

# 2022 REVIEW



Over the course of 2022 the Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership (GD-UWFP) had noticeable accomplishments which helped matured the program. Most centrally, the GD-UWFP was able to secure EPA funding to bring the Ambassador position to a full-time role for the first time. Importantly, this support also formalized the relationship between the GD-UWFP, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the Puget Sound National Estuary Program (NEP). The GD-UWFP is now included in the Puget Sound Action Agenda, PSP's guiding plan for ecosystem recovery. The PSP is the Washington State Department charged with organizing the restoration of Puget Sound, the estuary that the Green-Duwamish River empties into. Integrating the GD-UWFP with these efforts allows for the magnification of the programs work, expanding the network and reach of projects.

The year saw substantial accomplishments in the watershed. King County and partners saw substantial construction on the Chinook Winds habitat site, and the Port of Seattle along with partners opened for Duwamish River People's Park (formally T-117). Local partners and networks were excited to announce some initial Infrastructure Law funding into the watershed with \$200,000,000 pledged from the Army Corps of Engineers towards fish passage at the Howard Hanson Dam. This is hopefully just the first of a many large federal investments coming to the watershed in the next few years.

Finally, the GD-UWFP ended 2022 hosting to substantial convenings in Seattle. The Arbor Day Foundation's annual Partners in Community Forestry Conference was held in Seattle this year, and the GD-UWFP served on the location host committee, as well as was recognized as an official conference sponsor. As part of the conference GD-UWFP lead a tour of the Duwamish River including partners from the City of Seattle, the Duwamish Alive Coalition, the Duwamish River Community Coalition, the City of Tukwila, and the Duwamish Tribe. Also this fall, the GD-UWFP helped host the Forest in Cities (FiC) network conference. The FiC network is a coalition of teams representing natural areas in 17 metro regions across the US. This network shares best practices and conducts research into the management and restoration of natural areas in cities.



## 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Youth-led School-yard Ecological Restoration & \$

This project addresses environmental inequities in low-income, racially diverse communities by working with youth to restore and the urban watershed. Non-profit partners and the Highline school district along with the GD-UWFP developed and implement urban forestry projects on school grounds. This includes 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.

### Participation Stipends and Community Small Funds & \$

The Green-Duwamish Watershed is home to numerous Environmental Justice communities. Neighborhoods, communities, and towns that are impacted by watershed health, have not been able to participate or benefit from the recovery. The GD-UWFP is launching an effort to provide stipends for participation from these communities in the watershed restoration efforts. This movement to end unpaid volunteerism in EJ communities is an equity goal with partner organizations as well.

### Healing Landscapes Launch &

Working collaboratively with the Willamette Partnership, 2022 saw the launch of a project focused on rethinking how the US Forest Service in the region engages with ecosystem and community recovery. This Healing Landscapes approach is a vision co-crafted by the GD-UWFP and pilots an approach for federal agencies in community engagement and ecosystem management. The project will include both consideration of process and methods for engagement, as well as piloting some work in the Green-Duwamish watershed.

### Urban Heat Island Projects & \$

This year the GD UWFP engaged in a range of projects looking at urban heat island impacts in the watershed. With the Forest in Cities network and City of Seattle we deploy a dozen heat sensors, along with partners in cities nationally. Additionally, we engaged with researchers at Portland State University and King County on heat investigations impacts to both communities and the river and its ecology. This work connects our temperature gauges efforts tracking restoration progress in cooling the river. Together we hope to connect each of these efforts for a program with maximum impact.



### WSDOT River Signage and Awareness &

In partnership with the WA State DOT the GD-UWFP has gotten signs labeling the Duwamish crossing on state highways for the first time, providing awareness of the river to 10,000's of people every day. This project will continue with the County on other crossings in 2023.



Funding provided by GD Urban Waters Federal Partnership



Project supported by GD Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Questions? Ideas? Contact: Weston Brinkley, Ambassador, Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership 206-412-3244, [weston@streetsoundsecology.com](mailto:weston@streetsoundsecology.com)

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. This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under Assistance Agreement [CE-01J97401-0]. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use. Fiscal sponsorship provided by Puget Sound Partnership, Willamette Partnership and Street Sounds Ecology, LLC.