

Atlanta/Proctor Creek Project

Outline of Project	This northwest Atlanta project, better known as the Proctor Creek Watershed Project began in 2010 as a result of flood-related, housing and environmental challenges identified by community leaders, federal agencies and the City of Atlanta. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and Sustainability, Brownfields program and Water Protection Division were the first to engage with the City and neighborhood representatives during that year. Currently, Proctor Creek has poor water quality and a severely altered hydrology due to illicit sewer connections, combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and high volumes of contaminated storm water runoff during rain events. The biggest challenges that these communities face and have expressed to EPA are stormwater flooding, flooded housing, mold and mildew in the homes, illegal tire/trash dumping, abandoned and derelict properties, high crime and lack of policing and lack of economic opportunity. The community's goal is to have a clean, safe and sustainable creek-side community where they can raise their families.
	The Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) is working toward a full scale restoration of the Proctor Creek Watershed with environmental, infrastructure and economic components. The PSC is supporting local leaders in the development of strategic relationships, recognizing and expanding assets that add value, and investing in innovation. A framework is being developed with EPA/HUD/DOT/USACE assistance to integrate multiple ecological, economic, and infrastructure frameworks. Community health benefits of the project area are being evaluated through a health impact assessment (HIA). Atlanta's global vision is being leveraged to align the residents, public health, and business communities to create a more sustainable environment promoting community revitalization, environmental improvement, and infrastructure upgrades.
Current Partners	EPA, USACE, USFS, HUD, FEMA, DOC, CDC, NPS, FHWA, the Atlanta University Consortium, Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, Emory University, State of Georgia, Fulton County, City of Atlanta, Park Pride and the Vine City/English Avenue communities located in NPU-L.
Current Investments	Considerable local in-kind investment including \$750K in EPA Brownfields, HIA and Water Protection Division funding and additional resources are pending from USACE. Technical assistance from USFS and FEMA is anticipated.
Benefits of PSC Enhanced Participation	The project is large in scale and needs federal agency assistance to keep up the momentum, as plans are developed.
Expected Outcomes	Through our work in Proctor Creek, the federal agencies and other stakeholders are practicing the "Livability Principles." By helping to resolve the stormwater flooding and bringing many different groups into the discussion, we are all supporting and valuing the neighborhood while coordinating and leveraging federal support. As the stormwater and flooding challenges are addressed, better housing, transportation, and improved economic opportunities will be viable.
Agency Leads	EPA; HUD; DOT; USACE

