URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. Specifically, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will:

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources through better coordination and targeting of federal investments.
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, by engaging and serving community partners.
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action.

The partnership includes:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Department of the Army (Civil Works/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Transportation

Led by these federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's place-based efforts, including the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership also advances the work of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative (http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/).

*For more information, visit: **www.urbanwaters.gov**.*

WHY ARE URBAN WATERS IMPORTANT?

Urban waters impact large populations in the adjacent, upstream, and downstream communities. Reconnecting people with urban waterways results in economic, environmental and social benefits to communities. Urban waters have the potential to be treasured centerpieces of urban revival. Healthy and accessible urban waters help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, and social opportunities in the communities through which they pass. Urban waters, which often serve as drinking water sources, may become polluted by runoff from roads and parking lots, as well as industrial sources. Protecting them can help to then protect the public and environmental health of these communities. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is committed to working with local communities to restore waterways and reconnect people in underserved communities with their rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, bays, and oceans.

To begin these efforts, the partnership identified seven pilot locations in which to enhance existing work:

- **Anacostia Watershed (Washington DC/Maryland)**
- **Patapsco Watershed / Baltimore Region (Maryland)**
- **Bronx & Harlem River Watersheds (New York)**
- **South Platte River in Denver (Colorado)**
- **Los Angeles River Watershed (California)**
- **Lake Pontchartrain Area (New Orleans, LA)**
- **Northwest Indiana Area**

June 24, 2011