

Our Green/Duwamish (OGD)

2023-2024 Work plan

Reflection on 2021-2022

2021 and 2022 were big years for OGD. At the beginning of 2021 we published our first Implementation Plan and quickly jumped into organizing our process for completing our annual report. Completing the Implementation Plan was a milestone for OGD, and an incredibly momentous occasion. This plan marked the transition from planning to action and set the Coalition up for success in the remainder of the biennium.

2021 also saw the completion of the proof-of-concept Mapping Tool, continued achievement of the Coordination Subgroup's scope of work, defined expectations for Partner participation, the formation and formalization of a Funding Subgroup, development of an annual reporting process, and a survey defining the Coalition's ability to govern.

In 2022 we published our first annual report. Partners provided constructive feedback, and our modified process for the next annual report should make it more useful to OGD partners, more streamlined for staff to compile, and more effective at communicating the success of the Coalition. We are optimistic about the proposed changes and are looking forward to applying them at the beginning of 2023. In 2022 we also received funding for the next phase of the Mapping Tool development, created a process to provide letters of support for grant applications from OGD partners, and established a program to supply financial stipends to organizations in need – to broaden our Partner base.

We continued to meet virtually and believe that mode is the most effective and inclusive for our Partners at this time. We are proud of the warmth and spirit that Partners continue to bring to meetings and the rapport we maintain in the virtual format.

Moving Forward in 2023-2024

For the upcoming biennium, the OGD Coalition has identified several actionable next steps that would support water quality in the Green/Duwamish Watershed (Watershed). It's worth noting that many of these suggestions will require the group to continue rethinking 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 good news is we now have some mechanisms in place to improve the likelihood of success. The King County Regional Retrofit Prioritization Framework and the Water Quality Benefits Evaluation both provide applied scientific thinking to where we focus our efforts, while our grant support and stipend help to bring more people to the table.

The primary themes of this OGD work plan for the next biennium are centered on continuing on our path, improving what we started, and exploring solutions to known obstacles.

This work plan is not a comprehensive list of items to be completed in 2023 and 2024. For instance, the Core Team will continue to distribute information, draft interim products, and create online content. 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 the supplemental needs of the Coalition as they arise.

Here are some tasks that the OGD Coalition plans to accomplish in the 2023-2024 biennium.

Regional Decision Guidance Support

In the last biennium we completed the proof-of-concept Mapping Tool to support watershed planning efforts for Phase II NPDES permittees. A few OGD partners used the tool for developing Stormwater Management Action Plans, but many partners highlighted the need for additional features and functionality. In this biennium OGD will work to:

1. Complete the second phase of the Mapping Tool with input from the Mapping Subgroup and OGD Partners.
2. Meet the deliverables of the Ecology grant that is funding the work.

In addition to the OGD Mapping Tool, King County is also working on decision support tool for identifying the greatest opportunities to retrofit existing stormwater infrastructure (called the Retrofit Prioritization Framework). This will be an influential guidance tool, supportive of watershed planning and funding acquisition efforts. In this biennium OGD will work to:

1. Support the development of the Retrofit Prioritization Framework.
2. Work to ensure parallel and complimentary functionality with the OGD mapping tool and the Retrofit Prioritization Framework.
3. Use OGD Mapping Tool and Retrofit Prioritization Framework to develop a priority list of retrofit projects in the watershed.

Funding Support

The OGD Core Team has heard from Partners how much they appreciate the value of participating in OGD. As the Coalition continues to develop resources and provide mechanisms for networking there is a universal desire to be more inclusive. This has motivated the Funding Subgroup to offer participation stipends to organizations in need. The Coalition feels that all organizations should have an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the work of OGD. This biennium OGD will:

1. Commence a pilot program to provide stipends to organizations, or individuals on behalf of an organization, to incentivize participation in OGD.
 - a. Share information about this stipend opportunity with community-based organizations not currently participating in OGD.
2. Continue to run a program that provides letters of support to existing Partners applying for grant funds that support OGD goals.
3. Research and present on opportunities for large scale, Watershed-wide funding.
4. Investigate the mechanics, viability, and efficacy of a regional stormwater retrofit grant program to help fund high-priority projects in the Watershed.

Expansion of Partnerships

Engagement with community-based organizations and the business community is limited, and Tribal representation is virtually non-existent. Successful implementation of our watershed-wide stormwater strategies relies on the relationships we have with a diverse partner group. We know there are other private businesses, community-based organizations, and Tribes in the watershed interested in taking action to improve water quality. OGD is committed to exploring connections with those organizations and working towards building relationships that foster action. In this biennium OGD is committed to:

1. Defining outreach expectations and goals for existing Partners to act as a conduit for regional engagement and outreach.
2. Discuss programming to attract and incentivize action, supportive of OGD, by private companies, community-based organizations, and Tribes.

Enhanced Engagement with Decision Makers

Feedback from the OGD Coalition has identified a desire to be more intentional about how we communicate the work that is occurring 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 a template for other watersheds. We also recognize there is an urgent need to fulfill our commitment to actions described in our Implementation Plan and use those success stories to amplify our influence through thoughtful messaging to regional decision-makers. In 2023 and 2024 the OGD Coalition will:

1. Work with Partners to connect with regional decision-makers and advocate for resources/policy that is supportive of OGD's mission.
2. Tell our story to organizations, elected officials, and grantors to ensure the resilience and adaptability of the watershed-wide stormwater management strategy.
3. Survey existing Partners to understand the value of participating in the OGD coalition and measure progress towards the Desired Future State of Goal 7.

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:

At the end of this biennium, the OGD Partnership will have grown in size and diversity of organizations represented. The number of participants at Partner meetings will increase as a result of the stipend pilot program. Existing Subgroups will have advanced the OGD mapping tool (mapping subgroup), administer grant support and the stipend program (Funding subgroup), and share information and resources with other regional efforts (Coordination Subgroup).

Partners will feel engaged and supported by this Coalition and the results of our recurring governance survey will indicate this. Partner meetings will continue to highlight innovative and effective strategies for improving the health of the Green/Duwamish watershed, and those ideas will be communicated to regional decision makers to inform resource allocation and/or policy improvements.

OGD 2023-2024 Timeline

-  = OGD Partner Meeting
-  = Send out meeting summaries from each Partner meeting
-  = Publish blog posts detailing the Coalition's progress

