



## Making a Visible Difference in Communities: May 2015 Status Report

*PROCTOR CREEK (ATLANTA,  
GEORGIA)*

### Contacts

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**Other EPA Project Team Members:** Tami Thomas Burton (OEJS), David Egetter (Brownfields), Constance Alexander (Community Engagement, WPD), LaShon Blakely (Air)

**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 8 of the 11 Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU's) and 29 of the 38 neighborhoods to begin the process of community engagement in the entirety of the watershed. We are concurrently co-hosting a community showcase September 26 to present the challenges and successes in the watershed as a result of the ongoing collaborations. The JAZZ ON PROCTOR CREEK collaborative, is just one successful effort that provides a venue for community visioning followed by community and local jazz. The event was cancelled in May due to a sulfur-like smell in and around the venue. The building sits on Proctor Creek and due to the rain, there was a sewer smell. The CoA is investigating and will help identify and correct if there is a City issue.

### **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 beginning July 11 throughout the summer 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. WPD awarded the community engagement team 20K for Steps 1 and 2. We were also awarded an additional 15K for this effort.

### **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 held at the end of the calendar year.

### **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. A cost request was developed by SESD and we were awarded 25K from OW, EPM funds and are seeking additional funding from possibly excess unused grant funds. The gauges can be installed for \$14,000 each and USGS will provide free installation and monitoring activities. The overall cost of sampling and monitoring to establish a baseline for Proctor Creek is over \$200k. There are discussions about breaking the project down into phases as the funds are located.

### **Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Demonstration Project**

This HIA is a part of ORD's 2012 RESES research projects. The projects selected were 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 occurred in May. The HIA findings will be published on the EPA website and the community will be briefed.

### **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. Phase 2 of the project was announced at the CoA meeting. 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: 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. The CoA has agreed to include the community on the next design phase.

### **Grants Writing and Grants Management Workshop**

The OneEPA team was awarded 25K to develop and host a Grants Writing and Grants Management Workshop for Proctor Creek and other R4 communities and educational institutions. It is scheduled to be held on Aug 22 pending location. 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 was approved and a contractor has been assigned.

### **Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador Program**

The OneEPA team has been awarded \$130k for two years for an Ambassador to PC 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 core team has completed a job description and will meet by mid-June to discuss options for 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 held on June 11 at The Good Samaritan in Proctor Creek. 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. HUD will present at the next Proctor Creek Stewardship Council Meeting to be held June 5, 2015. We are looking for a food sponsor for breakfast and lunch for attendees at the partnership meeting.

### **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.

**The 3-Step Plan includes a September 26 showcase** that will be held in two parks, Washington Park, where the conservancy has agreed to partner with the EPA and PCSC and Lindsay Street Park, where Conservation Fund has agreed to allow us to use the new park prior to it being turned over to the CoA and there will be a block party held on Griffin Street. The three locations will be tied in together. The PCUWP has created teams who meet weekly. The EPA, CoA, PC community, HELPorginc.inc, PCSC, Westside Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), Jazz Collaborative, and steering committee are a few of the supporters. We are currently seeking other partners to provide resources.

Katy Price at GSU requested the location of Brownfield sites. GSU was awarded a small grant for soil sampling for overland flow-sourced water quality and impairments in Proctor Creek. Neil Burn of our GIS team provided mapping information so that she can locate those sites.

### **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**

#### **OCSPP**

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) REC \$145,000**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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