

# SOUTH PLATTE RIVER URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC PLAN

## CONTEXT

*The specific focus and history of the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership*

The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership (“UWP”) is a pilot project of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (Federal Partnership), launched by the USEPA in 2011 with a commitment of support from 13 federal agencies. The focus of the Federal Partnership is to help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are underserved or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them. The Federal Partnership has 19 pilot locations across the country, and the UWP was one of the original seven selected to launch the program. The UWP is a voluntary partnership with no regulatory authority. The focus of SPRUWP is regional water quality, water protection, and water awareness.

## MISSION

*A focused description of the organization's purpose*

The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities, and to protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed

## GOALS

*The overarching goals of the South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership*

- Collaborate, educate and engage
- Connect people with water
- Protect and restore through leveraging resources
- Communicate achievements and share technical information

## MEMBERSHIP

*Key Partners*

The partnership has engaged members from the federal government, state government, local government, nonprofits, businesses, and universities/colleges.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH		
5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Broaden the use of SPRUWP tools (WQAT, Nat Cap, Geo Map) by engaging audiences such as schools, educators, consultants, neighborhood and citizen groups, decision makers	Success will be measured by percent positive rating and the number of times the tools have been used in schools, public meetings, etc.	Success will be measured by the number of hits to websites and the number of training programs (who, where, when).
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
November, 2018 - DONE!	Plan a subgroup meeting	Peak Facilitation Group
11/1/2018 - DONE	First step: Have Stacey check in with Ben Tyler about doing a tutorial for the subgroup and/or the entire SPRUWP partnership during a meeting, and circle back to the subgroup.	Stacey
11/1/2018 - DONE	Stacey can check with people who use the tool to present at Water Educator Network symposium. Donny will look into presenting John Novick's tool.	Stacey, Donny.
6/1/2019	Put a "call for membership" in the monthly newsletter	Peak Facilitation Group
6/1/2019	Create one-page blurbs on tools, with an explanation of what SPRUWP does, and partnership and partner "tools"	EPA Intern?
6/1/2019	Create teacher/student tutorial for use of the phase II Water Quality Assessment tool	Donny and CAEE or EPA Intern?
Ongoing	Host demos and presentations (schedule with Audobon), and create a tracking spreadsheet	Stacey (spreadsheet)
7/1/2019	Create a unique URL for Nat Cap project, co-brand, co-host with WQAT, increase self-reporting use (e.g., collect emails if someone downloads the user guide or the event host kit)	Stacey
1/1/2020	Survey users: how are tools being used, how are they helping, how could they be improved?	Peak Facilitation Group?
Ongoing	Engage youth and schools in water quality education and measure impact	Donny and CAEE
Ongoing	Bridge the nexus between urban water use and agriculture	Chloe
Ongoing	Contribute to Water Education Colorado's blog	Sam, Anyone!
Ongoing	Find funding for project updates	Everyone!

5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
60% of SPRUWP boundary residents will understand the importance of their actions on water quality.	Success will be measured by the number of people who have been reached by outreach and education efforts: 20% by 2021.	
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
7/1/2019	Identify three to five behaviors that affect residential water quality	Education/Outreach subcommittee
Ongoing	Implement education campaigns for behavioral change to improve water quality and raise awareness of the importance of local waterways.	Education/Outreach subcommittee
12/1/2019	Develop regional messaging for behavior change	Education/Outreach subcommittee
7/1/2019	Look at the key messages that have been developed (e.g., on the Colorado stormwater website) and combine the messages into one location.	Jayla and Amy (get the password for the Stormwater Council)

June 2020 - on hold	Co-develop research questions/products with Denver Urban Field Station and the Water Resrouce Center at the National Wester Center redevelopment	Dana
Ongoing	Continue to promote H2Only messages and consider how to measure impact; increase coordination with the Colorado Stormwater Council, <a href="http://www.barr-milton.org/messages.html">http://www.barr-milton.org/messages.html</a>	Amy Conklin, Sam
Ongoing	Help Jayla renew data/case studies for Citizens' Guide to Water Quality (connect her to people at EPA, etc.)	Stacey

### SCIENCE AND DATA

5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Keep existing tools up-to-date and relevant	Refresh data—at least one update with QAQC; Refresh tools - water quality, natural capital assessment tool and Geomap tool	Create a plan/funding strategy to start the refresh effort
Develop new tools such as a tool	Collect/acquire the data needed to collect the data	Create feasible plan to collect the data
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
5/1/2019 - <b>DONE!</b>	Create an inventory of current water quality databases	
9/1/2019 for water quality assessment tool; 12/1/2019 for natural capital assessment tool	Create maintenance focus plans for existing tools (frequency, who, how, costs/funding sources, etc.); relatedly, explore the possibility of connecting the water quality assessment tool to the data-sharing network: renew efforts to populate the CO data-sharing network	Bill ask Ben Tyler if he wants to write the plan for the water quality assessment tool and about connecting the tool to the data-sharing network ( <b>DONE: Will require funding</b> ); ask EPA intern to create WQAT teacher's guide ( <b>Intern did not work out--reassess as a group at next meeting</b> ); Jordan will mention the tools at the CO Data Sharing Network meeting
Allison talk to CMF by 6/1/2019; Sam send out survey by 10/1/2019	Consider other contaminants (what is most important? What is missing? Data?), and ask members/partners: 1) Look at CMF's (Colorado monitoring framework) survey results; 2) Survey the entire partnership - what additional parameters would you like us to add and who has data that can be included?	Bill send Jon list of additional contaminants and Jon make survey; Allison Bohlman will reach out to CMF and send info to Jon; Send suggestions for things to include in teacher's guide to Stacey
December, 2019	Explore the impact of urban forestry and other green infrastructure - USFS and CSFS think about how to quantify the amount of infrastructure change: Reach out to CU CEDAR and Mines Renuwit to see if anyone is researching the topic; get someone from these orgs to speak at SPRUWP meeting - <b>DONE</b>	Alison Witheridge will look into the two projects she's aware of and ask if Water Research Foundation has anything specific to urban forestry; Stacey and Jon talk and figure out strategy for reaching out to CU
<b>COMPLETE</b>	Get funding for training materials for people to use developed tools	

5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Get two SPRUWP projects funded and underway	Research a framework and potential partnerships	Identify questions that SPRUWP needs/wants to answer regarding science/data
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
PROJECT IDEAS		
Ongoing	Research garbage/trash TMDLs--LA, Washington DC, and Baltimore. See EPA Trash Free Waters webpage.	Donny, Elaine, Mary, Dawson

Ongoing	Secure USGS funding for GI monitoring and/or orthophosphate monitoring	Bill B.- keep the group in the loop about headway
October, 2018 - <b>COMPLETED</b>	Secure EPA ORD RESUS funding for Sun Valley and incorporate Nat Cap tool and i-tree	Stacey
Ongoing	Identify opportunities for citizen science that utilizes and engages volunteers in data collection (National Water Quality Monitoring Conference - Could be a place for SPRUWP to send volunteers who are interested--maybe Andrea Savage?)	?
6/1/2020	Create a map/layer of who is monitoring where—this might be in the water quality assessment tool or existing documented tool (maybe Geomapper, or STEW-MAP) - tied to inventory	Stacey-Needs clarity--the WQAT shows monitoring locations; geomapper allows users to enter info; Stacey will follow up with Elaine to see what she wants.
6/1/2021	Facilitate the release of groundwater quality data among TCHD, CDPHE, and COGCC	Elaine
	Project Idea: Stockshow redevelopment project with the water institute	Sam reach out to Raegan and Jocelyn to see if they'd be interested in presented at a SPRUWP meeting. Dr. Christy Briles has students who can do projects - <b>DONE (They are presenting at August meeting)</b>
	Establish a baseline regarding behavior affecting water quality - Institute for Environmental Solutions; CO Conservation Board did study on people's perceptions of water	?
Ongoing	USGS-URP assess the impacts of corrosion control - project.	Bill Battaglin- Work is in progress
	Initiate Denver green infrastructure monitoring projects	Jon Novick- Work is in progress. There is a monitoring plan and site-specific plans
<b>5-YEAR GOAL</b>	<b>YEAR 3 BENCHMARK</b>	<b>YEAR 1 BENCHMARK</b>
Develop a webpage with regional information resources (an inventory best management practices, water quality data, and public health data related to South Platte River and tributaries)		Gather the inventory of resources and collaborate with necessary partners
<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>WHO</b>
Ongoing	Initiate and support green infrastructure projects (e.g., stream bank stabilization, critical wetlands mapping)	<b>Jon Novick is making headway!</b>
December 2017 - <b>COMPLETED</b>	Complete the Natural Capital Resource Assessment and Prioritization tool	December 2017
Fall 2017 - <b>COMPLETED</b>	Complete phase II of the Water Quality Assessment tool.	December 2017

July 2019	DW presents results of their inventory and prioritization effort specific to Upper South Platte to address questions of geographic scope and moving into the upper watersheds	Alison Witheridge
5/21/2019	Evaluate whether it's possible to incorporate the information resources into the Natural Capital resource assessment tool or Geomapper tool.	Talk about the GeoMapper tool at next SPRUWP meeting -- update the info.
12/1/2019	Create a STEW Map--which partners are working in which locations and how they're connected	Peak Facilitation Group

POLICY AND PLANNING		
5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Work with local water providers and municipalities to develop ordinances that no longer allow phosphorous in fertilizers for homes	Create a strategy for developing a comprehensive ordinance	Create partnerships with 5 local municipalities and/or water providers and hold a meeting to discuss this issue
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
12/1/2019	Address the fact that there is phosphorous in the water system (raises the issue of corrosion control, and surface water)—contact congressional representatives and governors	Amy will get information from Steve and talk to Alison, then Alison and Amy will discuss the issue with Jayla who could write a news article
9/1/2018 - <b>DONE</b>	Regarding the green roof initiative, invite a panel of developers to speak at an upcoming SPRUWP meeting about how the implementation is similar/different from expectations—this could be an educational public event	Peak Facilitation Group
Ongoing	Regarding the issue of p-fertilizer, provide letters of support, provide resources, and testify in front of legislative committees (keeping in mind that government agencies cannot lobby)	
Ongoing	Submit articles to Water Education Colorado's community blog	Anyone

5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Engage in the greenways and greening ordinance development and implementation	Create collaborative partnerships with other entities (Sustainability Council, Colorado Water Plan, Basin Roundtables, etc.); Engage in Metro DNA/DRCOG regional conservation vision	Contact other entities engaged in this work
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
Ongoing - <b>DONE</b>	Represent SPRUWP on MDNA committee/s	Dana
<b>DONE</b>	Subscribe to regular green roof initiative updates	Peak Facilitation Group, others as desired
Ongoing	Represent SPRUWP on basin roundtables and similar entities	Peak Facilitation Group; Casey Davenhill
5-YEAR GOAL	YEAR 3 BENCHMARK	YEAR 1 BENCHMARK
Conduct and support high-impact	Identify places/re-development projects (Sun Valley, National	
DEADLINE	ACTION ITEM	WHO
12/1/2019	Write a grant to create a SPRUWP website	Peak Facilitaiton Group
12/1/2019	Create an Economic Benefits Report that can be used to convey the impacts of the UWP to policymakers and the public	?