



## Making a Visible Difference in Communities:

### July, 2015 Status Report

#### *PROCTOR CREEK (ATLANTA, GEORGIA)*

#### Contacts

**EPA Project Lead:** Cynthia Y. Edwards

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

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. Planning meetings are held weekly. The permit requests have been completed and meetings to discuss possible waiver of location permitting fees are scheduled with the City Council persons and the Park Commissioner.

##### **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 (pending award of the EPA grant to the community (Other potential dates are being considered)) 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 implementation of projects. WPD awarded the community engagement team 20K for Steps 1 and 2 which

##### **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 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the new fiscal year. We were also awarded an additional 15K from Urban Waters for this effort.

##### **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). An interagency agreement is being processed for the installation of the USGS gauges in Proctor Creek and the draft QAPP has been developed by SESD. Monitoring and sampling will begin for this project in September, 2015.

##### **Community Engagement Grant Awarded**

On July 24, 2015 EPA awarded a cooperative agreement grant of \$20,000 to HELP ORG INC (HELP), to implement the 3-Step Plan process for 6 roundtable discussions and the community showcase (inclusive of logistics and facilitation).

### **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 will be rescheduled to mid- September due to challenges finding a location. We have provided the contractor with additional locations for them to contact and make provisions for the workshop. 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 is a community driven request for grants writing and the goal is to provide them the training prior to the release of the Urban Waters Small Grants RFP in late September. We will also provide the contractor with invitee lists and are assisting them in locating grants writers for the panel discussions and the breakout discussions. The contractor will host a call on 7/27 to provide us with logistics information and we will move forward.

### **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 met to discuss support for an ambassador from the PC community, and other options for selection. The OneEPA team is on one accord and has begun to vet their thoughts with management with the hope of having an Ambassador in place by the end of the fiscal year.

### **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, and USDA. An interagency standing monthly call will begin in August. EPA will lead that discussion. There will be a call for assistance with the Community Showcase and with the Grants Writing Workshop, both to be held in September. The OneEPA team will continue to host meetings with each Federal Partner singularly to discuss their programs and how they may benefit the community. On request of the OneEPA team, HUD presented at the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council Meeting that was held July 10, 2015. HUD introduced the Atlanta Housing Authority who spoke on programs within the CoA of interest to the community. HUD clarified that they do not engage in community related projects, and the grants they provide for communities are funded through the City.

### **Brownfields**

August 1 is the deadline for EPA Brownfields Staff and ORD collaborators to have ~40 sampling sites geographically mapped and planned for the September sampling event. EPA Brownfields Staff will work with ORD Contract support to generate GIS layers with the varying sampling locations. Moreover, EPA Brownfields staff will coordinate with the Proctor Creek Lead in the Water Division to ensure sampling site selection is informed by public stakeholders and provides a scientifically sound assessment as well as meaningful data to EPA and the community. ORD Scientists will be in attendance for the Community Involvement Conference in August and further discussions/meetings are slated for that time.

We're gearing up for the Urban Soils Assessment sometime in September. See the attached document outlining the Soil Parcel Locations of sampling sites. I've offered to contact the site owners on the list and request access to sample. If they agree I pass along their contact info to ORD who reaches out with the site access form and schedules the sampling. ORD used an impressive GIS data analysis to find sites near highly impervious areas with high population clusters. If you have any comments suggestions as to how to move forward please give me a buzz. Working to connect our ORD researchers with academia. In the past they've usually conducted their activities with K-12 students, so if anyone has someone I can reach out to in that realm please give me a buzz (Lashon?). Otherwise, I'm linking ORD researchers up with Dr. Yomi's Green Infrastructure program as well as a PhD student from Clemson who's reached out with interest in GI. The ORD folks will be in town for the Community Involvement Training Conference, so there'll be much developing August 4-6 timeframe. ORD has also provided a GIS directory (see attached Data Access Information doc) of sorts for all of our metrics we've used in our HIA's. This came after being overloaded with requests for data layers after the various presentations we've delivered where the Wetness Index, or Land Surface Temperature, or Impervious Surface maps have been presented. Planning to distribute this to the research geared folks working in the watershed, GSU, GA Tech, Dr. Yomi, Na'Taki, etc. Feel free to distribute it as you

wish as well. City of Atlanta Brownfields Assessment program is rolling. Staff along with a representative (contractor) for the City presented briefly the opportunity for Phase I/II Environmental Site Assessments for brownfield sites within the watershed at the last Proctor Creek Stewardship Council meeting. PC Stewardship Council Meeting there seemed to be a knowledge gap of what a brownfield actually is, so there may be a follow up discussion lead by the City in basic brownfields 101.

**Community Involvement Training Conference** will be held August 4-6 and there will be multiple opportunities to showcase Proctor Creek during the conference. The OneEPA team will participate in both the session's tracks, (HIA Study presentations) and the Eco Café which will highlight Innovations in Proctor Creek and will be staffed by EPA and the community members. We are working with external affairs office to develop fact sheets and have requested input from the community. Internal staff has also provided photographs for external affairs and share point. Made final edits and provided comments to upper management for final documents to be used at the Community Involvement Training.

### **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**

Proctor Creek Community Eco-Tour Guide Project **\$15,000 (possibly 10k from OEJS)**

#### **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 \$130,000**

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) **\$20,000 REC**

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

Contract resources for facilitation and funding to convene EPA's 3<sup>rd</sup> step meeting of all stakeholders, partners, community, and media **\$15,000 REC**

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**

Stream Gauges/Monitoring and Sampling with SESD	\$28,000
	\$39,000
	\$21,000 (ESAT Funds up for grabs)