



Making a Visible Difference in Communities:

August, 2015 Status Report

*PROCTOR CREEK (ATLANTA,
GEORGIA)*

Contacts

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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, Trust for Public Lands, Groundwork Atlanta

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 now being held twice weekly. The NPU Chair and the City Councilwoman, Felicia Moore have been contacted and support the showcase. The flyers are out and media outlets are being contacted; sponsors are being solicited for food, security, and other logistical needs.

Priority Project Selection and Continued Capacity Building: Step 2 of 3 Step Plan

WPD awarded Helporg.inc, a Proctor Creek Stewardship Council approved 501©3, 20K for Steps 1 and 2. To date, a kickoff meeting introducing the onset of the roundtable sessions, and 2 of the 5 roundtable discussions have taken place. The 1st roundtable focus was on the faith based leaders and stakeholders in Proctor Creek and the 2nd roundtable focus was on community and neighborhood leaders. A 3rd non EPA funded roundtable will be hosted by the Emerald Corridor foundation on September 12 to discuss Greenspace projects in the watershed. The 3rd roundtable for government leaders is being scheduled.

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 2nd 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 has been processed for the installation of the USGS gauges in Proctor Creek and location work is being done to strategically place the gauges where they will provide the most accurate information. The QAPP was reviewed by community partners and the Chattahoochee Riverkeepers. SESD approved the final QAPP on August 27. First stage monitoring and sampling for this project began this week.

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. The workshop was held on August 28 and was well received by the attendees who included federal partners, local governments, NGO's, academia, non-profits, foundations and corporate partners. The workshop addressed what makes a strong proposal and common weaknesses and instruction on how to maximize scores in every criteria category. The comments were favorable but there were several request for a follow up Grants Management Workshop and Fundraising workshop (to raise match dollars for grants). We will follow up with DOT who expressed an interest in hosting a Grants Management workshop.

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 are in extensive meetings with management on the best way to move forward. The dilemma is that although the funds are 2 year money, there is always a chance of rescission and that does not leave much time to hire an ambassador. The decision as to how to proceed will be made by September 4.

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. The next interagency meeting will be held in October. EPA will lead that discussion. There has been a call for assistance and participation with the Community Showcase. Several partners are participating with booth presentations and hands on activities for the attendance.

Brownfields

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. We're gearing up for the Urban Soils Assessment sometime in September, however the CoA has declined to participate in the assessment process even though they were assured by EPA that the testing is for non-hazardous contaminants.

Air

The October 9th date for healthy housing training to Proctor Creek Community is confirmed and training information has been forwarded to our national contractor. The training is expected to last between 6 to eight hours, depending on the extent of discussion related to specific issues raised by the community that may warrant additional time. The Proctor Creek Stewardship Council has been asked to confirm the meeting location for this even soon, so that Air division staff can inform Dr. Turner and the other trainers. The start time will be 9:00 to allow for travel from Athens.

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**

OCSP

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) 10K for travel expense/overhead 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 3rd 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)