



## South Platte River (Headwaters and Tributaries including Sand Creek, Westerly Creek, and Bear Creek)

The South Platte Urban Waters Partnership (UWP) is a collaboration of more than 40 organizations, working across governmental and disciplinary boundaries, to protect and restore lands and waters in the South Platte River watershed. It emphasizes stewardship and community connection, linking urban areas with forested watersheds, and people with nature. This partnership is all about resource efficiency – leveraging human capital and financial resources for river restoration, community education and improving watershed health. USFS and EPA have been working on source water protection, green infrastructure on a large scale, wildfire prevention and recovery, and also urban forestry along rivers and streams. This pilot links a headwaters area with an urban area and has involvement from many Federal Agencies. The South Platte is a primary drinking water supply for Denver.

<http://www.urbanwaters.gov/splatte/index.html>

- Mission: *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
  - Collaborate, educate and engage
  - Connect people with water
  - Protect and restore through leveraging resources
  - Communicate achievements and share technical information
  
- Workgroups:
  - Geomapping
  - Systems mapping
  - Funding
  - Water quality
  - UWP Watershed-wide Education and Engagement
  
- Active Federal Partners: EPA, USFS, NPS, CDC/ATSDR, USGS, COE, NRCS
  
- Integration of EPA Programs: Urban Waters is an umbrella for multiple EPA programs. Watersheds, Source Water, Urban Waters, Green Infrastructure, WQ monitoring, nonpoint source, TMDLs Stormwater, Drinking Water, Brownfields, Superfund, Emergency Response, Enforcement, EJ, Sustainable Communities, Climate Adaptation

### UWP First Three Priorities

- Urban Waters Partnership Coordinator (USFS funding to CSFS, EPA space paid by EPA HQ)
- Geomapping Platform (EPA HQ contract with SAIC)
- Systems Thinking Process (CDPHE contract with LMI, Shadowcliff, 604b funding)

### Monitoring and Assessment

- South Platte River Water Quality Monitoring (Monitoring and Lab support, partnership with Denver): Monitor the South Platte River, Westerly Creek, and Sand Creek for pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and pesticides, as well as other contaminants.
- Region 8 data in STORET (HQ support)
- Stormwater monitoring (UDFCD, USGS)

- Ongoing USGS monitoring
- Targeted Brownfields Assessment for Westerly Creek at Stapleton (Brownfields)
- Upcoming South Platte brownfields assessment grant as followup to area-wide planning (Brownfields)

#### Planning

- RINO/RISO/RVIP planning efforts in Denver (The Greenway Foundation, Denver)
- South Platte Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant-corridor planning (Brownfields, Hometown funding)
- Aurora Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant (encompasses part of Westerly Creek) (Brownfields)
- Arapahoe County design charette
- COE Reconnaissance study-habitat, ecological function

#### Emergency Response

- Emergency Response to a seep of petroleum products into Sand Creek near its confluence with the South Platte River
- Flood response

#### Green infrastructure

- Westerly Creek Stream Restoration Design (Brownfields and EJ funding, NRDC, UDFCD, Denver funding for implementation)
- River North (RINO) green infrastructure design to support AWP and development along river (Hometown funding)
- Weir Gulch/Sun Valley confluence green infrastructure design (Hometown funding)
- Johnson Habitat Park green infrastructure design (Hometown funding)
- Denver Housing Authority green infrastructure/stormwater charette (Brownfields)
- Urban Land Conservancy green infrastructure technical design assistance and Housing CO charette (GI contract with Tetra Tech)
- Urban Forestry small grants near urban waters (USFS, CSFS)

#### Nonpoint Source

- Protect our Urban River Environment (PURE) trash monitoring protocols, education/outreach
- Bear Creek Watershed Plan, Denver, Jefferson and Arapahoe Counties (319 funding, EPA technical support, NPS facilitation support)

#### Source Water

- Impacts of Wildfires on Water Utility Operations Workshop
- Source Water/Watershed Plan (Partnership with CDPHE, CUSP, Denver Water)
- Forest to Faucet Partnership (Denver Water, USFS)

#### Education/Outreach

- World Water Monitoring Day (EPA Partnership with CH2MHill & Earth Force)
- Urban Waters River Rangers, Denver, CO (Urban Waters regional funding then HQ contract)
- Urban Waters bike tours (CO Foundation for Water Education)
- River access in EJ neighborhood (NPS, Denver)

#### Urban Waters Small Grants

- *Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association*: To develop effective, unified, comprehensive clean water messages for a coordinated public outreach campaign.
- *Earth Force Inc*: To develop Outdoor Classrooms that reach 750 youth to result in stewardship of the South Platte River.

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation 5 Star Urban Waters Grants

- Bluff Lake Nature Center, Denver, CO: Youth Water Quality Monitoring Investigation-to-Restoration

#### Urban Waters Learning Network

- Support to Groundwork Denver (Partnership with EPA HQ, River Network)