissions and considering other install locations suitable for the sign.

Location Workplan

The San Antonio/Bexar County UWFP location has not had an active workplan since 2017. Creating a workplan for the location has been the highest priority and a focal point of the steering committee's efforts (Figure 2). Through multiple visioning exercises and planning discussions the partnership has developed seven focus areas using the mission, vision, and principles of the National Urban Waters Federal Partnership discussed earlier in this workplan. After the visioning exercise and subsequent edits, by the steering committee, to the workplan, these six focus areas were established:

1. Education & Outreach and Community Engagement
2. Water quality and quantity
3. Urban Development and Regional Planning
4. Ecosystem Restoration
5. Adaptation and Resiliency
6. Cultural and Historical Preservation of Water Resources

Currently partners are populating tables with past and current initiatives as well as potential initiatives the partnership could pursue related to the focus areas. The workplan set for FY2026 is set to be complete in the next 1-2 months.

URBANWATERS

FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

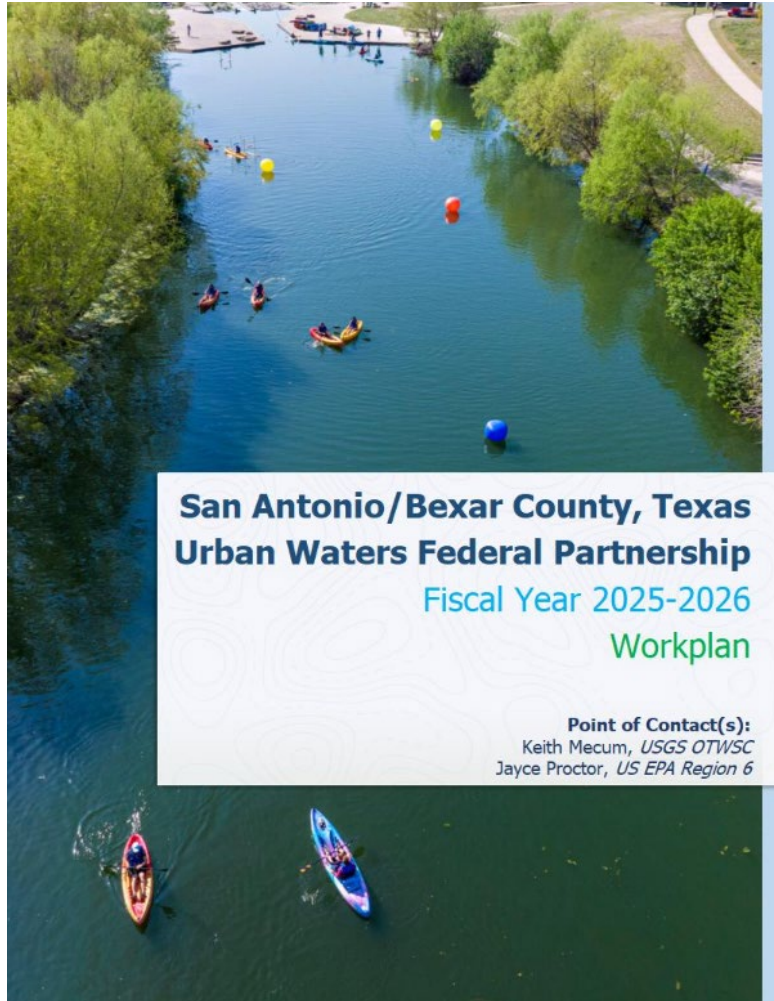


Figure 2. Cover page for the FY2026 workplan.

Collaboration Initiatives and Partnership Efforts

Regional-ORD Applied Research Program (ROAR): Multiple meetings were held to discuss potential projects the partnership could propose for the ROAR program. Ultimately, a project proposed by the City of San Antonio to look assess risk of not diverting construction demolition debris (CDD), commercial value of CDD, and process for converting CDD to a commodity was put together. Ultimately, the project was not moved forward for potential funding by the ROAR program.

Lady Bird Johnson Park Stream Restoration: During the FY2025 Q1 meeting a potential project partnership was identified between the San Antonio River Authority and the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance to work on a stream restoration project near Lady Bird Johnson Park. Partnership on this project is a success of the UWFP quarterly meetings and goes to show how communication about project initiatives is vital to finding great partners.

Texas AgriLife extension: After a partner meeting to discuss potential ROAR projects a need by the City of San Antonio to identify a suitable turfgrass for city projects was identified. The EPA regional lead for region 6, Jayce Proctor, initiated a call with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service turfgrass expert, Augustin Boeri. During the call Augustin suggested a partnership with the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio River Authority to provide a parcel or parcels of land to demonstrate alternative lawn types. Unfortunately, the project was not accepted for funding, but the partnership looks forward to future collaboration with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service.

Urban Waters Partnership and Steering Committee Meetings

Urban Waters Partnership Meetings

Quarter 1, 2025

Location: Virtual

Date: 12/05/2024

Topics: Provided an update on the partnership and discussed ongoing work by the steering committee to complete the location workplan. Mikel Wilkins with the SARA provided an incubator presentation discussing a potential stream restoration project they are looking at doing near Lady Bird Johnson Park.

Special Mention: The SARA and the GEAA found common goals surrounding stream restoration near Lady Bird Johnson Park and are currently collaborating on a proposal for funding a joint project.

Quarter 2, 2025

Location: Hybrid, San Antonio River Authority – Guenther office

Date: 03/06/2025

Topics: Provided an update on the partnership and discussed ongoing collaboration initiatives and partnership efforts mentioned earlier in this update report. Dr. Steve Opsahl from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provided a presentation on the Edwards Aquifer Urban Hydrology Network USGS web application funded by the UWFP.

Special Mention: The SARA took the group on a walking tour to explore various Low Impact Development (LID) features, including multiple bioretention/rain gardens, permeable pavement, multiple cisterns, and the San Antonio River itself, around the SARA Guenther office building.

Urban Waters Steering Committee

The San Antonio/Bexar County Steering committee held a meeting each month during the first half of FY2025 except for April while the ambassador was on parental leave. Monthly meetings focused on developing location focus areas, workplan progress, and open discussion amongst the group about partner related activities or opportunities for the partnership. Each meeting was productive and had active participation from several steering committee members.

New Host Location for the Ambassador

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of the UWFP at the San Antonio/Bexar County partnership a decision was made to move the ambassador to a new host organization. During a steering committee meeting solicitation for a new host organization was made with two organizations showing interest in hosting the ambassador. In the end, Michelle Garza from the SARA was selected to be the new ambassador starting in FY2026. This is a great choice and will without a doubt benefit the partnership and build upon the momentum made in FY2025.



ABOVE: Baltimore's vacant properties are being transformed through the use of green redevelopment strategies and tree plantings.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) seeks to reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways to become stewards for clean urban waters. Through the Partnership, communities gain economic, environmental, and social benefits, and collaborate with Federal agencies, state and local agencies, and community-led efforts to achieve common goals.

The UWFP designated 19 locations between 2011 to 2014. The 19 geographically dispersed locations are working to revitalize urban waterways and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked watersheds into community assets.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Connecting Communities to their Urban Waterways

The UWFP is supported by 14 Federal agencies and more than 28 non-governmental organization (NGO) partners working in 19 designated locations. Examples of Partnership Accomplishments are highlighted below.

UWFP Accomplishments

Toxics Cleanup in a New Jersey Watershed

The Lower Passaic River was severely impacted by the early 1900s Industrial Revolution and still contains contaminants, such as mercury and dioxins. Due to the polluted conditions and industry along the riverfront, local underserved communities have been denied river access.

To address this, the U.S. EPA Superfund Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are leading toxic sediment cleanups, improving the health of the Passaic River, reducing human and wildlife exposure to toxic hazards, and creating opportunities for habitat restoration. Other locally driven improvements include Newark's rebuilt Riverfront Park, which is the site of new community-based recreational programs and events. In addition, the UWFP is supporting future plans that include parks and new habitats for fish and wildlife.

Restoring Rapids in Michigan

Efforts to restore and recreate the namesake rapids to downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan will improve habitats for fish, including the threatened lake sturgeon, which is spiritually important to Native American tribes. New recreational activities will increase revenue at local businesses in Grand Rapids. Expanded recreational use of the river is estimated to add \$15.9 - \$19.1 million per year and 1,520 new jobs to the local economy.



ABOVE: The Lower Passaic River has become the site of new community-based recreational programs and events, and has attracted local residents to kayak on the river.

Redeveloping Vacant Lands in Maryland

Led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, approximately 60 partners are working to redevelop Baltimore's vacant lands and clean the Patapsco watershed. The Patapsco watershed flows to the Baltimore City Harbor and into the Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore's 30,000 vacant properties pose economic, public health, and environmental problems. Location partners are adopting green redevelopment strategies to reduce polluted stormwater from those lots.

Partnering with Tribes for an Urban Wildlife Refuge

The Middle Rio Grande watershed, in New Mexico, is situated between several tribes, including the Isleta Pueblo to the south of Albuquerque, and the Sandia Pueblo and other tribes to the north. There are a number of underserved communities where residents face high levels of unemployment and poverty. The Middle Rio Grande faces numerous challenges because long-term drought is affecting ecosystems and communities along the river.

Through the UWFP, partners are cleaning up and restoring the ecosystem, redeveloping the Bridge Boulevard corridor, and supporting education through citizen science projects. Partners created the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the first urban wildlife refuge in the Southwest. Nine Federal agencies, which are led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. EPA, are working with state and tribal agencies to implement these projects.

Guiding Principles of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- **Promote clean urban waters** - The Partnership enhances the value of urban waters, recognizing their importance for the environment, public health, natural beauty, and economic and recreational potential. The Partnership seeks to also protect, manage, and restore the lands that surround those waters.
- **Reconnect people to their waterways** - Urban communities need access to their waterways to draw on commercial, recreational, and educational benefits. Reconnecting underserved communities to their waterways fosters economic growth and improvements in residents' well-being.
- **Encourage water conservation** - The Partnership strives to promote sustainability of water resources. New educational and conservation programs geared toward urban communities inspire such efforts to improve infrastructure and conserve local water resources.
- **Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity** - Access to healthy urban waters enhances economic competitiveness by revitalizing local businesses and creating jobs. Efforts are especially focused on communities disproportionately impacted by pollution or economic burdens.
- **Encourage community improvements through active partnerships** - Strong partnerships at the Federal, state, and local levels, and with tribes, integrate services needed for community revitalization. Federal partners are removing barriers to collaboration and increasing the effectiveness of their actions.
- **Listen to communities in order to engage them** - The Partnership seeks to understand community values and to see environmental issues through their eyes. The Partnership works with underserved populations from the bottom up, rather than taking a top-down approach.
- **Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success** - Finding ways to measure success allows the Partnership to better invest resources at the local and Federal level. The Partnership is committed to monitoring progress to respond quickly when change is needed.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership: Revitalizing Urban Watersheds and Local Communities

USGS New Mexico Water Science Center

America Alvarez, Hydrologist (americaalvarez@usgs.gov)

Rob Henrion, Retired Hydrologic Technician (rhenrion@centurylink.net)

Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP)

The UWFP is a federal program launched by the EPA in 2011 to help communities reconnect with their waterways and surrounding lands.

- Improves coordination among **14 federal agencies**, and partners from tribal, state, and local government, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Collaborates with community-led revitalization efforts to improve water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits
- Advances government efficiency and breaks down federal program silos to connect local priorities to federal resources and stimulate local economies



Urban Waters Partnership Guiding Principles

- **Promote clean urban waters**
- **Reconnect people to their waterways**
- **Encourage water conservation**
- **Use urban water systems to promote economic revitalization and prosperity**
- **Encourage community improvements through active partnerships**
- **Listen to communities to engage them**
- **Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success**



Photo Credit: EPA

21 Urban Waters Partnership Locations

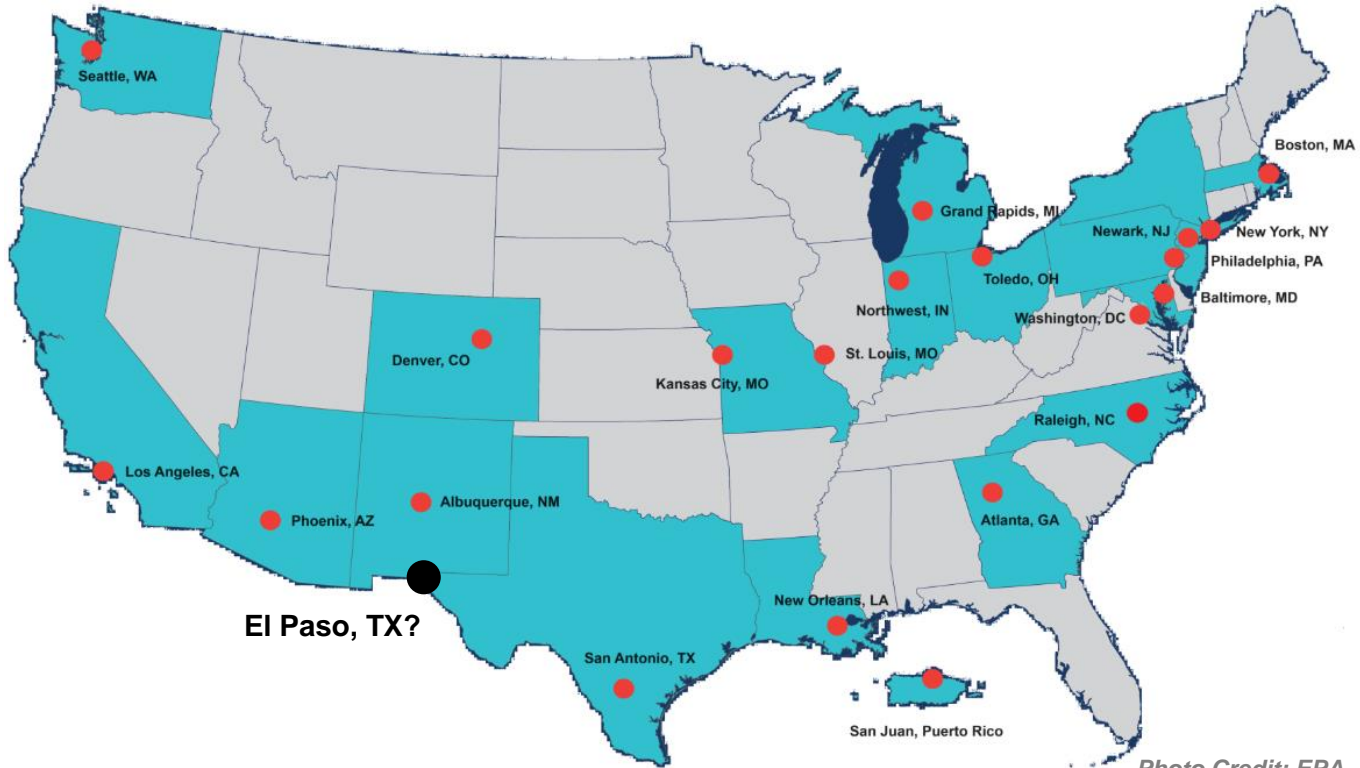


Photo Credit: EPA

Urban Waters Program Overview

Components for Success:

1. Urban Waters Federal Partnership
2. Urban Waters Ambassador
3. Urban Waters Learning Network*
4. Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program*
5. USGS Cooperative Matching Funds*

***optional but helpful for partnership goals**



Urban Waters Ambassador

Ambassadors are local staff from NGOs or government agencies who serve as the local leader and liaison to the federal partners and the community.

- Lead collaboration among partners
- Identify community needs
- Support on-the-ground projects that align with the community's vision
- Facilitate community-wide planning and consensus

UWFP can provide grants to fund an Ambassador position at a Partnership location.

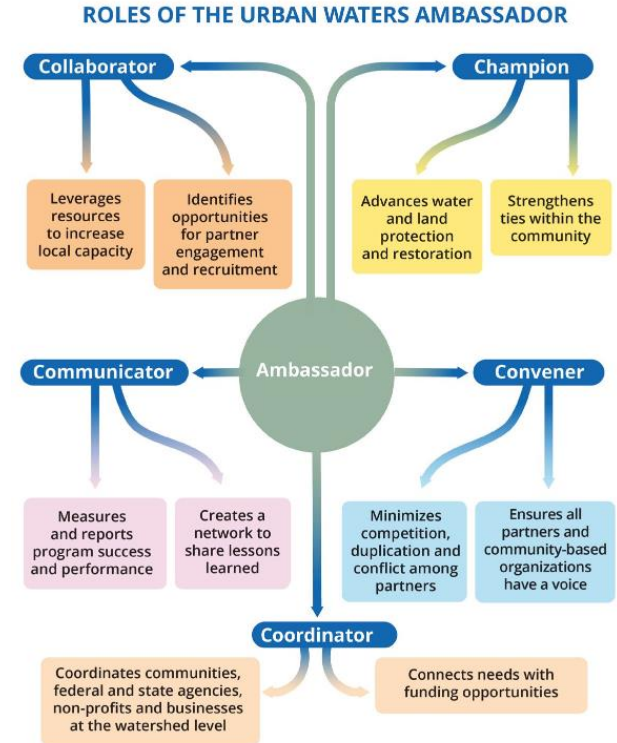


Photo Credit: EPA

Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN)

UWLN is a peer-to-peer network of people and organizations working to restore and revitalize local waterways and build capacity.

- Networking
- Training and knowledge-sharing
- Mentoring and coaching
- Boosted effectiveness
- Funding and technical resources

www.urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org

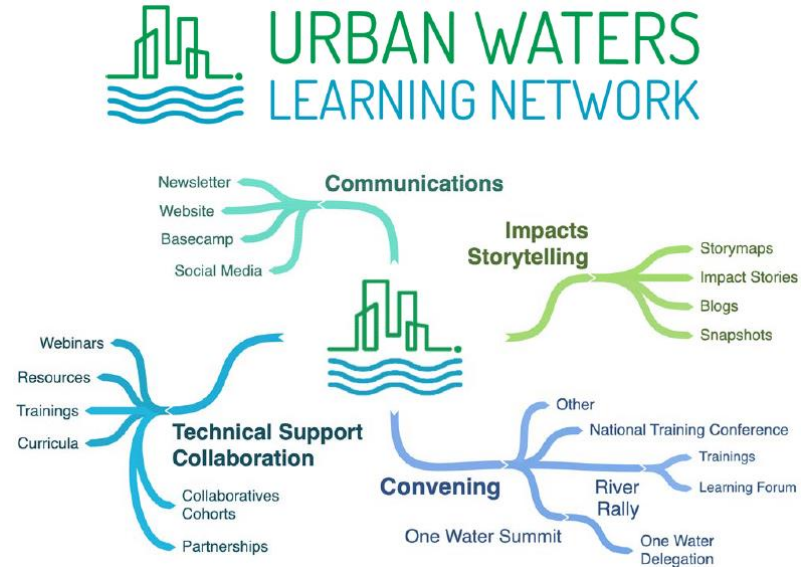


Photo Credit: EPA

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

Public/private partnership to develop community capacity for urban waterway restoration projects by funding diverse local Urban Waters Partnerships.

- **Support provided by the Wildlife Habitat Council**
- **Funding provided by EPA, USDA-Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company, FedEx, and BNSF Railway**

Grant focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland, and riparian ecosystems, local natural resources, and seeks to address water quality issues in priority watersheds.

www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program

USGS Cooperative Matching Funds

USGS announced an investment of \$1.5 million to improve urban waterways with science-based projects, which local partners will match in additional funds.

- **Funds were allocated by Congress in 2023**
- **14 UWFP locations with projects related to water quality monitoring, assessment and management, practice evaluation, and educational activities**
 - **New studies will investigate contaminants, microplastics, novel bacteria, and harmful algal blooms**
- **Done in cooperation with municipal, state, and regional partners focused on restoring and revitalizing urban waterways**

www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/usgs-invests-15m-local-partnerships-improve-urban-waterways



UWFP for Southern NM & Greater El Paso-Juárez Area



Collaborators & Interested Parties

El Paso / Cd. Juárez:

- **IBWC***
- El Paso County Commissioners
- City of El Paso
- El Paso Water
- **UTEP***
- **UACJ***
- El Paso Community Foundation
- **Frontera Land Alliance***
- Keystone Heritage Park
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Las Cruces / Southern NM:

- NMDOT
- NMED
- **NM EMNRD***
- NM OSE
- **DASWCD***
- **City of Las Cruces***
- NMSU WRRRI
- **Amigos Bravos***
- Friends of the Organ Mountains

Regional / Federal:

- NFWF
- NPS
- USACE
- **USBR***
- USDA NRCS
- **USGS NMWSC***
- Paso del Norte Watershed Council
- **Sierra Club Rio Grande***

***Urban Waters: SNM-ELP-JRZ Steering Committee**



Community Interests and Priorities

- **Water Quality**
 - Bacteria
 - Salinity
 - Sedimentation
- **Water Quantity**
 - Brackish Groundwater
- **Monitoring**
 - Drought
 - Flooding
 - Stormwater
- **Habitat Protection and Management**
 - Agriculture
 - Conservation
 - Restoration



Rio Grande at Caballo Lake State Park, New Mexico. (Corrie Boudreaux/El Paso Matters)

Additional Information

For more information, please visit www.urbanwaters.gov.

Contact us to learn more or get involved:

- America Alvarez, Hydrologist (americaalvarez@usgs.gov)
- Rob Henrion, Retired Hydrologic Technician (rhenrion@centurylink.net)

