

Our Green/Duwamish (OGD)

2025-2026 Work plan

Reflection on 2023-2024

The OGD Coalition is starting to coalesce around strategies for meeting stormwater permit compliance and restoring the health of the watershed. This was evident in our collective effort to complete the 2023-2024 workplan.

In 2023, we completed our second annual report and began discussions on the development of a regional retrofit program to support infrastructure improvements throughout the watershed. We explored opportunities to partner more directly with salmon recovery efforts, learned about funding opportunities from the Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead, and provided input to WSDOT's retrofit prioritization. We also learned more about alternative financing options to deliver capital retrofits in the watershed.

The momentum from 2023 carried forward into 2024, with a final contract to complete our mapping tool to guide decision making, a conceptual roadmap to organizing a regional retrofit program, and the submission of a grant proposal designed to develop a performance-based procurement pathway to achieving compliance with NPDES permit retrofit requirements. We completed our third annual report in 2024 and modified our annual reporting schedule to eliminate tension with other annual reporting requirements.

While we continue to meet virtually and believe that mode is the most effective and inclusive for our Partners at this time, we are also starting to consider altering the frequency, location, and duration of Coalition meetings to be more inclusive. We are proud of the warmth and spirit that Partners continue to bring to meetings and the rapport we have maintained in the virtual format.

Moving Forward in 2025-2026

For the upcoming biennium, the OGD Core team went through the annual report and governance dimension results to compile a suite of actions to be accomplished over the next two years. There were several excellent suggestions that rose to the top. These ideas were centered on amplifying existing efforts to achieve progress on accomplishing our [Goals](#). For example, Partners are interested in expanding cleanup efforts, growing existing programs, developing additional capacity to manage stormwater, and improving existing relationships with other organizations focused on improving the health of the watershed.

It is largely understood that a committed effort to develop a regional retrofit program, which supports water quality and flow control retrofits to existing stormwater infrastructure, complements all 7 goals. The retrofit projects would reduce toxics, foster partnerships, catalyze opportunities to share data, and restore hydrologic function. In addition, the creation of alternative financing strategies would facilitate innovation, raise awareness among agencies in the watershed, and enhance existing collaborative efforts, like OGD. While the next two years will be centered on creating an accessible regional retrofit program, it will not be the only focus of this work plan.

Tasks for 2025-2026

To maintain momentum and continue progress towards achieving our Goals, OGD Partners are committing to accomplishing the following tasks in the 2025-2026 biennium. Below are the tasks organized by general topic area with a reference to the primary Goal those tasks are supporting, followed by a brief description on the importance of those tasks. The general topic areas were designed as 'buckets' to place related tasks and named to communicate the overall intent of those tasks.

Regional Decision Guidance

(Supporting OGD Goals 2, 3, 5)

1. Complete the mapping tool and begin using it to inform regional retrofit programming.
2. Develop resources to provide ongoing support to users wanting to access the mapping tool for long range stormwater planning efforts.

By creating a tool to support decision guidance for watershed partners, the mapping tool will be an essential part of amplifying collaboration across the watershed (Goal 2). The ancillary resource materials to support the use of the tool will increase access to existing data (Goal 3). Together they will help to catalyze innovation around stormwater management and NPDES permit compliance more specifically (Goal 5)

Funding Support and Retrofit Coordination

(Supporting OGD Goals 1, 3, 4, 5)

1. Explore up to two (2) alternative financing opportunities that support stormwater management programs and the construction of capital projects.
2. Create an iterative watershed-wide stormwater retrofit project list, complete with estimated pollutant load reduction estimates, to support the development of grant proposals.

The creation of a regional retrofit program will not happen overnight. Financing opportunities will be essential to promulgating interest and involvement. OGD Partners recognize that having funding in hand will make participation in a regional retrofit program

more likely. Therefore, we are committing to exploring financing opportunities to support retrofit construction to reduce priority toxics and restore the watershed's natural hydrologic function (Goals 1 and 4). With an eye on supporting a retrofit program and the acquisition of additional funds, OGD Partners will also work to develop a retrofit project list, inclusive of data generated, to estimate pollutant load reductions which will both increase access to existing data AND support innovation around how we collaborate on advocating for external funding (Goals 3 and 5).

Regional Connectivity

(Supporting OGD Goals 2 and 6)

1. Strengthen relationships with organizations focused on salmon recovery to further intentional connections with the OGD Stormwater Strategy.
2. Demonstrate how participation in OGD can help Partner Organizations achieve their goals with focused outreach by marketing current and future services.

OGD's 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 fostering relationships (Goal 2) and increase awareness of stormwater management strategies that can lead to a healthier watershed (Goal 6).

Reporting and Process Improvement

(Supporting OGD Goal 7)

1. Work with OGD Partners to revise and improve the content of our annual report.
2. Define new Governance Dimensions and update the process for inclusion in the annual reporting process.
3. Complete an annual report in each year of this workplan.
4. Conduct a 5 year review of the 2021 OGD Implementation Plan.
5. Survey existing Partners to understand the value of participating in the OGD coalition and measure progress towards the Desired Future State of Goal 7.

OGD Partners are committed to the way we are currently organized. However, this requires continuous reflection and an ability to adapt to changing needs. In addition, the second year of this biennium will include our fifth (5th) annual report. Our governing documentation suggests that the 5th annual report should include an overhaul of our existing Implementation Plan and inclusion of new Governance Dimensions to measure how well we're continuing to operate and carry out the Green/Duwamish watershed-wide stormwater management strategy (Goal 7).

This work plan is not a comprehensive list of items to be completed in 2025 and 2026. 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.

Desired Future State

If we successfully implement our 2025-2026 work plan, Partners should be able envision a future where our watershed is thriving. A future where:

- **Water quality is significantly improved:** Reduced pollution, healthier ecosystems, and cleaner waterways will benefit both human health and wildlife.
- **We can rely on strong partnerships and collaboration:** A robust network of organizations will work together to address shared challenges and implement innovative solutions.
- **Data drives decision-making:** Informed decisions will be made based on high-quality data and analysis.
- **Communities are engaged and aware:** A diverse range of stakeholders, including community members, businesses, and government agencies, will be actively involved in watershed protection and restoration.

By working together, we can create a more resilient and sustainable watershed for generations to come.