



Making a Visible Difference in Communities: April 2015 Status Report

*PROCTOR CREEK (ATLANTA,
GEORGIA)*

Contacts

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EPA Programs Providing Support: Water Protection Division; Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability; Resource Conservation and Restoration Division; Air, Pesticides and Toxics Management Division; Office of Policy and Management (Geographic Information Systems)

Community Partners (Local agencies, departments, elected officials, community groups, business groups, etc): City of Atlanta, Park Pride, Conservation Fund, Turner Foundation, Arthur Blank Family Foundation, Coca Cola, Southern Company

Other partners (federal and state agencies, private sector): ACOE, FEMA, DOT, CDC, HUD, GAEPD, USGS, DOI, NPS

Environmental & Public Health Issues and Measures

Community Engagement: Step 1 of 3 Step Plan (Using UWFP Strategy Model)

The OneEPA team in collaboration with the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council has met with 4 of the 11 Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's) and will meet with 38 neighborhoods to begin the process of community engagement in the entirety of the watershed. We plan to concurrently co-host a community festival/expo in late September to bring the community together. The goals of the festival and roundtable meetings are to provide a forum for discussion about capacity building and sustainability within the communities, empowerment, information sharing and community involvement, and any issues and challenges that the neighborhoods are facing. This engagement process is entitled the Proctor Creek Urban Waters Partnership and the co-leads are the Proctor Street Stewardship Council and EPA R4. The Team kicked off the collaboration with JAZZ ON PROCTOR CREEK, a visioning session followed by community and local jazz.

Priority Project Selection and Continued Capacity Building: Step 2 of 3 Step Plan

5-6 projects will be chosen by the community based on the feedback and discussion from the community engagement sessions and in collaboration with the Proctor Creek Steering Committee. There will be a series of development sessions that will bring the stakeholders, federal, state, local, NGO's, non-profit, civic, corporate and philanthropic partners together to determine and assign project roles of accountability and to begin to implementation of projects. Capacity building will be continued through facilitation of workshops, technical education, and other resources that will be made available to the community via the partnerships.

Community Celebration of Successes: Step 3 of 3 Step Plan

There will be a forum to showcase and highlight the successes of the community and all partners

Monitoring Plan (Community requests to have a swimmable, fishable creek, aesthetic creek.)

Monitoring Team (EPA, SESD, Chattahoochee River Keepers, GAEPD, Community, CoA) collaboration that is working to provide monitoring and water quality sampling of Proctor Creek at identified hotspots to develop a baseline and create a monitoring plan for the creek. This will provide critical information for the team to implement a plan that will clean up the creek, remove the public health threat, and remove it from the 303d listing (impaired waters). USGS is the newest partner who will work with EPA to provide much needed stream gauges in the creek for future monitoring.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Demonstration Project

This HIA is a part of ORD's 2012 RESES research projects. The projects selected where to focus on: data and tools to support community decisions, forecasting and assessing ecological and community health, near-term approaches to sustainable solutions for land and ground water contamination, and integrated solutions for sustainable outcomes in communities. Briefings for the RA/DRA and the City of Atlanta will occur in early April. The HIA findings will be published on the EPA website after the briefings in April.

On 04/16/15, OEJS staff alongside ORD partners briefed the RA/DRA on the Green Street Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Findings Report. An executive summary was provided to accompany the 227 page document that will be published on the ORD website after the City of Atlanta is briefed on the findings document. Key takeaways from the discussion included how the Green Street demonstration project is an example of “Making a Visible Difference in the Proctor Creek Community” and how the process has provided a model of interagency collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels. The HIA process is a new science tool that has a holistic approach to health and defines health as not only infirmity but your Biological health, Environmental health, Physical health, Mental / Psychological health, Social health, Economic health, Behavioral health, and Genetics

Green Infrastructure: HIA Watershed wide Project-Environmental Incentive District

EPA Region 4, EPA-ORD will use an HIA to assess the distribution of both environmental and health impacts of a proposed area-wide environmental district (aka Green Opportunity Zone) to determine how green infrastructure (GI) techniques and practices, low impact development, and land-use planning can help solve the complex flooding and stormwater issues of the Proctor Creek. This HIA's scale will be a watershed-wide approach focusing on climate impacts to a green environmental incentive district.

Green Infrastructure: Boone Boulevard Green Street 319 Project

EPA funded a \$400k 319 grant to CoA through GAEPD to implement a green infrastructure project to address community concerns about flooding and stormwater. The design phase of the project is 30% complete and will be shared with the community. This project is part of a collaboration between EPA, CoA, and Park Pride and is part of community approved Proctor Creek North Avenue (PNA) study to integrate green infrastructure elements into the street design to manage stormwater and reduce stormwater runoff. This will help reduce flooding and provide capacity relief for the CSO, provide cleaner surface and groundwater, improve streets and sidewalks and provide economic revitalization.

Grants Writing and Grants Management Workshop

The OneEPA team in developing and hosting a Grants Writing and Grants Management Workshop for Proctor Creek and other communities and educational institutions. The workshop will address what makes a strong proposal and common weaknesses and instruction will include how to maximize scores in every criteria category. This community driven request will also have a focus on Grants Management. The technical directive has been submitted and the Grants Writing Workshop will be held in mid August.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador Program

The OneEPA team requested funding for an Ambassador to assist local partners in identifying existing federal tools and resources available for local projects. The ambassador will serve as a catalyst to successfully complete on-the-ground projects in the short term, and build relationships and capacity to lay a foundation of continued success within the community by engaging the stakeholders and partners to leverage funding and resources. The OneEPA team has completed a job description to vet with management and will continue the discussions on the selection process.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

In the spring of 2013, Proctor Creek was designated as an Urban Waters Federal Partnership watershed. The partners include EPA, HUD, DOT, FEMA, ACE, CDC, USDA Forest Service, NPS, EDA, and USGS. An interagency and community federal partnership meeting will be convened this spring. The OneEPA team is hosting meetings with each Federal Partner singularly to discuss their programs and how they may benefit the community. The partner then engages the community by attending the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council meetings where they present on their role in the partnership. This is part of the capacity building and sustainability requests from the community. The next UWFP will be held on June 11, 2015 and will include the Proctor Creek Community.

Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBA's) Ongoing

Complete TBA's where cleanup action is likely to take place and in priority sites within the watershed. Maddox Park TBA was delivered to City's Department of Watershed Management and the goal is Phase I/II Assessment(s) with Analysis for Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA).

Prioritize, Assess, and Cleanup Brownfields sites in the Proctor Creek Watershed

Ensure grantee success with City of Atlanta Department of Planning (Assessment), and Invest Atlanta (Revolving Loan Fund). Proctor Creek is a priority for Atlanta's Assessment Grant. Work towards establishing an Environmental District that incentivizes green lifts, improvements to water quality, installing green infrastructure, redeveloping brownfields, enhancing public transit options and alternatives, and creating greenway/greenspace.

Children's Health Initiatives

Climate Justice Summit for Youth, Canoe Mobile Event this summer, and student curriculum that includes recipes for healthy kids and a Healthy Environment. Provide outreach and education for children's environmental health issues to the community and partners

ORD Analysis for Community Mold Study

A Proctor Creek Community Collaborative Health Survey was conducted in the Vine City and English Avenue neighborhoods the summer of 2014 in response to community concerns about potential health effects from frequent flooding in the area. The health survey was funded by Emory's Hercules program where 153 residence out of 507 were randomly selected to participate. The survey found a high prevalence (53%) of mold in homes. EPA Relative Moldiness Index (ERMI) Model continues to provide technical assistance and analysis materials from the Cincinnati-ORD on its Environmental A follow-up meeting on interventions, will take place in the community.

Resources requested from NPMs and Federal Partners

GENERAL

Travel and training dollars to make a sustained visible difference in the communities **\$3,000**

OAR

Lead Enforcement Training, education and outreach **\$5,000**

OCHP-

Third training funded in FY15 for Healthy Homes Training **\$5,000**

Recipes for Healthy Children Training **\$5,000**

OCSP

E3, Integrated Pest Management in Schools Program

OECA

Youth Climate Justice Workshop **\$ 2500**

Targeted Inspections

SEPs

Technical assistance training for communities

OEJ Grants, TASC funding, field and lab support

OP/OSC

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance

OSC Mission Contract

Equitable Development

Proctor Creek Community Eco-Tour Guide Project **\$15,000**

Vision to Action Initiative

Mediation Consultant for Community Engagement, Proctor Creek Urban Waters Symposium **\$20,000**

ORD

Proctor Creek's Boone Blvd Green Street Health Impact Assessment

Healthy Homes Training

Soil Sampling for Green Infrastructure initiative

Climate Change Response Research Initiative

Brownfields K6 grantees/P2 Program

OSWER

PTAP program for Clark, Spellman, Morehouse, Ga Tech, Ga State, Emory

Illegal Tire Dumping and the Trash Free Waters Program- technical assistance and funding **\$25,000**

OW

Funding for two years for an Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador for Proctor Creek, an Urban Waters Federal Partner designee. **\$60,000 ea year for 2 years (\$120,000 total)**

Project Development and Management Tool (HQ to determine cost in collaboration with WPD, (SCWB) Mediation contractor and community facilitator funding to assist EPA R4 in community engagement (EPA step 1 and 2 of 3 step plan) **\$15,000**

Contract Support for Grants Writing and Management Workshop **\$25,000**

Contract resources for facilitation and funding to convene EPA's 3rd step meeting of all stakeholders, partners, community, and media **\$20,000**

Contract support to review the Urban Waters Small Grants in the Fall in anticipation of the large number of proposals and because the region will determine the FY15/16 awards. **\$10,000**

Contract facilitation and funding for UWSG recipient/federal partners forum **\$5,000**

Grants

Center Watershed Protection Urban Waters Grant

The Center for Watershed Protection, Inc., will provide a replicable blueprint for pollutant load reduction crediting by developing a cost-effective approach to clean urban waters that integrates community-based water monitoring. \$59,943 EPA UWSG

Eco-Action Urban Waters Grant

The Green Infrastructure Initiative will create a comprehensive "Vision for Action" to reduce flooding and improve water quality in Proctor Creek while revitalizing adjacent low-income neighborhoods. The Initiative builds on previous planning efforts that identified green infrastructure solutions for the low-elevation Proctor Creek neighborhoods in 2010. This initiative focuses on the higher elevation Atlanta University Center campuses that are the source of much of the contaminated runoff. \$60,000 EPA UWSG

The Chattahoochee River Keepers

CRK was awarded a 2 year grant that involves monitoring and sampling and outreach, water quality assessment and remediation. They are partnering with the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, a community 501©3 and instituted a neighborhood water watch program where the residents report any water issues and there is also a sampling team of community members who provide continuous water sampling in the creek. \$50,000 UWSG