

Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Partnership



Site of Valle de Oro National Urban Wildlife Refuge (looking northeast)
Credit: Albuquerque Metropolitan Area Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA)

VISION

We envision community members having access and opportunity to experience and enjoy their waterways and viewing their urban waters and adjacent lands as intrinsically valuable. ***Community members will be motivated, informed, and engaged*** with federal, state, and local governments, centers of learning, community institutions, businesses, and non-profits in order to revitalize their waterways, waterfronts, and adjacent communities. As water issues and other urban priorities become linked, we envision new and previously unlikely partnerships being created to transform degraded urban waters and adjacent lands into community assets. Urban waters will no longer be undervalued but will be treasured as centerpieces of urban revival.

MISSION

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership will help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are under-served or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them. ***This federal partnership will put communities first.*** We will work to break down government program silos and to ensure that our collective efforts will reverse past neglect. ***We will listen to, engage and serve the communities where we work, ensuring they are full partners in restoring and protecting the water that surrounds them.*** We will establish strong partnerships with community-based organizations and local government officials to make the most effective use of economic incentives and other beneficial actions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Promote clean urban waters
- Reconnect people to their waterways
- Promote water conservation
- Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships
- Be open and honest; listening to the communities is the best way to engage them
- Focus on measuring results; evaluation will fuel future success

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- **Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge**
US Fish & Wildlife Service
- **Middle Rio Grande Restoration**
US Army Corps of Engineers
- **Enhanced Storm Water Management**
Environmental Protection Agency
- **Bridge Boulevard Redevelopment Plan**
Housing & Urban Development Department
- **Corrales Siphon Restoration & Protection**
Sandia Pueblo
- **South Valley Transportation Improvement**
Federal Highway Administration
- **El Camino Real**
National Park Service

Related Projects

- **E3 (Environment Education Employment) Alliance** (supported by the US Fish & Wildlife Service)
- **Let's Move! Outside Initiative** (Department of Interior / YMCA)
- **Green Infrastructure/Low-Impact Development** (Environmental Protection Agency)

BUILDING LOCAL URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIPS

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is an effort to engage the local level in projects and programs affecting urban water quality and access. Some relevant quotes from the *Urban Waters Strategic Framework* document:

- “We will engage diverse sectors, people, and communities that impact or are impacted by our work. This fullness of engagement is essential for communities to drive and own their local urban water efforts”
- “We recognize that our regulatory efforts, technical assistance and partnerships are most effective when they are informed by community experience and expertise”
- “We will work with communities and not act for them”
- “We will seek out those who are particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts; those who have historically been underserved and under-represented in decision-making; and those we have not engaged in the past”
- “[We] will foster an enhanced stewardship which is grounded in community priorities and allow a broader range of people to enjoy the benefits of urban waters”

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is meant to create space for locally driven programs and projects.

GET INVOLVED

- **Learn about the existing Urban Waters projects and how they could work to help improve your community**
- **Get your own organization, your neighborhood association, your community group involved in Urban Waters**
- **Start looking at your community from an Urban Waters perspective: what could be done or done better?**
- **Help develop a vision for a locally-led and locally-focused Urban Waters partnership and bring it to reality**

Improving Urban Waters Depends on You!

For more information:

<http://www.urbanwaters.gov/mid-riogrande/index.html>