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Healthy ecology, healthy community

UpstreamPgh Announces Selection of Next Executive Director

Former Assistant Director Michael Hiller will take the helm Jan. 1, 2022

Pittsburgh, PA (*November 22, 2021*) - Today, the UpstreamPgh Board of Directors announces the selection of Michael Hiller, LEED GA, as the organization's next Executive Director. Mr. Hiller has helped lead the organization for seven years, first as Director of Policy and Outreach, and for the last two and a half years as Assistant Director. He will begin serving as Executive Director on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Hiller said of his appointment to the post, "I am humbled and honored to be selected as the next Executive Director of this organization. I look forward to continuing to work alongside the board, staff, partners, and community in this new capacity as we build towards the vision of a just, healthy urban ecosystem in the Nine Mile Run Watershed and beyond."

As Assistant Director, Hiller has been responsible for daily operations, program development and management, and managing a staff of 12 employees. He spearheaded a new emphasis on environmental equity and created Climate Justice Principles that the Board of Directors adopted in 2020. At that time, he also developed the award-winning Nine Mile Run Environmental Equity Study, a GIS project that integrated data about public health and income inequality with environmental and land use factors, to guide the organization's work to improve environmental justice in the Nine Mile Run watershed.

Most recently, he secured the largest grant in the organization's history, $581,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener II program, for the Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project. Over the coming year, this project will retrofit the two largest municipal parking lots in Wilkinsburg with green stormwater infrastructure, diverting polluted runoff from the Nine Mile Run stream, and enhancing the central business district of the borough.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mike as our new Executive Director. He brings so much enthusiasm, experience from his years as Assistant Director, and great knowledge of and connection to the Nine Mile Run watershed communities," said UpstreamPgh Board President Heather Dodson after the thorough three-month search process.

Prior to Mr. Hiller's tenure at UpstreamPgh, he worked in urban planning and GIS coordination for the University at Albany, SUNY, and for Laberge Group, where he managed sustainable land use and environmental plans for a variety of communities. He holds a B.A. in Urban Studies and Planning and an M.A. in Geography from the State University of New York at Albany. He is a LEED Green Associate and recently completed a Regenerative Development program.

Claudia Saladin, Board Secretary and member of the Succession Committee, added, "Mike's wide and deep familiarity with all aspects of UpstreamPgh's programs and operations, and his passion for environmental justice, will ensure his success in this new role. He will continue to move the Nine Mile Run watershed closer to a healthy ecosystem that benefits all of its residents."

About UpstreamPgh

MISSION
UpstreamPgh restores and protects our watershed ecosystem, while working regionally to support and implement resilient solutions for a healthy urban environment.

VISION
UpstreamPgh envisions a region with clean water accessible to all, healthy and resilient communities, and ecosystems restored to their natural functions.

More at UpstreamPgh.org

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