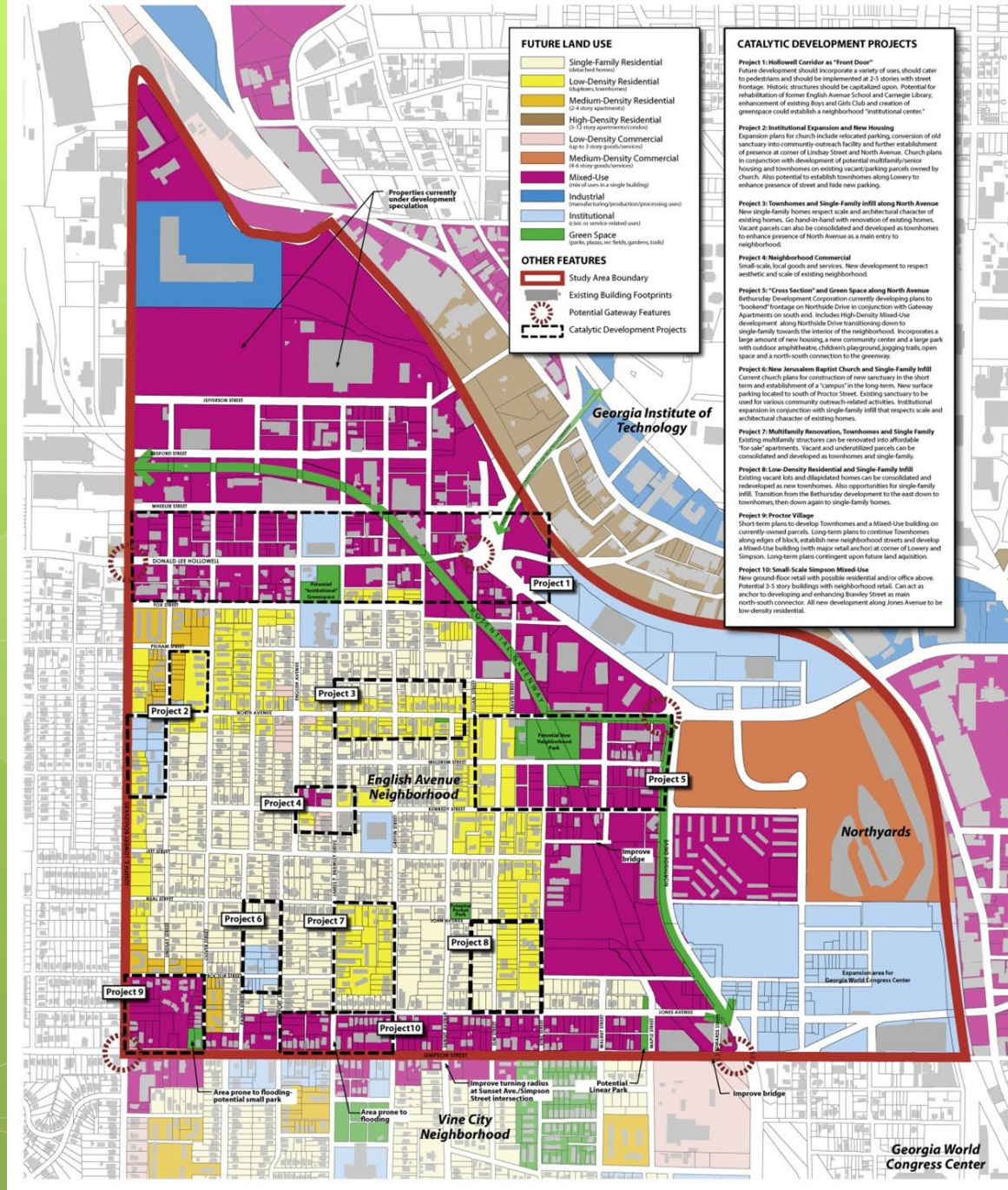


WAWA participated in community based collaborative problem solving as part of its efforts to protect communities in proximity to Proctor Creek.

Map taken from the English Avenue Community Redevelopment Plan (Plan) adopted into the City of Atlanta's CDP in October 2006 (06R-1873; CDP-06-57)

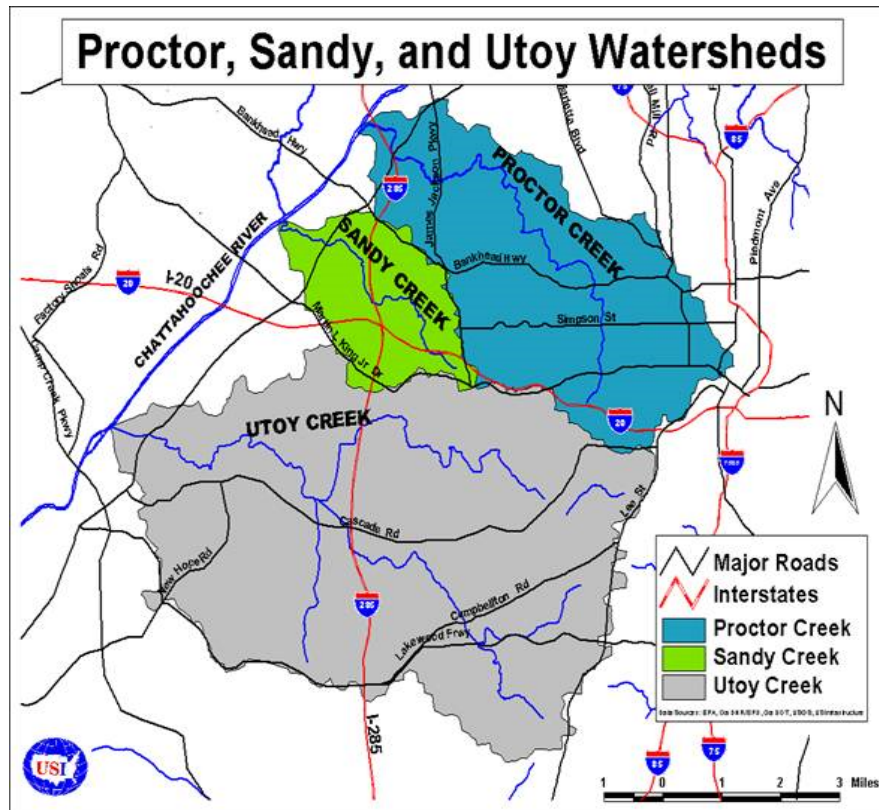


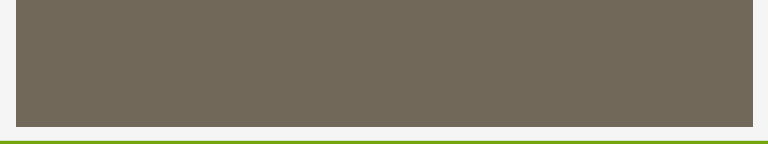
Our Mission

is to preserve and restore ecological balance of the West Atlanta Watershed through the elimination of environmental health disparities and advocate for environmental justice for all residents.

We are dedicated to improving our quality of life by facilitating public access to clean and healthy green space. To that end we promote and highlight the importance of protecting community forest, water and air quality.

In 1995, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) was organized by community leaders in an effort to halt discriminatory waste water treatment practices in West Atlanta.





Since its inception, WAWA, partnered with members of the community, has diligently worked to protect green space and water quality while educating West Atlanta citizens about environmental issues that affect our community.

Proctor Creek is one of the most impaired streams in Northwest Atlanta

Northwest Atlanta neighborhoods are primarily composed of working class African American citizens with little access to amenities and services.

During the 1990's

There were over 19,000 residents living in the community with a median income of \$14,791.00 and 33% of the residents living below the poverty level.

Residents here are faced with multiple environmental stressors including a polluted creek:

foul odors and respiratory irritants; dilapidated, substandard housing; heavy truck traffic; air pollution; wastewater treatment plants, incinerators, landfills and illegal trash dumping sites; car repair/maintenance shops; Superfund sites; and a host of other environmental hazards and irritants.





In 2006 WAWA received an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant for our project, “Mobilizing Community Residents to Identify Environmental and Public Health Hazards in Northwest Atlanta.”

It was an effort to engage the community in gathering comprehensive data on the effects of stressors on our community health, environmental quality, and overall quality of life.

It was one of our first attempts at collaborative problem solving.

We’ve learned a lot since then.

In 2010 WAWA participated in a Visioning Process spearheaded by Park Pride

- Partnered with Park Pride to discuss the community's needs for green space
- Assisted with fund raising efforts for green space programs evaluating applicable EPA grants with members of the English Avenue and Vine City communities
- Continued planning for Park Pride visioning process with staff of Conservation Fund and MAWI to develop new parks in the area.
- We created a work plan for the project that included research, community outreach and field work

2010 demographic data:

The urban zip code 30318 in North West Atlanta, Georgia had a median household income of (\$28,589), significantly lower than US average (\$56,604). The population is still primarily African-American, younger, and mostly single.

And 30314 another densely populated, urban zip code in Northwest Atlanta: South of Howell Blvd, west of Northside Drive and north of Interstate 20 has a median household income of (\$19,438) also significantly lower than US average (\$56,604). The population is primarily African-American, younger, and mostly single.

Prior to the Urban Waters Initiative

- WAWA continued to convene using collaborative problem solving process that involved building residents' capacity to serve as stewards of their watershed through creek clean-up events, water quality monitoring, and stream assessments (adopt-a-stream training/certification and inspection of zoning and property violations);
- Built watershed residents' technical knowledge and competence on urban watershed issues impacting Proctor Creek (causes and impacts of the degradation of water quality and sound solutions to Proctor Creek's unique watershed challenges).

A Significant Achievement

addressing our continued effort to engage North West Atlanta communities was our receipt of the 2011 of Urban Waters Initiative funding.

Urban Waters

Federal Partnership

Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities



Using the Federal Funding

- Empowered underserved and EJ communities
- Implemented Stormwater management and green infrastructure
- Improved water quality
- Participated in Watershed restoration, Education and Job Training Programs
- Community engagement and outreach that also embraced technology and utilized social media

During the project timeline

- Supported Park Pride, Conservation Fund and Trust for Public Lands in facilitating public green space and park design
- Met with Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper and community leaders to plan clean up projects in the watershed
- Established a Trash Trap network that included development of a workforce initiative and youth education tours
- Conducted community science initiatives with residents, who shared data with NPU and elected officials, other community leaders, State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Fulton County Government staff
- Participated in a volunteer sampling program monitoring Ecolibacteria from locations along Proctor Creek with Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

English Avenue and Vine City are two neighborhoods through which flow the headwaters of Proctor Creek

Our initial stakeholders were in these communities



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