

Workshop about the new Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District

Aug. 25, 2022

Attached is the **slide deck** that Carrie Sanneman of Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) presented. It includes:

- A brief history of MCDD
- Purpose of the new district
- Summary of community engagement to date
- Proposed strategies for integrating flood safety and the environment

After the presentation, a **Zoom poll** was taken:

1. Had you heard of the new Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District before being invited to this session?

Nope, it was brand new to me.	47%
Yes, but I didn't know much about its purpose or potential.	37%
Yes, and I was already familiar with most of today's presentation material.	17%

2. Do you see benefit to yourself and your community in the new district's expanded mandate and proposed strategies to integrate flood safety & the environment?

Yes	77%
Unsure at this point	23%
No	0%

Participants were broken into seven **small groups** and asked:

- What resonates?
- What is missing?
- What concerns do you have?

Complete notes from each small group conversation were compiled and given to MCDD. **Below are the themes that emerged.** The Intertwine Alliance will advocate for these priorities that you've identified.

- Most people don't understand these waterways, don't know anything about flood management or the work of MCDD, much less the new district.
- There is a need to communicate clearly with the public about the purpose of and need for this investment.
- Enthusiasm about the expanded focus and the many opportunities it brings
 - Restoration, habitat, and water quality opportunities have long been identified, so it's good that they are a focus
 - Importance of integration — flood safety with environment and equity

- Importance of intentional planning for resiliency and uncertainty— aging infrastructures, wildfires, climate change, earthquakes, fishing/toxins
- Much interest in giving input on the equity and justice components of this work, and frustration/confusion about why equity/justice would be framed as a separate conversation from environmental integration .
- Too many economic benefits for some individuals and corporations (as well as for the public) as a result of this 100-year public investment in flood safety, and importance of new investments not continuing to reinforce inequities

Interest in seeing:

- Expanded relationship with and consideration of unhoused communities in the plans
- Diverse representation in leadership of this effort —including tribes, other communities of color, unhoused, and low-income communities
- increased focus on developing equitable access of the slough for recreation, fishing and other purposes (NOTE: The District owns very little land and will be restricted in its ability to directly invest in access or trails, though we can partner with Portland Parks & Recreation, Metro, 40 Mile Loop, and others.)
- Ongoing info and accountability about how stakeholder engagement will be done with disability community, or individual citizens such as Parkrose residents, not just organizations
- Ways to stay engaged and to get clear information about how to do so. Sense that it's not clear how to stay engaged.

STAY INVOLVED

There will be additional opportunities to engage as the new district forms. Please start by [signing up for the district's newsletter](#) (select general drainage districts news) for additional information and opportunities, including upcoming work to develop a bond measure package to send to voters likely in 2024.

Intertwine Alliance staff will push out any additional updates, advocacy opportunities or news more specific to this group through this email list.

As with any public process, please remember that you are welcome to attend the new district's [board meetings](#) to stay informed and advocate for your priorities.