A photograph of a concrete bridge over a creek. The bridge has a metal railing on top. The concrete walls of the bridge are covered in graffiti, including blue and red designs. The creek flows through a large archway under the bridge. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and foliage. The sky is bright and overcast.

Progress in Northwest Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Ph.D.c., MPH
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance



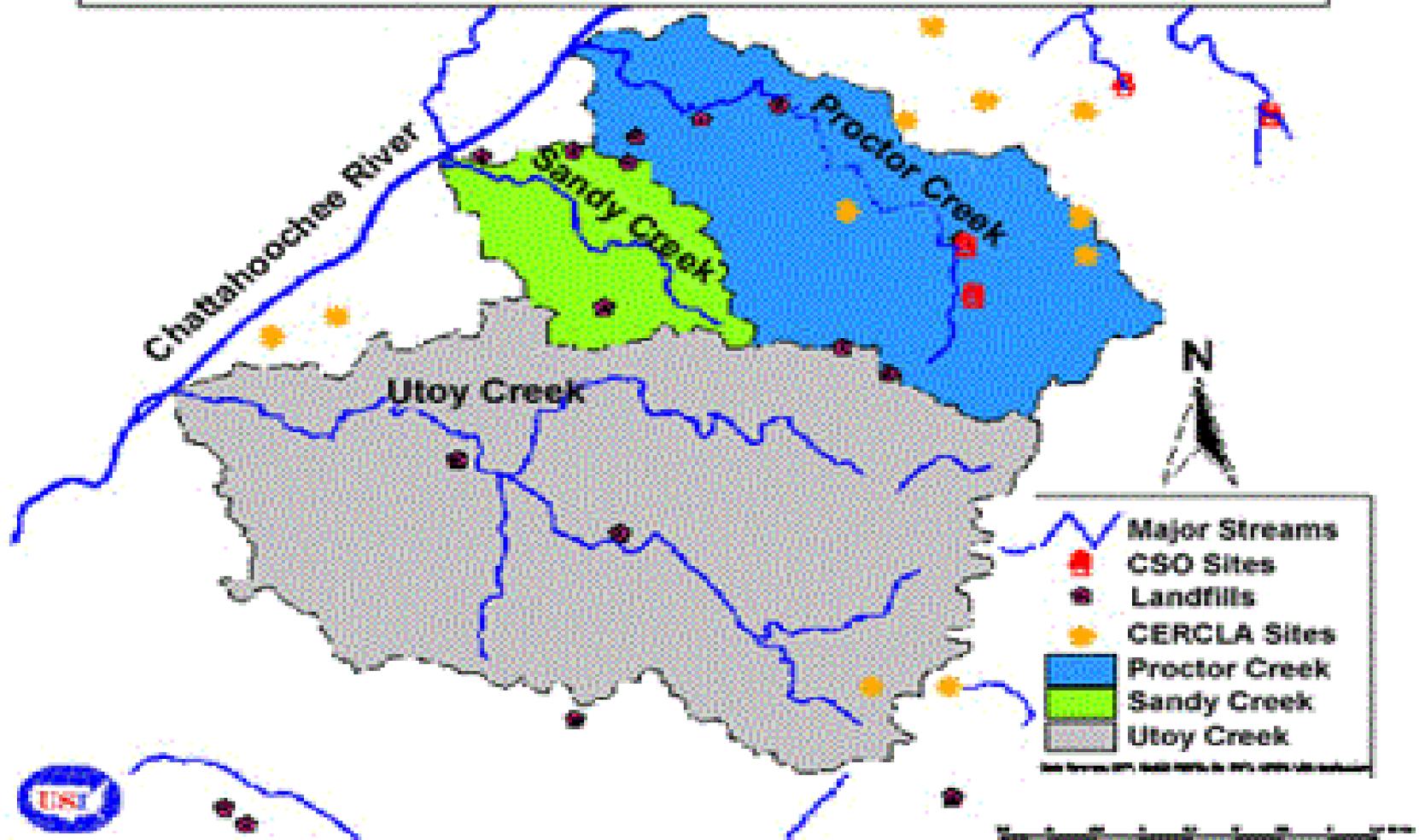
*Building a
Cleaner,
Greener,
Healthier &
More
Sustainable
West Atlanta*

The Chattahoochee River



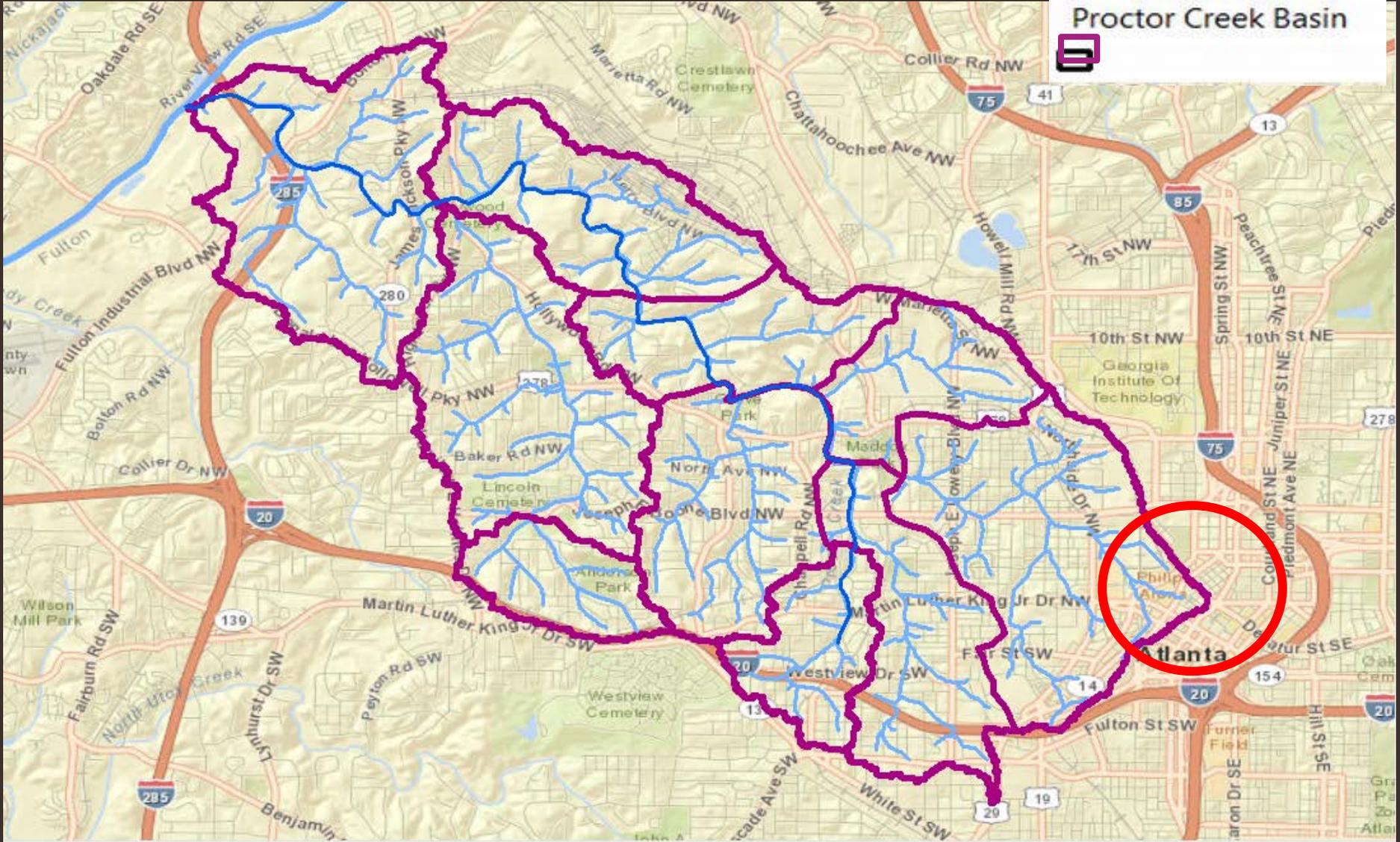
The West Atlanta Watershed: *The Forgotten Chattahoochee*

Proctor, Sandy, and Utoy Watersheds



Watershed Location

- Proctor Creek
- Chattahoochee River
- Proctor Creek Basin



A Proctor Creek In Peril



- Proctor Creek used to be a source of pride for West Atlanta communities – a place where children played, a place where people could fish, and a place where people were baptized.

- Proctor Creek is now one of the most environmentally impaired creeks in metro Atlanta.
 - Today, Proctor Creek is impacted by at least **29** documented pollution sources and does not meet state-mandated water quality requirements (including that for E.Coli).
 - The creek does not meet its “designated use” for fishing.

Proctor Creek and its Communities Have Numerous Challenges





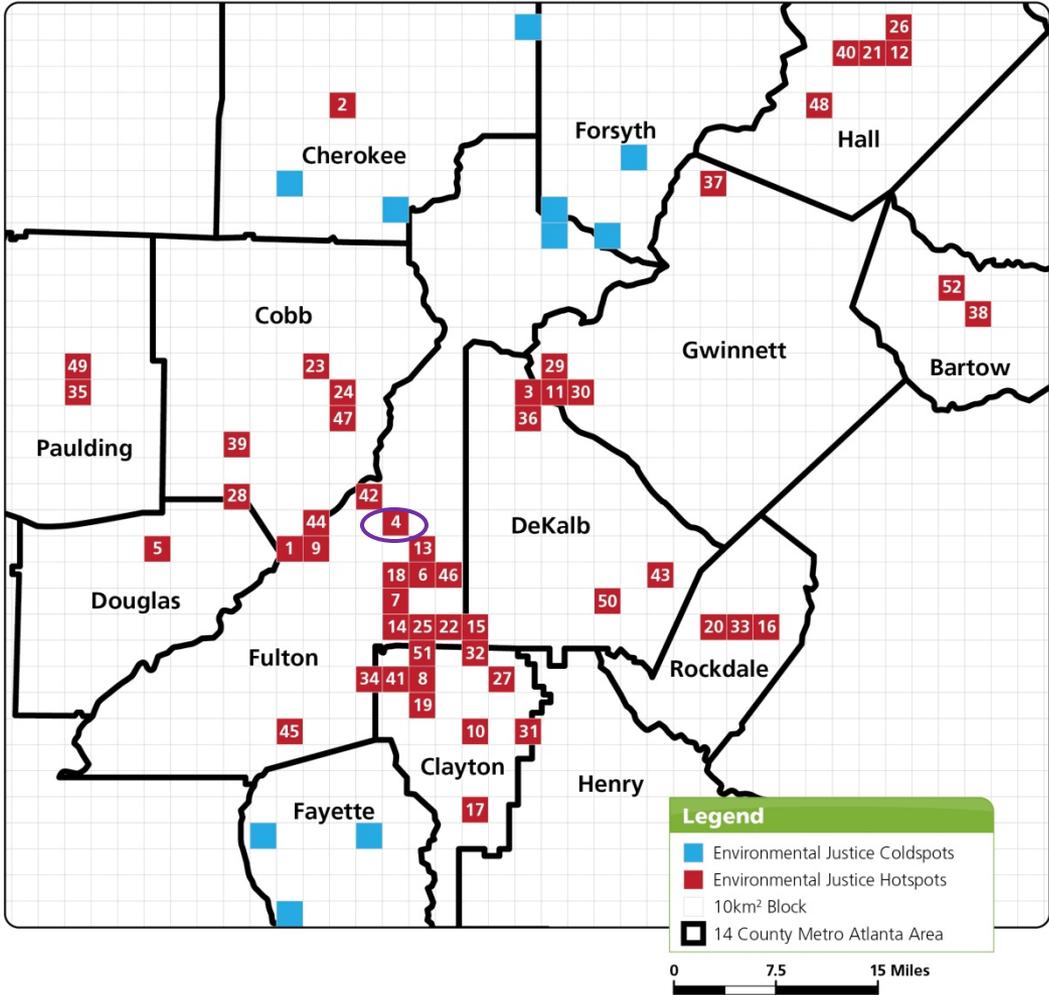
The Patterns of Pollution:

A Report on Demographics and Pollution in Metro Atlanta



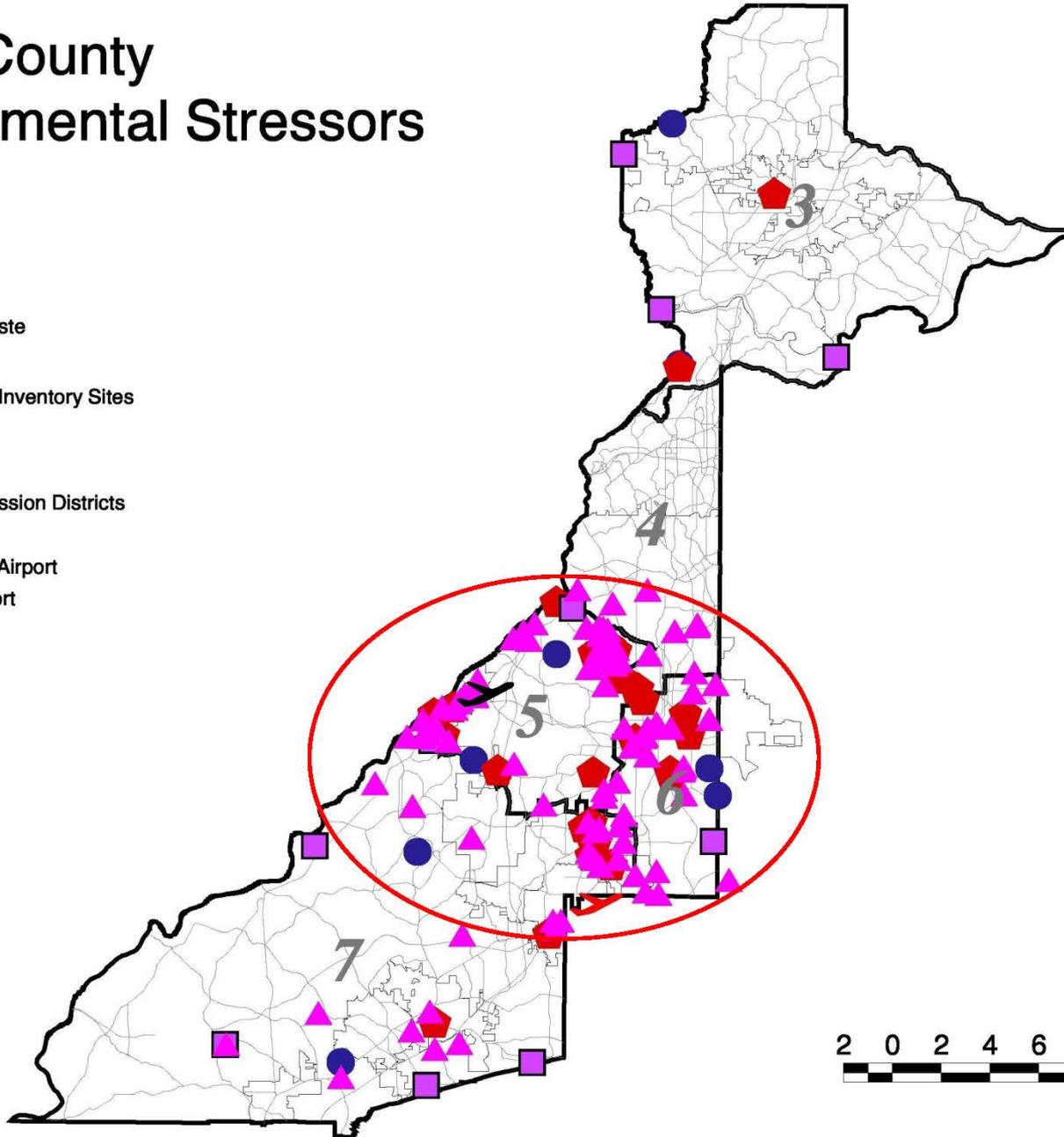
Results

Environmental Justice Hotspots



Fulton County Environmental Stressors

-  Hazardous Waste
-  Solid Waste
-  Toxic Release Inventory Sites
-  Waste water
-  Major Roads
-  County Commission Districts
-  City Limits
-  Charlie Brown Airport
-  Hartsfield Airport

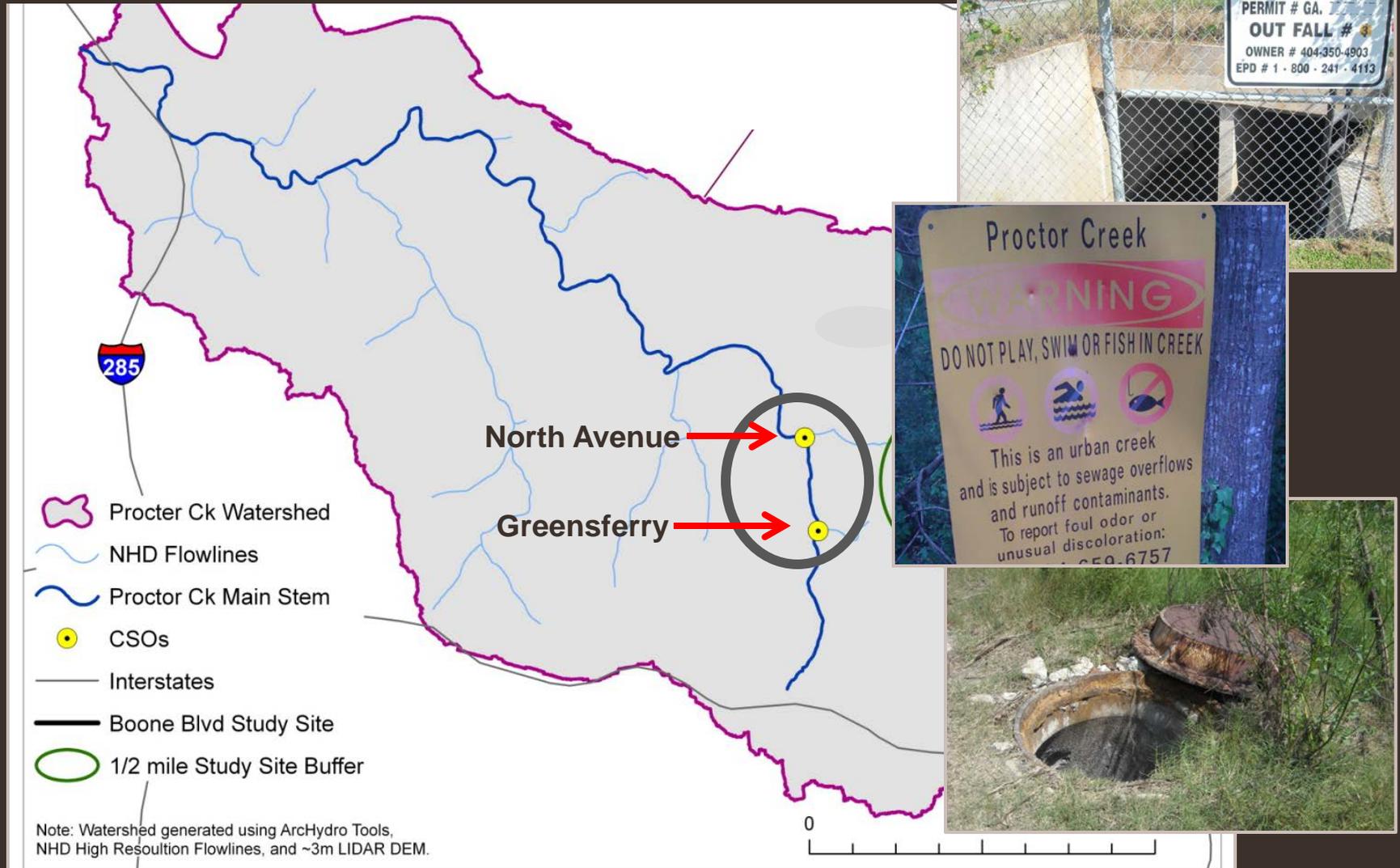


2 0 2 4 6 8 Miles

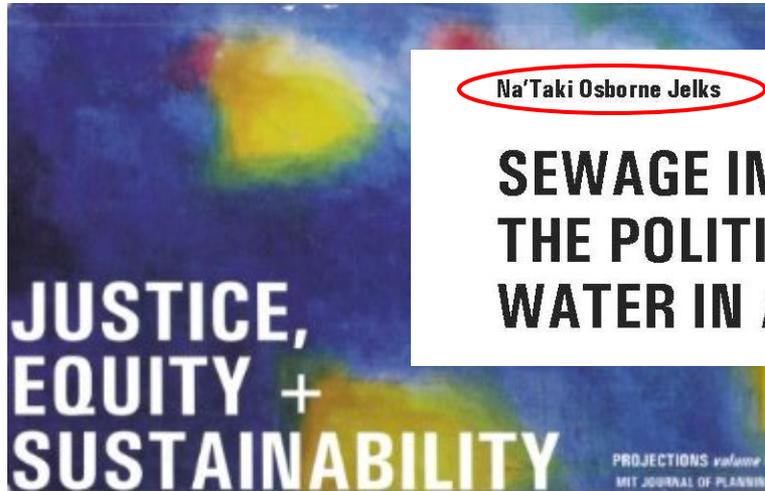


Watershed Issues

CSOs, SSOs, Fecal Coliform



Recent Scholarship on CSOs

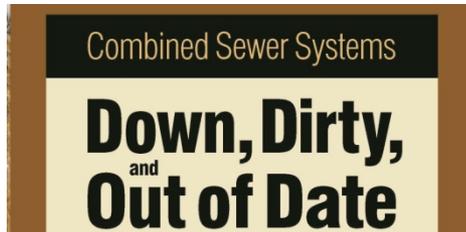


Na'Taki Osborne Jelks

SEWAGE IN OUR BACKYARDS : THE POLITICS OF RACE, CLASS, + WATER IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Projections: MIT Journal of Planning
Volume 8 (2008)

Research



The Risk of West Nile Virus Infection Is Associated with Combined Sewer Overflow Streams in Urban Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Gonzalo M. Vazquez-Prokopec,¹ Jodi L. Vanden Eng,² Rosmarie Kelly,³ Daniel G. Mead,⁴ Priti Kolhe,⁵ James Howgate,⁵ Uriel Kitron,^{1,6} and Thomas R. Burkot²

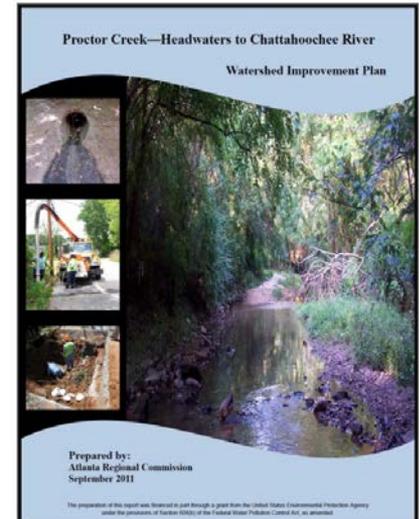
¹Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; ²Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; ³Georgia Division of Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; ⁴University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA; ⁵Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness, Atlanta, Georgia, USA; ⁶Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA

Environmental Health Perspectives (October 2010)

Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg., 77(3), 2007, pp. 478-484
Copyright © 2007 by The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Combined Sewage Overflows (CSO) Are Major Urban Breeding Sites for *Culex quinquefasciatus* in Atlanta, Georgia

Lisa M. Calhoun, Melissa Avery, LeeAnn Jones, Karina Gunarto, Raymond King, Jacquelin Roberts, and Thomas R. Burkot*
Division of Parasitic Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia



Proctor Creek Greensferry CSO Outfall – Children Playing





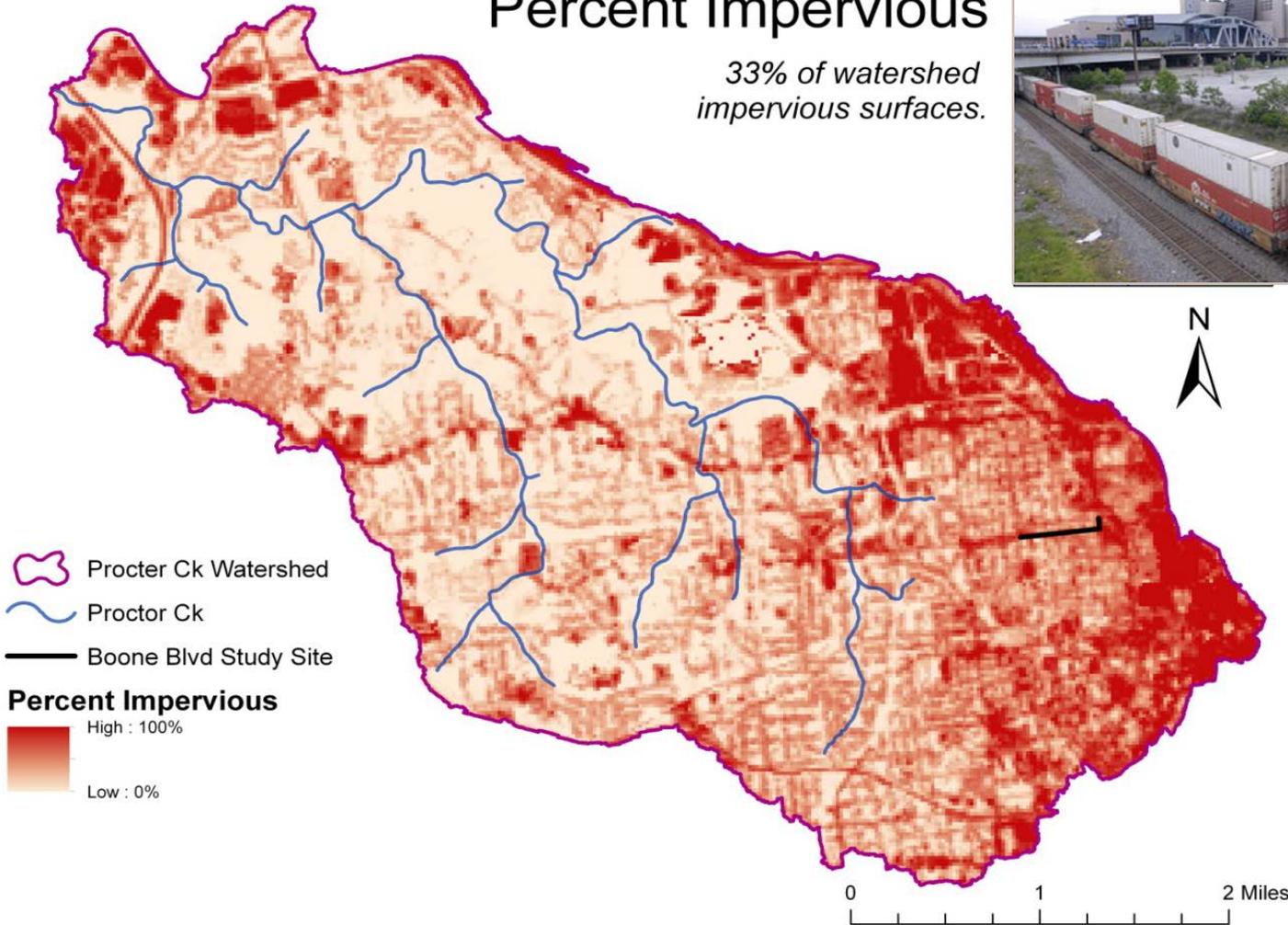
Greensferry CSO Facility - Vacant Housing



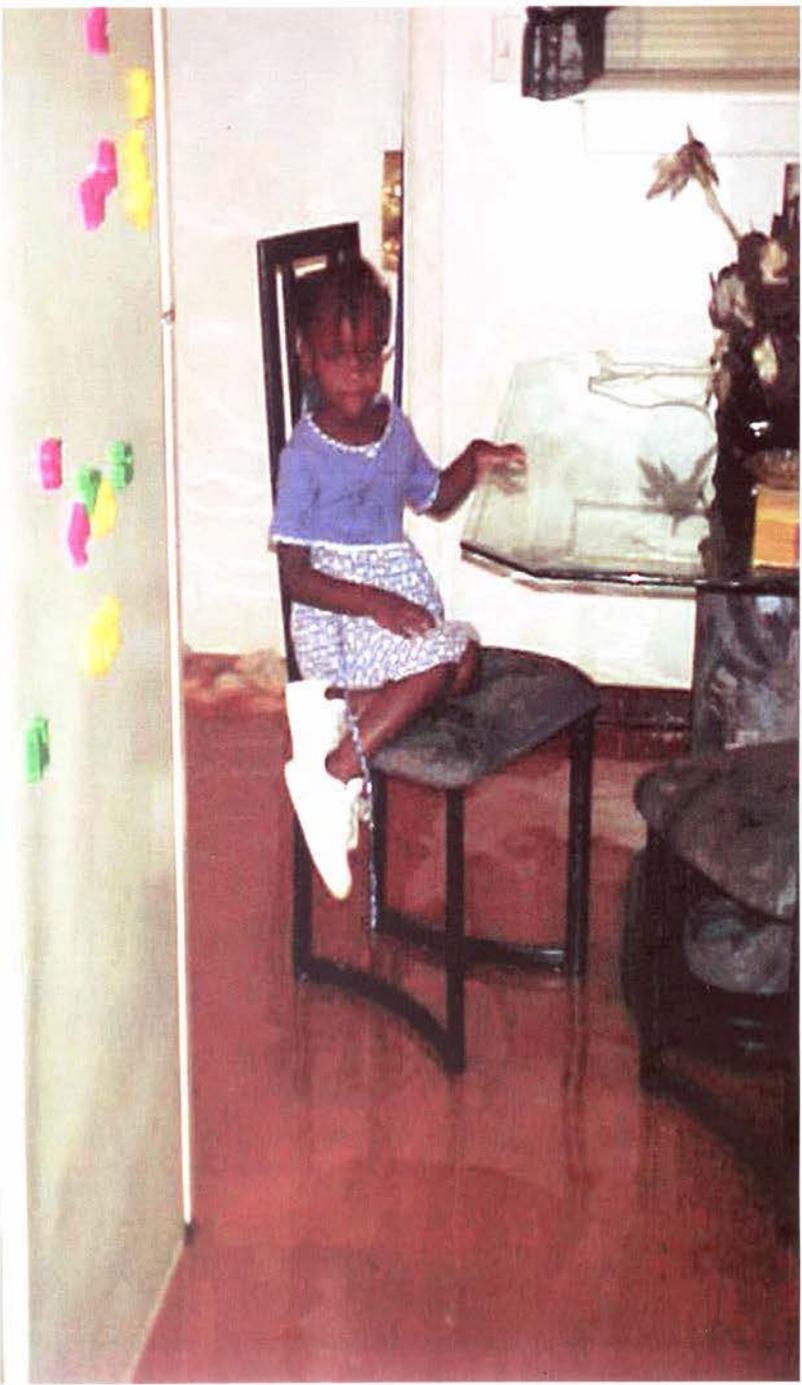
Watershed Issues

Percent Impervious

*33% of watershed
impervious surfaces.*



- Watershed 33% impervious
- Considerable development in the headwaters
- Headwaters area 1.5 - 2.5 times more impervious



Flooding Causes Erosion and Loss of Property

In recent years, the amount of water being carried by Proctor Creeks after heavy rain has increased substantially. The speed at which the water flows has also increased.

Fast-moving water eats away soil from at bottom and sides of the creek.

As the soil is washed away, tree roots have little to hold on to.

Eventually, the weakened trees fall down and more of the creek bank is exposed to the force of the fast-moving water.



Watershed Issues



Erosion and Sedimentation



The Stadium Effect



WAWA's Work

- In the late 1990's/early 2000's WAWA, in collaboration with West Atlanta residents and stakeholders from across Metro Atlanta, led community efforts to close one of two CSO facilities in the Proctor Creek Watershed.
- In 2013, WAWA established the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council in collaboration with watershed residents, Environmental Community Action, and the Community Improvement Association.

An Urban Waters Capacity-Building Grant Supported the Formation of the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council

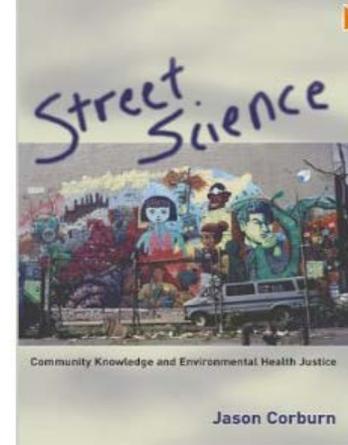


- *Convened by WAWA*
- *Organized in Collaboration with Community Improvement Association and Environmental Community Action (Eco-Action)*

Our Motivation

- Watershed residents want to play a role in addressing environmental and human health hazards in the watershed.
- The community is seeking to restore its vitality, health, and stability by leading community restoration efforts.
 - ▣ We believe that **we can** clean up, protect and restore Proctor Creek for ourselves, our children, and our downstream neighbors.
 - ▣ **We can** become informed and engaged community leaders to rollback pollution, and become advocates for the protection and restoration of the Proctor Creek Watershed.

Citizens as “Scientists”



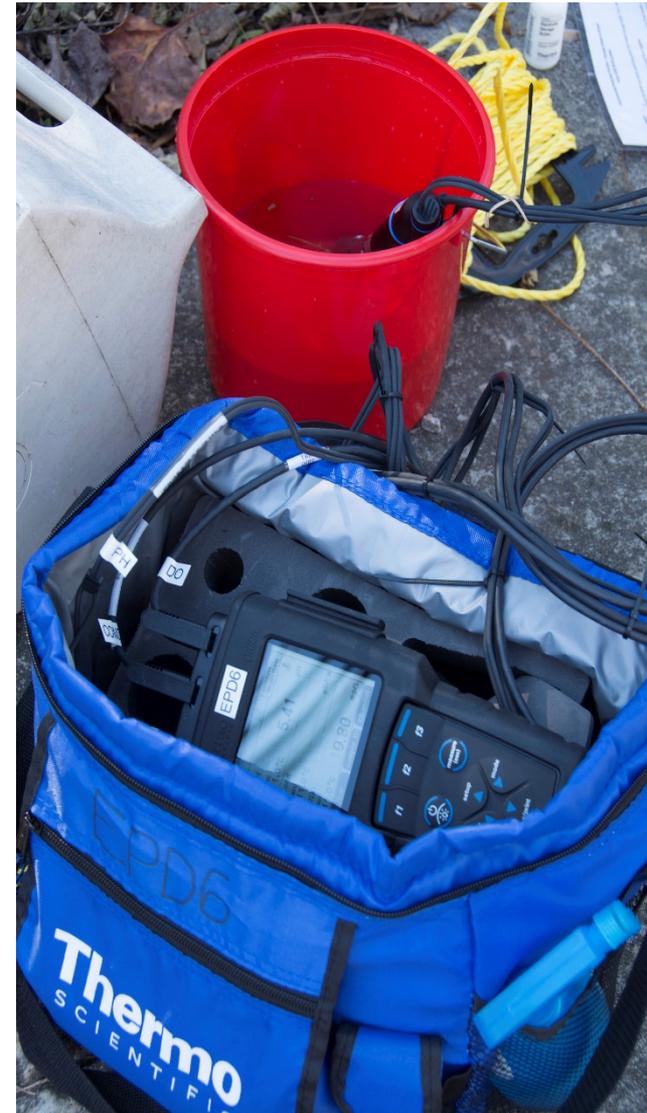
- In recent years, citizen science in air and water quality monitoring and other community-based approaches have been used to address a wide range of health and environmental justice challenges in community settings



Neighborhood Water Watch



River Rendezvous @ Proctor Creek



“Take Me To The Water”



It's ALL about Collaboration and Leveraging & Layering Resources





Questions, Comments?