

# 2021 REVIEW

In 2021 the Green Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership (GD-UWFP) made some long-term advancements in the strength of the partnership. A formal relationship was established with the Puget Sound Federal Caucus through engagement with EPA Puget Sound Program. This work includes developing a formal partnership with the state program the Puget Sound Partnership. These collaborations are poised to advance the impact and reach of the GD-UWFP in the years to come. Additionally, we launched a new program in partnership with the Willamette Partnership and USDA Forest Service Region 6 State and Private Forestry. This program works to reframe forest management with a lens of human and environmental health as the focus. This approach and collaboration is positioned to be a guiding program over the next few years.

**2021 Federal Partners Convening** - The GD-UWFP hosted a gathering of the federal partners past, present, and future associated the GD-UWFP. This convening included: USDA Forest Service – PNW Research Station and State and Private Forestry, EPA – Region 10 Office of Water and Office of Air, HUD, National Park Service, NRCS, NOAA, USGS, and the ASTD. For 2022 a convening of all partners including local government, communities, and non-profit organizations is planned.

Also, in 2021 a new Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9) stewardship, engagement, and learning grant program launched with the GD-UWFP as a co-creator and reviewer of applications. In 2022, The King County Flood Control District will issue a new preferred alternative for how the river is managed in the watershed. This has the potential to reframe much of the ecosystem management in the corridor and advantageously support the GD-UWFP efforts.



The GD-UWFP operates by participating within the established network of networks operating in the watershed.

**We participate in and some instances co-lead:**

Our Green/Duwamish – a King County instituted a stormwater collaborative, NIPSC – a continuation of the Sustainable Communities initiative, Green Duwamish Revegetation, the WRIA9 Ecosystem Forum – the state designated governing body for the watershed, the Duwamish Alive Coalition, Green Duwamish Learning Landscape, the Forests in Cities Network, the Longfellow Creek Network, Forest Heath Watch, Duwamish Valley Clean Air Group, Green City Partnership, the Emerald Alliance, and Urban Waters Equity and Climate Resilience Collaborative.



## 2021 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **Riparian Restoration Return on Investment Study with American Rivers**

GD-UWFP is continuing work on a study that will analyze the impact floodplain restoration projects have on property values to determine communities' tax base and revenue impacts. Results will be categorized by type of land use in order to better understand the impacts based on level of development. Information developed during this study may also shed light on the impact that restoration plays in gentrification, displacement, and access to open space. EPA Region 10 put forth substantial additional funding towards this effort in 2020.

### **Youth-led School-yard Ecological Restoration**


This project addresses environmental inequities in low-income, racially diverse cities by working with youth to restore and the urban watershed. Non-profit partners and the local school district will work with the GD-UWFP to develop and implement urban forestry projects on school grounds and adjacent city property. This will include a new student-based community engagement model that will empower students to involve peers and residents in watershed restoration projects to improve human health, student learning, civic engagement, and watershed resilience.


### **Green River Tributary Temperature Monitoring**

Working with the Green River Coalition and Green River College, the GD-UWFP is developing curriculum and trainings to empower communities to collect river health data. GD-UWFP is providing funding for user-friendly temperature gauge equipment. Data results will be used for water management by WA Department of Ecology and King County and will provide a critical understanding of high temperature locations, a lethal consideration for endangered salmon and indicator of broader ecosystem health.

### **Using Trees and Moss as Air Quality Indicators - Community Study**

With GD-UWFP as the organizer, members of the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps, among other partners, led studies about the relationship between trees, moss, and air quality, and were trained in the moss sampling process and protocols. Youth and partners have since collected more than 180 moss samples from street trees and prepared them for laboratory analysis and engaged in follow-up curriculum. Results have been analyzed, and the GD-UWFP and partners have been working to develop and disseminate findings. The process is a learning tool for local schools, youth groups, and community members, and an action-oriented tool for local air pollution management.

 Funding provided by GD Urban Waters Federal Partnership

 Project supported by GD Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Questions? Ideas?  
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Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, and State and Private Forestry Pacific Northwest Region. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.  
Fiscal sponsorship provided by Willamette Partnership and Street Sounds Ecology, LLC.