

Archived: Thursday, June 1, 2023 2:34:33 PM
From: [Stormwater Report](#)
Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2023 1:05:07 PM
To: sboynton@pwea.org
Subject: Putting Surface Waters Under the Microscope
Sensitivity: Normal



STORMWATER REPORT

Putting Surface Waters Under the Microscope

Healthy streams, wetlands, and other surface waters are perhaps the most powerful tools in the stormwater management arsenal. They help regulate runoff and relieve burdens on built infrastructure. However, like most types of green infrastructure, the benefits of healthy surface waters are often qualitative and difficult to measure with precision. This perception, sometimes, makes large-scale cleanup projects seem financially risky compared to engineered approaches. This edition of [Stormwater Report](#) takes a deep dive into wetland and stream restoration to spotlight research that aims to de-risk projects that focus on natural systems.

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[New Classification System Focuses on Wetland Connectivity](#)

How wetlands connect to other waterways is one of the most important determinants of the type and level of ecosystem benefits wetlands provide. However, the complexity of these wetland-waterway relationships often make them difficult to optimize. [The first-ever classification system for wetland connectivity aims to simplify this concept, detailing how strategic wetland restoration can support downstream water quality.](#)



[Apply for 2023 MS4 Awards by June 5](#)

The 2023 National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards, also known as the MS4 Awards, recognize excellence in municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) program management and innovation. [By June 5, stormwater organizations that perform above and beyond their regulatory obligations may apply for MS4 Award consideration.](#)



[Researchers Pinpoint Financial Value of Urban Stream Restoration](#)

Ratepayer-based fundraising is often a must for any environmental restoration project. However, as benefits from these projects tend to be more qualitative than quantitative, it is often difficult for project planners to gauge how much money residents are willing to pay in order to enjoy the benefits of healthier ecosystems. [A recent study proposes a new methodology to help quantify the financial value that locals attach to water quality improvements in urban streams.](#)





[Attend the Stormwater Summit 2023 in Kansas City](#)

Stormwater Summit 2023 takes place June 27-29 in Kansas City, Missouri. This year's event, co-located with the WEF Collection Systems Conference, features a full slate of workshops and technical sessions covering such crucial stormwater topics as funding and financing, green infrastructure, policy and regulation, and asset management. [Browse this year's technical program](#) and [register for the event](#).

[Conference Papers Offer Glimpse into Evolution of Stream Management Sector](#)

The trends and topics that professionals in any industry discuss among themselves have a strong influence on how those industries operate. That is the principle behind a recent study that analyzes nearly 1,000 papers presented at the biennial Australian Stream Management Conference since 1996. [The study reveals surprising insights into how the priorities of Australian stream management professionals affect the types of projects and policies they pursue](#).



[Join WEFUnity Stormwater and Watershed Communities](#)

WEF recently launched [WEFUnity](#), an online workspace that allows professionals in each of WEF's practice areas to explore news and events, network with colleagues, and locate volunteering opportunities. Join WEFUnity's [Stormwater](#) and [Watershed Management](#) groups for easy access to updates from WEF's member community.



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