

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

July 6-12, 2015

Vision – Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.

URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

August 12th • 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

West Mesa Community Center • 5500 Glenrio Road NW (about ½ mile south of Coors/I-40)



A draft agenda will be sent out next week. Part of the meeting will focus on how to move the Partnership forward. This topic will be a focus of Urban Waters meetings at the national level for the next couple of years. More information about this Urban Waters discussion will be sent out soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Brownfields Workshop in Espanola / Thursday, July 23rd

Misión y Convento / Plaza de Española / 706 East Bond Street

Co-hosted by the Siete del Norte Community Development Corporation, NMED's Brownfields Program, the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council's Office of Environmental Technical Assistance, and the Technical Assistance to Brownfields Program (TAB) at Kansas State University. **Attendance is free and lunch will be provided. Registration is required.** Go to the workshop webpage at: www.ksutab.org/education/workshops. If you need help with your registration, please contact Sheree Walsh: chsr@ksu.edu • (785) 532-651

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Deadline is August 1

National Park Service staff can help local leaders: Develop close-to-home parks and greenways; manage community-led visioning, planning, and design; facilitate public involvement; and build sustainable partnerships. Find out by first reviewing the [application process](#) and exploring [current projects in your state](#). Then [call or email a National Park Service staff member near you](#) to discuss your idea, and **let them know by July 15** if you intend to submit an application by the August 1 due date.

Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities RFP

Extending application deadline to August 10, 2015

The Funders' Network revised its earlier RFP to more clearly emphasize that a focus on equity and equitable outcomes is fundamental to sustainability. **Partners for Places** creates opportunities for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being of all residents. The grant program will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two year projects, with **a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations**. Please visit the [Idea Bank](#), which has summaries of all the proposals submitted in prior rounds including the winning projects. The Network anticipates that Partners for Places will support another eight to twelve projects in Round Seven. Awards will be announced on October 26, 2015. Please visit the [Partners for Places](#) webpage for more information and to download the updated [Request for Proposals](#) and access the updated [Proposal Form](#). There is also a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for answers about definitions, the process, and to find out what's new in Round Seven and a webinar to answer questions about the grant program (you can watch a recording of that presentation by [clicking here](#)). If the RFP and FAQ documents don't answer all your questions, you may contact Adrian Martinez at adrian@fundersnetwork.org for more information.

USDA & Other Agencies – Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance

Deadline is September 15, 2015 (11:59 p.m. Eastern Time)

Supporting local food production can improve economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses, give residents better access to healthy fresh food, and spur revitalization of a main street, downtown, or neighborhood. Communities are invited to apply for technical assistance from the Local Foods, Local Places Program, which will provide direct technical support to selected communities. The assistance process features a community workshop that brings people together to develop shared goals and steps to achieve them. Representatives of communities anywhere in the United States are eligible to apply, especially communities that are economically challenged and in the early phases of their efforts to promote local foods and community revitalization. Special consideration will be given to communities in federally designated Promise Zones or USDA StrikeForce counties. For information and a link to the application, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/smart-growth/local-foods-local-places>.

NEA – Placemaking Grants

Deadline for applications is September 21, 2015

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is accepting applications for the "[Our Town](#)" grant program, which supports creative, arts-centered placemaking projects. "Creative placemaking" is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work, such as land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas:

- **Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects** represent the distinct character and quality of their communities and require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000
- **Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking** are available to arts and design service organizations, and industry or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

USDA – Rural Microenterprise Funding

USDA is accepting applications for loans and grants to support business expansion, create jobs, and increase economic opportunities in rural communities through USDA's [Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program](#) (RMAP). Details about how to apply for this are on page 35299 of the [June 19 Federal Register](#). Application forms may be obtained from any [USDA Rural Development State Office](#)

USDA – Protect and Restore Critical Wetlands

\$17.5 million in financial and technical assistance is available through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on private and tribal agricultural lands. WREP is a special enrollment option under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement component administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Visit NRCS's [ACEP](#) webpage to learn more about NRCS's wetland conservation options.

RESOURCES

EPA – EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice screening and mapping tool that uses high-resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's simple-to-understand color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas in need of increased environmental protection, health care access, housing, infrastructure improvement, community revitalization, and climate resilience. To access the tool, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>

EPA – Watershed Funding Resources

EPA has created a website to provide tools, databases, and information about sources of funding for practitioners to protect watersheds. To view the resource, [click here](#)

US Geological Survey – Climate Registry for the Assessment of Vulnerability

The USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC) has developed the Climate Registry for the Assessment of Vulnerability (CRAVe). The registry provides access to information about climate change vulnerability assessments. The effort is a partnership between the NCCWSC and EcoAdapt, with funding support from various federal agencies. An interagency/public-private steering group provided critical input. The purpose of CRAVe is to help leverage the investments being made by all agencies and partners in climate vulnerability assessments. Click [here to learn more about CRAVe](#).