



YP Connections

Volume 8 Issue 2: Special Edition –

WEF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

A WORD FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WEFTEC is almost here, and as we're all making travel plans and making reservations at our favorite restaurants, it also means that it's time again for the WEF Community Service Project. This project is one of the vital components that our committee plans and is one that has grown among WEFTEC attendees as a source of sharing, educating, and networking with your peers. This issue of YP Connections was created to showcase the previous years projects and give a preview of this years project.

Haley & I thank all of those that have participated in previous year's projects, and are looking forward to another fantastic year of educating and helping the host city community. What better way is there to form friendships than to bond over dirty hands!

Haley Falconer
SYPC Committee Chair

Michelle Hatcher
SYPC Committee Vice-Chair

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HISTORY OF THE SERVICE PROJECT

The Young Professionals were challenged to create an annual service project held at WEFTEC in 2007 with a goal of completing an event at WEFTEC 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The first project was completed in 2008 and had an estimated 50 volunteers. In 2014, the project had grown to over 100 volunteers at WEFTEC in New Orleans.

The **MISSION** of the WEF Community Service Project aims to make a difference in the WEFTEC host city by making a positive impact on the local water environment and educating the community about the value of water.

The **VISION** of the WEF Community Service Project and Water Palooza (educational event held the day prior to the service project showcasing water) are ideal opportunities for dedicated water professionals and water-conscious organizations to volunteer their time and provide their expertise or resources to help educate the community on the value of water. Held in conjunction with WEFTEC, the project allows volunteers to support a local project, inspire the local community to rally around the cause of clean water, underscore the importance of the water profession, and demonstrate how to spearhead clean water initiatives. WEF Community Service Project leaders have established these criteria for selecting projects:

- 1) Must be hands-on and water-related.
- 2) Would not occur without our support and/or resources.
- 3) Seize the opportunity to engage the community on protecting their water environment.
- 4) Must be sustainable and will be maintained for years to come.

WEFTEC 2015 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

“The Pershing Cultivation Project: Growing Green Gardens and Young Minds”, will transform a portion of the school grounds into a learning garden that will serve as an interactive tool for the school’s K-8 students to learn about water, the environment, and green infrastructure. The 2015 service project design is being completed by local firm Christy Weber Landscapes as a donation to the WEF Community Service Project.

Volunteers for the project will be

building a seating area for an outdoor classroom, a rain garden to capture stormwater runoff, and a large garden filled with native prairie grasses and flowers. Teachers will be provided with lesson plans to accompany the learning garden.

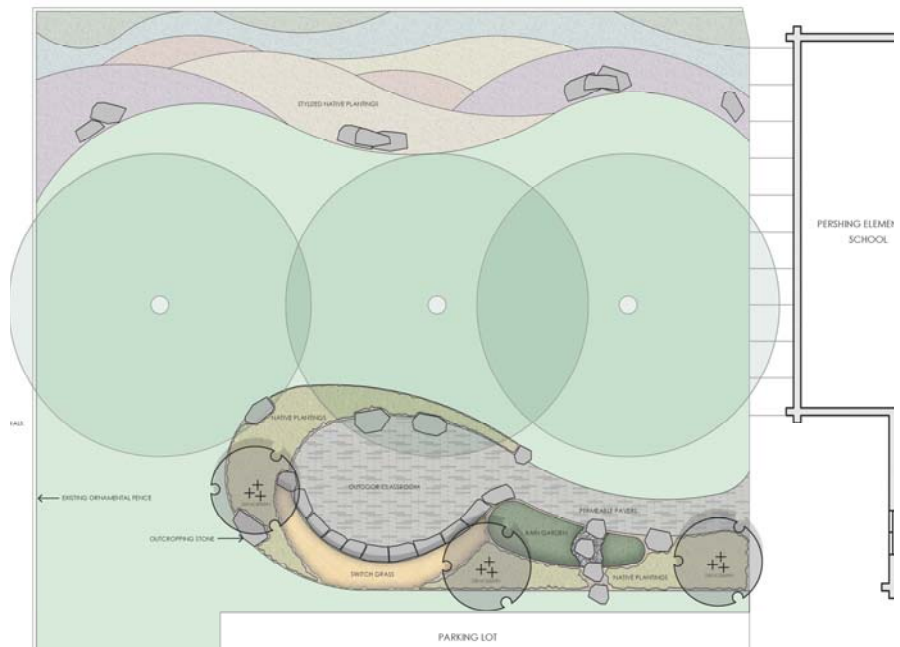
WEF is hosting the 3rd annual Water Palooza educational fair on the Friday before the service project to engage Pershing East Magnet School students, teachers, community, and neighboring schools with a variety of hands-on,

environmental activities provided by water industry companies, governmental agencies, and non-profit organizations.

The fundraising campaign for the 2015 service project is underway. The project subcommittee plans to raise more than \$20,000 for the construction of the learning garden at Pershing East Magnet School and to support the Water Palooza educational fair. To donate, contact Dianne Crilley, WEF staff, at DCrilley@WEF.ORG.



The service project and Water Palooza will take place at Pershing Elementary school in Chicago’s Bronzeville neighborhood.



Proposed design adds a new outdoor classroom with permeable pavers, natural landscaping and rain gardens that can provide multiple teaching opportunities on native plantings.

*The Pershing Cultivation Project:
Growing Green Gardens and
Young Minds*

Location of the learning garden as seen during a site visit February 2015.



WEFTEC 2014 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Recharge, Restore, Revitalize Hollygrove: Conrad Park Green Infrastructure Enhancements consisted of significant improvements to the Conrad Park landscape to better manage stormwater runoff with the addition of new native vegetation at a city park in central New Orleans. During rain events, both entrances to the park were completely flooded, eliminating access to a beloved neighborhood public space that pro-

vided a place for youth of all ages to gather and play. Through work with Dana Brown and Associates and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, the project constructed rain gardens and bioswales on the perimeter of the playground and basketball court to help route water away from the play space and entrances.

The day before the project folks participated in WaterPa-

looza to help teach the importance of water quality and conservation to local elementary school students at Lusher Elementary. Through a variety of booths engaging students, the entire school was educated throughout the day by the hardworking volunteers who committed their time! The event was a success and helped show the kids the many careers and aspects of water quality.



Above Top and Bottom: Localized flooding creates unsafe hazards for children.



One booth allowed kids to play dress-up based on their favorite water-related field.



Kids learned the water cycle through a fun song and dance!



Volunteers diligently working to excavate the rain garden area and paver walkway.



Left: Paver walkway after excavation and construction. Below: Group photo after the construction was complete!



WEF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AT A GLANCE...



WEFTEC 2014—Recharge, Restore, Revitalize Hollygrove, New Orleans, Louisiana
Green infrastructure improvements at local community park.



WEFTEC 2013— Reading, Writing, and Rain Gardens, Chicago, Illinois
Rain garden construction in local elementary/middle school.



WEFTEC 2012—Bogging in the Big Easy, New Orleans, Louisiana
Wetland planting in wildlife habitat and recreational park in City Park.



WEFTEC 2011—Walkway to Wetlands, Los Angeles, California
Tree planting along South LA street between a new high school and wetlands park.



WEFTEC 2010—Bioswales in the Bayou—New Orleans, Louisiana
Bioswale construction in Lower 9th Ward newly constructed LEED houses.



WEFTEC 2009—Wading for Wetlands, Orlando, Florida
Revitalizing a wetland system at the local wastewater treatment plant.



WEFTEC 2008—Gettin' out of the Gutter, Chicago, Illinois
Rain garden construction in Pulaski Park in central Chicago

READING, WRITING, AND RAIN GARDENS CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 2013



Approximately 110 volunteers came out to John C. Haines Elementary School in Chicago for the Water Palooza and Service Project Event held at WEFTEC 13.

Water Palooza is an event hosted the day prior to the project with over 10 volunteers hosting educational booths for the school children. Nearly 700 elementary students visited booths and participated in interactive games and activities educating about nonpoint source pollution, pollution's effect on animals, rain gardens, what can and cannot be flushed down the toilet, current sustainable technologies, and what it is like gathering water in developing countries.

WEF also hosted a WATER'S WORTH IT booth educating about careers in the water industry, the World Water Monitoring Challenge (WMMC), a toilet toss game, and an interactive station to educate about what can and cannot be flushed down the toilet and drain. Several WMMC test kits were donated to the school to continue to educate children on the importance of water quality.

Students also viewed a live Bull snake, toured a zero-emission electric car and colored pictures of the water cycle.

At the Service Project, volunteers helped remove a concrete subsurface layer; lay topsoil; plant 13 different types of grass-

es, flowering plants, shrubs, and trees; lay 28 stone pavers to form a walking path through the garden; pick up litter in the neighborhood; and add screen fencing to block litter from entering the playground. The school now has a 1,024 ft² rain garden and an additional 1,000 ft² of planted green space. The continuing presence of the rain garden will be a valuable tool for the school to teach its students to be good stewards of the environment throughout their life.



Above: Children learning about the water cycle. *Right:* Illinois WEA displays an interactive water cycle in Chicago. *Far right:* Students participate in toilet cornhole, learning what can and can't be flushed.



Left: Haines Elementary School playground prior to the service project. *Right:* Finished rain garden, completed with the help of volunteers, students and faculty.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer with us on Saturday to get your hands dirty as we work to revitalize Pershing East Magnet School in the Bronzeville community. Volunteers can sign up to help out on the WEFTEC registration page, or you can email Dianne Crilley at DCrilley@wef.org. Volunteers will be provided bus transportation to/from the project site Saturday morning from the convention center, an event shirt, and lunch to keep you fueled throughout the day.

DONATE

Funding for the service project is provided entirely by donations and sponsorships. For this project, both monetary and material donations are needed. Materials for the garden to include pavers, plants, grasses, and pipe are all needed to complete construction of the project. Donations such as plants, soil, mulch, equipment, site preparation and delivery will help ensure a successful project and minimize the need for monetary donations.

Donate today to show your support for improving our nation's water environment. We have a local landscaping firm that has completed the design, however the project construction will lie with the manpower of the volunteers we provide with the materials we have! The registration form for donations is located on the following page, or email DCrilley@wef.org with questions.

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING 2015 DONORS AND SPONSORS!

2014 SPONSORS



2014 DONORS



2014 DONORS

Engineers Without Borders	Flottweg Separation Technology
AE2S	Hach Company
Duperon Corporation	Veolia
Engineering America	Wigen Water Technologies
Entex Technologies Inc.	
Fargo Water	
FKC Co. Ltd.	



DONATION FORM

Water Environment Federation Not-for-Profit Donation Form

Founded in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF members, Member Associations and staff proudly work to achieve our mission to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water worldwide.

WEF offers a Community Service Project at its annual conference, Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC). WEF volunteers come together to not only give back to the local community, but also to provide community education on local water and environment protection. WEF invites you to make a difference in the WEFTEC host city, leave a positive impact on the local environment, and bring educational awareness to the community through giving a direct donation to the **2015 WEF Community Service Project – “The Pershing Cultivation Project: Growing Green Gardens and Young Minds”** (construction of a learning garden at Pershing Magnet Elementary school in the Bronzeville neighborhood).

DONOR INFORMATION

I would like to make a financial donation in support to the 2015 WEF Community Service Project in the amount of: (check one) ☐ \$500- **Green** Donor ☐ \$1000 – **Blue** donor ☐ \$Other

DATE					
COMPANY					
NAME		TITLE			
ADDRESS					
CITY		STATE		ZIP	
PHONE		EMAIL			

PAYMENT INFORMATION

To guarantee your donation, please provide your payment information below:

CHECK PAYMENT: (check made payable to the Water Environment Federation)

☐ Enclosed is our Check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ for the above donation

**Check to include notation “WEF Community Service Project” in the memo. Mail payment & pledge form to:

Water Environment Federation
Attention: Dianne Crilley | 601 Wythe Street | Alexandria, VA 22314

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:

☐ WEF is authorized to charge the full donation fee to our:
☐ American Express ☐ Master Card ☐ VISA

Amount to be Charged:	\$		
Cardholder Name (please print)			
Billing Address			
Signature:			
Credit Card Number:		CVV:	
Credit Card Expiration Date:			

The Water Environment Federation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
 Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BOGGING IN THE BIG EASY NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 2012

The 5th annual WEF Community Service Project took place at City Park in New Orleans, Louisiana. 80 enthusiastic volunteers gathered to plant a wetland designed to retain stormwater that would otherwise reach the Mississippi River. The wetland also serves to remove silt and pollutants from rainfall runoff before it reaches surface waters. The wetland will provide a wildlife habitat area and a recreational park for visitors.

City Park is 1,300 acres and is the largest recreational area in the New Orleans metropolitan area and receives over five million visitors each year. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded over 90 percent of the park, felling thousands of trees and destroying park buildings. The revitalization of the park provided a powerful impact to create value in recovering neighborhoods. The restoration returns vital recreations opportunities to the City.



Clockwise from top right: Site after initial project plantings. Group photo under an adjacent highway bridge to avoid the rain. Photo taken after plantings have established two years after project. Initial project site prior to improvements; volunteers braving recent



WALKWAY TO WETLANDS LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, 2011

The 4th WEF Community Service Project took place in a South LA neighborhood. Championed by city council president Jan Perry, the scope of the South LA Wetland stretched from building a new high school to converting a blighted industrial lot across the street into a wetlands park. The park was designed to collect and direct stormwater, treating it and using it to create an inner-city habitat for both plants and animals. Among other assets, this wetlands park provides a hands-on education to the high school students next door.

Volunteers spent the morning planting 37 trees, 24 Australian Willows and 13 Evergreen Pears along the street between the high school and the park. The species were Air Quality Management District approved and known to thrive in the

warm LA climate—both factors that are key to treatment efficiency and survival. Novel collection pipes were installed in the curb to redirect rainwater from the streets to the base of each tree.

This project helped improve the environment and aesthetics between the new school and the new wetlands.



Top: Barren street leading to the new wetlands. Bottom from Left to Right: Volunteers planting trees; established trees along route; volunteer group after completion.

BIOSWALES IN THE BAYOU NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 2010



The 3rd annual WEF Community Service Project took place in the Holy Cross neighborhood in the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward. This year was the 5-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the project constructed a 125 foot by 35 foot bioswale behind five LEED Platinum homes. The homes are part of one community organization's efforts to revitalize the community. Global Green New Orleans and Groundwork New Orleans provided local help and resources to complete the project.

The bioswale consists of three underground ponding areas and braided streams that serve to collect and infiltrate stormwater. The volunteers placed the perforated pipe in the streams, filled the beds with gravel, brought in top soil, and planted approximately 400 plants. Several wet-weather tolerant species were planted that are suitable for the overland flooding conditions experienced during rain events.

The runoff from the homes and the future apartment and community center will flow into the bioswale.



Clockwise from top right: Bioswale with established plants and trees a year after project; established project site two years after project; volunteer group photo after construction; volunteers laying rock and backfilling site during construction.



WADING FOR WETLANDS ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 2009

The 2nd annual WEF Community Service Project took place in Orlando, Florida. The project planted over 1,000 wetland species that revitalized a previously unplanted area of an existing wetland. An area of nearly seven acres was replanted in a 70-acre wetland system at the Orange County Northwest Water Reclamation Facility outside of Orlando. Wastewater effluent flows through a series of wetland cells and eventually into a lake, ultimately serving as lake augmentation.

Each of the two wetland species, Arrowhead *Syngonium Podophyllum* and Fire Flag *Thalia Geniculata*, were planted to increase biodiversity and remove nutrients. Within less than a year, the wetland plants grew to over six feet high.



Volunteers planting in wetland system.

GETTING' OUT OF THE GUTTER CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 2008

The first WEF Community Service Project took place in the Wicker Park neighborhood, in Pulaski Park. Approximately 50 volunteers and a local high school environmental class constructed a rain garden. The construction consisted of disconnecting the downspout of an adjacent building and rerouting the storm-water to flow into the rain garden. The area was excavated before construction, with volunteers working with hand tools to place the pipe, rock, and plant the native trees, shrubs, and flowers in the

garden.



Top: Volunteers preparing soil for planting. Top Middle: Volunteers planting native species. Top right: Rocks excavated by hand during project. Far Left: Finished garden with rock path. Bottom middle: Volunteer photo at completion.

FORMING FRIENDSHIPS OVER DIRTY HANDS!



Photos courtesy of Sarah Hubbell & Haley Falconer



YP CONNECTIONS SPECIAL EDITION

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.WEF.ORG

SYPC WEFTEC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 25th

- Water Palooza, Pershing East Magnet School

Saturday, September 26th

- "The Pershing Cultivation Project: Growing Green Gardens and Young Minds"
- Jammin' 4 Water, Park West, 322 Armitage Avenue, 6:00pm—

Sunday, September 27th

- Student Design Competition, 8:00am—5:00pm

Monday, September 28th

- Student Chapter Annual Meeting, 9:30am—10:30pm
- WEF Student & Young Professionals Committee Meeting, 10:30pm—12:30pm
- Student & Young Professionals Networking & Career Fair, 1:00pm—4:00pm
- Black & Veatch Student Appreciation Night, 5:00pm—7:00pm
- WEF Young Professionals Reception, 8:00pm—11:00pm

STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

The SYPC was formed by WEF to engage the students and young professionals that become the future leaders of our industry. The committee has several subcommittees and is involved in planning multiple events at WEFTEC, in addition to engaging students and YPs throughout the year.

The SYPC has multiple committees where volunteers can become active in planning the following:

- Student Design Competition involves students submitting and presenting a preliminary design to industry professionals.
- Student Outreach engages and responds to students to increase the overall activity of the student body in WEF.
- YP Communications creates a newsletter three times per year that highlights the activities of YPs and student chapters from across the Federation.
- YP Summit is a one-day conference dedicated to providing learning opportunities for YPs as they begin their career.
- Career Fair is attended by YPs and students at WEFTEC to network and search for available jobs in the industry.
- Community Service

Project helps the local host community with a water-related project and educational opportunity.

- Workshop development identifies, develops, and supports workshops that an SYPC member chairs or are other fundamental-type opportunities.

The Committee offers multiple opportunities for involvement and is looking for energetic volunteers. If interested in joining this dynamic committee please contact either Haley or Michelle at the emails listed at the top of this page.

