

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS IN PROCTOR CREEK

RECREATING A SUSTAINABLE CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY IN THE CITY

THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The Proctor Creek Watershed is one of eleven newly selected locations for the nation's Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. Specifically, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will:

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources through better coordination and targeting of federal investments.
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, by engaging and serving community partners.
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action.

Led by these federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council and White House Council on Environmental Quality, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's place-based efforts, including the **Partnership for Sustainable Communities**, to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership also advances the work of the **America's Great Outdoors Initiative** (<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>).

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE PROCTOR CREEK PARTNERSHIP

Five federal agencies have agreed to act as "champions" for the Partnership: the Environmental Protection Agency; the USACE Mobile District; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Housing and Urban Development; and, the Department of Transportation. Each of the five agencies has involvement in the work being conducted in the watershed either directly or as a partner with a state or local organization.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

In an effort to improve water quality, make public access safe, and restore the watershed's ecosystem, the Partnership is currently engaged in a number of federal and/or local projects:

2012 Urban Waters Small Grant - EPA awarded a two-year grant to the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) to expand their Neighborhood Water Watch program in Atlanta's urban core. Under the grant, CRK will expand an existing collaborative partnership with local civic associations, watershed groups, schools and government agencies to improve water quality in urban streams. Through the program, residents are taught to conduct their own stream monitoring and develop a body of water quality data in urban neighborhoods. Residents are also trained to identify and report pollution sources.

Urban Waters Small Targeted Watershed Grant - In Spring 2011, EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants were awarded to the River Network to manage as a series of smaller subgrants to watershed organizations across the country. The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) received a subgrant from the River Network to engage low-income residents in water conservation initiatives to help them realize a cost savings for their water bills, and to conduct water quality monitoring, stream bank stabilization, and creek clean-up/watershed restoration projects in some of the poorest and most



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND THE PROCTOR CREEK WATERSHED

The Proctor Creek watershed, part of the larger Chattahoochee River watershed, is 28.6 square miles with a population of 127,418 people living in over 25 different neighborhoods. Due to decades of neglect, the watershed experiences overlapping environmental and public health issues such as illegal tire dumping, numerous brownfields, lack of access to greenspace and healthful foods, blighted sites, impaired water quality, pervasive flooding, and combined sewer/sanitary sewer overflows.

polluted Atlanta neighborhoods.

Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance - The EPA provided \$50,000 in technical assistance to the City of Atlanta to help expand its use of green infrastructure into stormwater management programs. The project outcome will include a conceptual design for a green infrastructure project in the Proctor Creek Watershed to help revitalize distressed neighborhoods and reduce flooding and CSOs.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and their partners are evaluating solutions for flooding and related public health issues that deter development and community revitalization in the watershed. The HIA will assess the environmental and health impacts of green infrastructure practices that will be utilized to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

WHAT'S NEXT

Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) - EPA's Brownfields program has agreed to provide the City of Atlanta with technical assistance to expand the use of Maddox Park located in the watershed. This 51.5-acre park requires environmental sampling in two locations to ensure the health and safety of its visitors.

Federal Transit Authority/GA DOT Georgia Multimodal Passenger Terminal Project - The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Georgia DOT are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Georgia Multimodal Passenger Terminal (MMPT) in a 120-acre area in downtown Atlanta, known as the Gulch. The MMPT is proposed to bring together various ground and rail transit services in a centralized downtown location to create a vital connection link for the people of metro-Atlanta and beyond. Given the complexity of this project, numerous partner agencies and stakeholders are being engaged in a number of taskforces focused on greenspace, business development, housing, funding, and sustainability.

Army Corp of Engineers Wetland Mitigation -U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District has received a draft prospectus from a private real estate investor to develop a wetland mitigation bank along portions of Proctor Creek.

Atlanta Promise Neighborhood Alliance Initiative - APNA is a partnership between Morehouse School of Medicine, the Atlanta University Center Consortium, and the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. This partnership will work with community organizations to improve the educational, health, and social development of children and youth by building a holistic, community-centered education continuum that serves children and families living in a 1.7-mile radius area west of the Atlanta University Center.

THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

The partnership includes: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of the Army (Army Corps of Engineers), U.S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Transportation

For more information on the Proctor Creek Urban Waters Federal Partnership, please contact the lead agency representatives:

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