

Our Green/Duwamish (OGD)

2021-2022 Work plan

Reflection on 2019-2020

2019 and 2020 were both challenging and rewarding years for OGD. In 2019, the OGD Coalition made a lot of progress to articulate the right level of participation and decision making necessary for advancing the Implementation Plan. The group approved the two-year work plan, and then we practiced our co-design approach by defining the outline of the Implementation Plan, brainstorming progress metrics, initiating subgroups, and imagining our Desired Future State for each goal.

2020 presented many challenges. A global pandemic pushed the OGD Coalition into a remote forum where we had to navigate the finalization of our watershed-wide Implementation Plan online. However, the remote platform resulted in some wonderful opportunities as well. Although some Partners were less able to participate due to the constraints of the pandemic, attendance at our bi-monthly meetings actually increased as more people were likely able to attend because of the shortened agendas and elimination of travel time. In addition, the meetings were redesigned to allow time for Partners to review OGD draft products. The OGD Coalition worked diligently to complete several assignments related to building the Implementation Plan, and both the Coordination and Mapping Tool Subgroups made significant progress on their agendas.

Moving Forward in 2021-2022

The OGD Coalition has identified several actionable next steps that would support the restoration of water quality in the Green/Duwamish Watershed (Watershed). It's worth noting that many of these suggestions will require the group to rethink our current paradigm of funding and programmatic measures of success. We will need to be nimble, creative, and brave when exploring these opportunities. This work plan requires us to reach even further than we have, particularly as we work to maintain our existing relationships, establish new partnerships, and grow our efforts in the Watershed. There will be many opportunities to learn our way forward, together, and there will certainly be significant victories that we will celebrate.

The primary thrust of this OGD work plan for the next biennium is focused on meeting the targets described in the Implementation Plan. However, we also have a duty to become more

inclusive, expanding upon our current partnerships and directing work to areas of the Watershed in the most need - where we can realize the greatest improvements.

This work plan is not a comprehensive list of items to be completed in 2021 and 2022. For instance, the Core Team will continue to distribute information, draft interim products, and create online content (see the 2021-2022 OGD Core Team work plan for more details). There are undoubtedly other intermediary products that will need to be created and other products on this list that may not work as intended. That's expected, and part of the adaptive management strategy required to implement a long-term collaborative watershed-wide stormwater strategy. The Core Team will continue to keep lines of communication open between OGD Partners and regional partnerships as well as identify additional needs to the Coalition as they arise.

Here are some tasks that the OGD Coalition plans to accomplish in the 2021-2022 biennium.

Implementation Plan

In the last biennium we drafted a five-year Implementation Plan for the Watershed. In the next biennium we are planning to begin work on accomplishing the targets identified in that plan. To do this we are aiming to:

1. Establish a procedure for annual reporting of each Partner's targets.
2. Work collaboratively within the OGD Coalition to help partners meet their targets.
3. Schedule and conduct meetings with individual partners to help identify areas where the Coalition can provide additional capacity towards meeting their targets.

Organizational structure

The OGD Core Team has heard from participating members how much they appreciate the way we co-design our work. Partners recognize that the flexible and organic way we have built this watershed-wide coalition has resulted in a level of trust and engagement that outweighs the need for a formal organizational structure. To help focus our work on defining how we collaborate in the next biennium, we are working to:

1. Advocate for and create stewards who can assist with expanding partnerships and collecting feedback from underrepresented communities.
2. Continue to emphasize forward-thinking and intentional planning to support the collaborative design and intent of our Coalition meetings.
3. Explore, initiate, and support a subgroup focused on establishing creative funding options.
4. Develop high-level work plans for all subgroups.

Mapping tool

The development of a beta tool to help Phase II NPDES Permittees achieve compliance with Stormwater Management Action Plan requirements was a big success for the OGD Coalition in 2020. We recognize this is only a waypoint along the path to widespread success. Now we need jurisdictions and agencies to use the tool. To accomplish this task over the next two years the OGD Coalition will:

1. Demo the tool with Partners to show specific ways it can be used to aid in basin planning efforts.
2. Contract with consultants to improve and advance the user experience of the tool.
3. Work with Ecology to ensure the tool's outputs meet and exceed permit-required expectations.
4. Present on the mapping tool and promote it through the work of the Coordination Subgroup and at regional meetings.

Messaging, promoting, and storytelling

Feedback from the OGD Coalition has identified a desire to be more intentional about how we describe the work that is happening in the Watershed. We are proud of our watershed-wide planning efforts and the collective, co-design model we have created for OGD and want to be at template for other watersheds. We also recognize there is an urgent need to take specific action on the Implementation Plan we have created, earn some early successes and use those to amplify our influence through thoughtful messaging. In 2021 and 2022 the OGD Coalition will:

1. Dedicate resources to accomplishing actions listed in the Implementation Plan and use those successes to develop our collective story.
2. Tell our story to organizations, elected officials, and grantors to ensure the resilience and adaptability of the watershed-wide stormwater management strategy.
3. Conduct a survey of existing partners to understand the value of participating in the OGD coalition and measure progress towards the Desired Future State of Goal 7.

Explore funding options/mechanisms

Funding is critical to the successful completion of the work outlined by the OGD Partners in the Implementation Plan. In some cases, the lack of funding prohibits organizations from fully participating in the OGD Coalition. In other cases, funding determines which projects get completed and which do not. Instead, we should consider which projects would produce the outcomes that moves us closer to a future where the Watershed is

thriving. This work plan item is complicated, yet essential to the efficacy and longevity of what the Coalition has built to date. It's critical for the OGD Coalition to work on rethinking how we apply for and spend money. In order to accomplish this, we plan to:

1. Create a mechanism to support the application of grant proposals that advance OGD's work plan.
2. Develop public/private partnerships in the Watershed that will lead to the contribution of additional funds and resources.
3. Investigate the mechanics, viability, and efficacy of a regional stormwater retrofit grant program to help fund high-priority projects in the Watershed.

Desired Future State

Borrowing from the Implementation Plan, here is a draft of a future state we can expect if we're successful with our two-year work plan:

After the next two years, OGD partners will be able to do more for water quality in the Watershed with a strengthened Coalition. Partners will have met their targets listed in the Implementation Plan and will be excited to submit an annual report that tells a story of regional success. There will be a new subgroup focused on exploring alternative funding mechanisms and supporting the grant proposals originating from OGD Partners. Ecology will have approved the use of the mapping tool for meeting elements of the SMAP permit requirements, way in advance of any permit-required due dates, providing local governments with the confidence to commit to using the tool. Success from this two-year work plan will yield several success stories that shine a light on the purpose and value of the OGD Coalition to regional decision-makers who can help to catalyze a new way of funding our future work. This OGD Coalition will become a successful template for other regions to implement watershed-wide stormwater management planning.

OGD 2021-2022 Timeline

-  = OGD Partner Meeting
-  = Send out meeting summaries from each Coalition meeting and publish blog posts detailing the Coalition's progress.
-  = Beta OGD Mapping Tool completion
-  = Final OGD Mapping Tool completion
-  = OGD funding subgroup created

