



Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms

Building Green: An Urban Approach to Green Infrastructure

1/18/2018

SESWA Webinar

Presented by: Cory Rayburn



CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF
**watershed
management**

Kishia L. Powell, Commissioner
Department of Watershed Management

Presentation Outline

Overview of Atlanta's Green Infrastructure Program

- What is Green Infrastructure?
- Why Green Infrastructure in Atlanta?
- What are the standards?

First five years of implementation

- Single Family and Small Commercial Design manuals
- Green Infrastructure Task Force

Addressing Neighborhood Flooding

- Historic 4th Ward – economic and social benefits
- Southeast Atlanta Green Infrastructure Initiative – combined sewer capacity relief
- Upper Proctor Creek Capacity Relief: Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City
- Boone Blvd Green St



Background

City's Department of Watershed Management

- Serves 1.2 million (450,000 night)

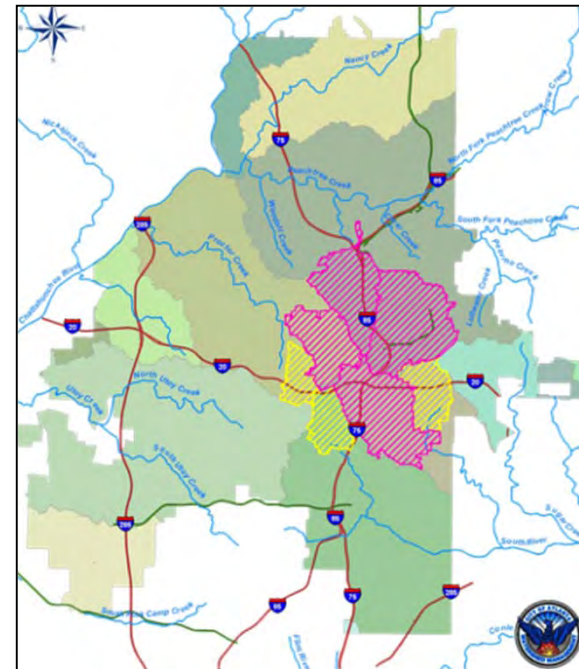
Consent Decree

- CSO – completed 2008
- SSO – extension granted 2027

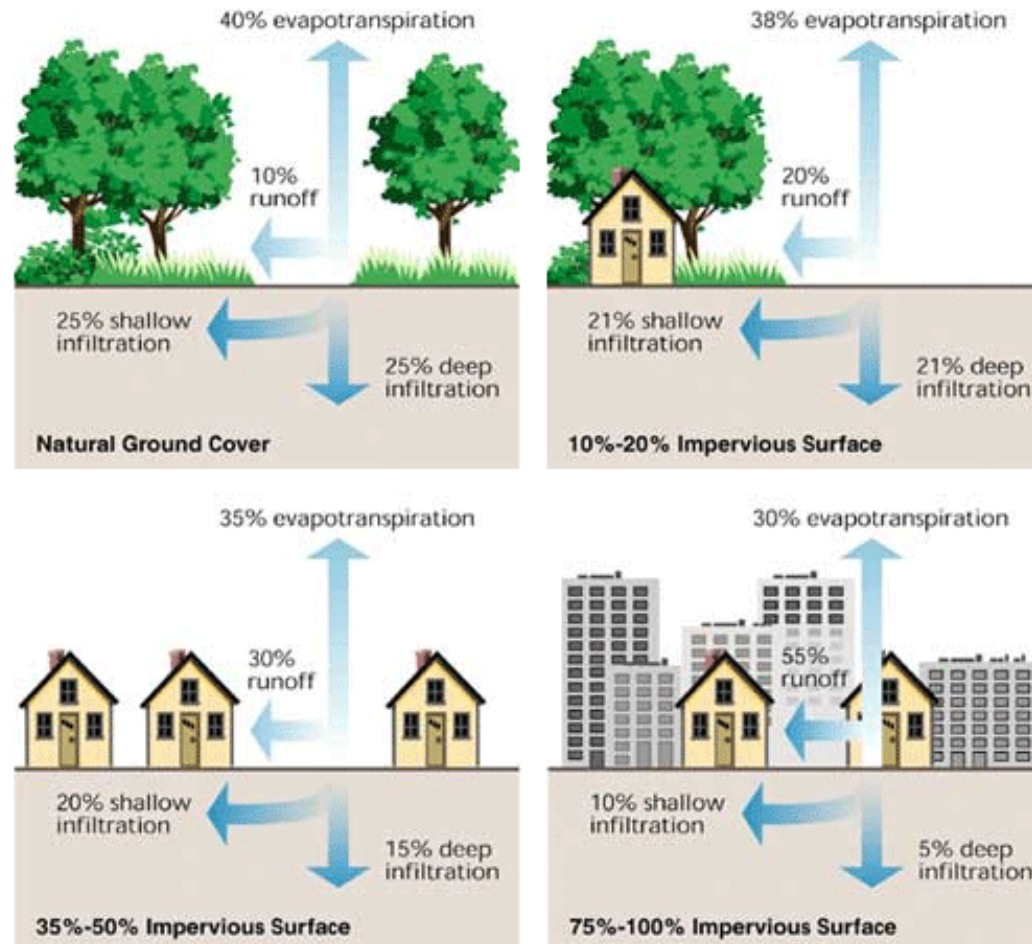
2nd Highest W&S rates in the country

Stormwater Utility Fee

- Adopted in 1999
- Overturned - \$7 million refunded



How Urbanization Causes Flooding



Problems of Urban Watersheds

'Flashy' stream hydrology causes in stream erosion and low base flow



What is Green Infrastructure?

Gray



vs.

Green



Slow, Infiltrate, and Clean Stormwater



What is Green Infrastructure?

An interconnected natural or engineered system that mimics undeveloped hydrologic functions

Capture the first 1.0” of rainfall

- Infiltration
- Evapotranspiration (uptake of water by plants + evaporation)
- Reuse through rainwater harvesting



Why use Green Infrastructure in Atlanta?

Environmental Protection

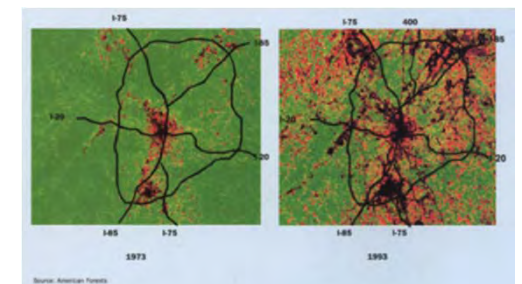
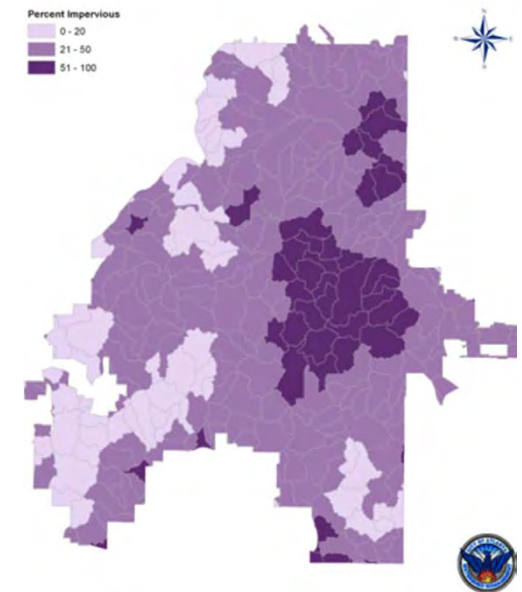
- Improves water quality
- Supports Mayor Bottoms' sustainability initiatives

Compliance

- Complies with NPDES permit – Removing Barriers
- Prepares the City for potential changes in federal stormwater rules

Community

- Addresses drainage issues in redeveloping historic neighborhoods
- Maximizes infrastructure investments by further reducing combined sewer overflows and flooding



Drivers

Drivers of Green Infrastructure Implementation



Amended Stormwater Ordinance

Added Green Infrastructure requirement for new and redevelopment projects

Process for success

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Robust stakeholder involvement
- ‘Give and take’ approach
- Outreach, education, and technical guidance documents



Unanimous Council approval in February 2013



What makes Atlanta unique?

Requires Green Infrastructure on single family infill and commercial development/redevelopment

- 1.0" Runoff Reduction Volume (RR_v)
- Mandatory versus voluntary*
- No direct financial incentives
- Low threshold for compliance



* Allows for fallback to 1.2" Water Quality (80% TSS reduction) upon showing 1.0" RR_v is not possible on the given site – written rationale and separate approval required



Who has to do what?

Single family development (RR_v only)

- New or infill home construction
- Large additions (>1,000 ft²)





infill

historic

Who has to do what?

Single family development (RR_v only)

- New or infill home construction
- Large additions (>1,000 ft²)

Small commercial category (RR_v only)

- 500 - 5,000 ft² added or replaced impervious surface

Commercial adding >5,000 ft²

- Full blown stormwater management plan and hydro study
- Rate Reduction up to 25-year storm
- 100-yr – no increase in peak discharge rate

All Commercial projects

- Infiltration tests, pre-submittal meeting, and site-specific O&M plan



The Pioneer Projects



Green Roof - Atlanta City Hall



Cistern & Green Roof - Southface



Bioretention - Adair Park



Bioretention - 14th St DWM office



Wet pond, wetlands bench, sewer capacity relief, urban reforestation - Historic Fourth Ward



Bioswale - Klaus Building - GT campus



Recent Installs



Porous Concrete - Delia's Chicken Sausage Stand



Bioswale - Edgewood Townhomes



Permeable Pavers - Urban Market on Howell Mill



Bioretention - Whitehall Terrace ROW



Permeable Pavers - 6th and Juniper



Permeable Pavers - Lakemoore Townhomes



Stormwater Management Manual



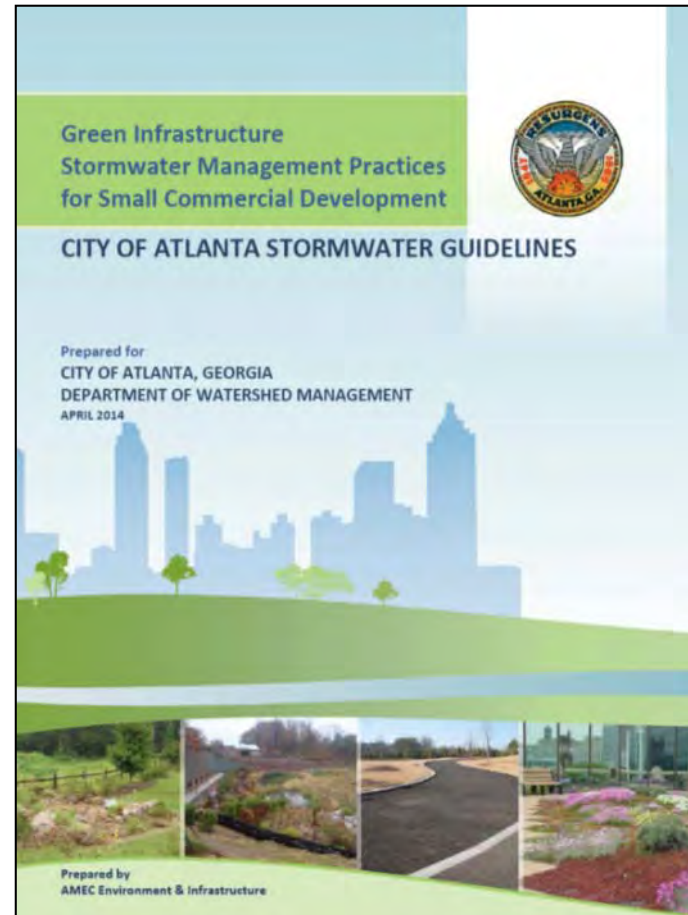
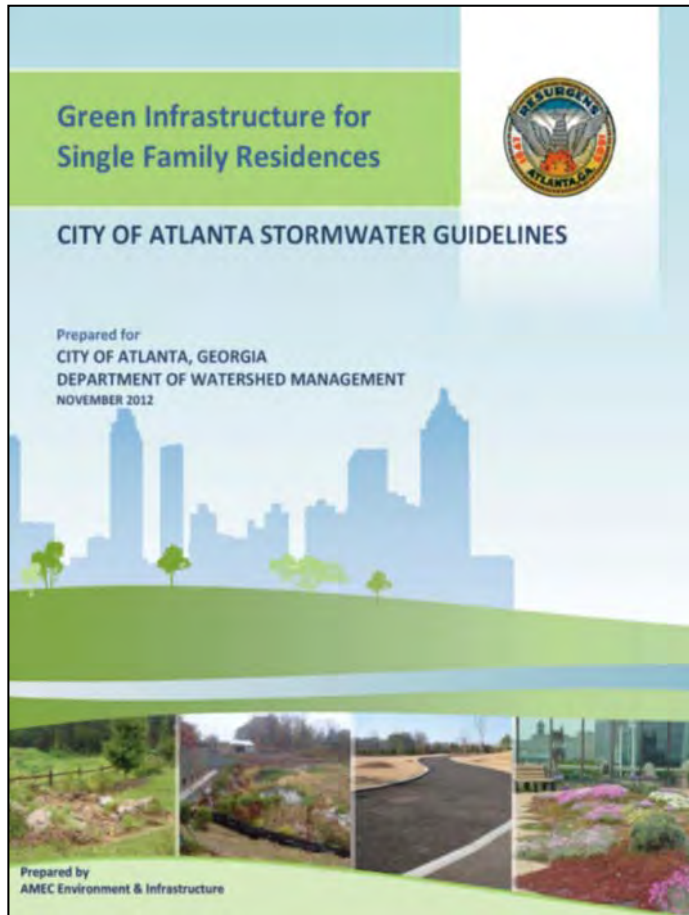
Initially Adopted the Coastal Stormwater Supplement

- Provides design criteria and 'credit' system for green infrastructure
- Dependent on soil type

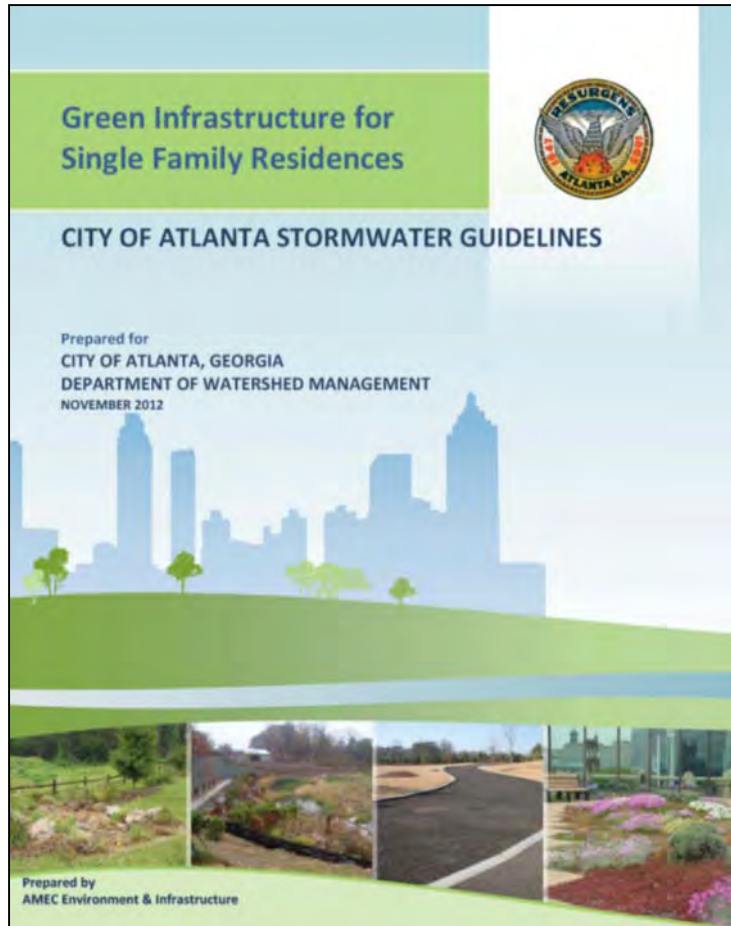
Includes Green Infrastructure / Runoff Reduction practices

- Does not address SFR or Small Commercial projects

Simplified Design Approach



SFR Manual



GI for Single Family Residences

- Provides a list of acceptable practices
- Reduces the need for complicated calculations
- Provides tear-off details and construction specification for each practice
- Simplifies the review and approval process

General Info & Tear-off Details

RAIN GARDENS

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL GUIDE
CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Rain gardens are small, landscaped depressions that are filled with a mix of native soil and compost, grasses, shrubs and other garden-like vegetation designed to temporarily store stormwater runoff, driveways, patios and other areas while reducing runoff rates and pollutant watered. A rain garden can be a beautiful addition to your landscape.

Location

- Rain gardens should be located to runoff surfaces, and where downspouts or swales, berms, or downspout extenders.
- Locate at least 10 feet from foundation over septic fields, and not near a steep slope.
- Rain gardens on steep slopes (>10%)

Design

- The size of the rain garden will vary the amended soils. Use the table to determine the required surface area.
- A maximum ponding depth of 6 inches allowed within rain gardens. On-level rain gardens drain within a dry well, not create a mosquito problem.
- Design rain garden entrance to limit interspace inflow and reduce its wet stones, dense hardy vegetation or boulders.
- If sides are to be mowed rain garden should be designed with side slopes (W) or flatter.
- For best results, it is suggested to let your local County Extension Service.
- Soils for rain gardens should be fine

DRY WELL

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL GUIDE
CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Dry wells are comprised of seepage tanks set in the ground and, in Atlanta's tight soils, surrounded with stone that are designed to intercept and temporarily store stormwater runoff until it infiltrates into the soil. Alternately, the pit can be filled with stone with water entering via a perforated pipe with a perforated standpipe in place of the tank.

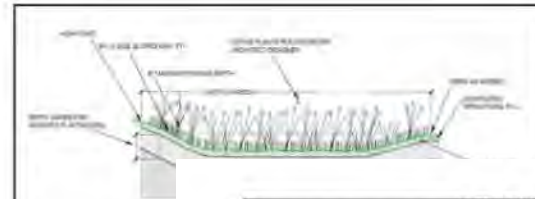
Dry wells are particularly well suited to receive rooftop runoff entering the tank via an inlet grate (shown right) or direct downspout connection (below right). When properly sized and laid out dry wells can provide significant reductions in stormwater runoff and pollutant loads.

Location

- Dry wells must be located at least 10 feet from building foundations and 10 feet from property lines.
- To reduce the chance of clogging, dry wells should drain only impervious areas, and runoff should be pretreated with at least one of the leaf removal options to remove debris and larger particles.
- The height of the tank should not exceed 45 inches unless infiltration testing has been done to insure a drain time of 72 hours or less.
- Dry wells should be located in a lawn or other pervious (unpaved) area and should be designed so that the top of the dry well is located as close to the surface as possible.
- Dry wells should not be located: (1) beneath an impervious (paved) surface; (2) above an area with a water table or bedrock less than two feet below the trench bottom; (3) over other utility lines; or, (4) above a septic field. Always call 811 to locate utility lines before you dig.

Construction

- Consider the drainage area size and the soil infiltration rate when determining the size of the dry well. (see table on next page).
- The sides of the excavation should be trimmed of all large roots that will hamper the installation of the permeable drainage fabric used to line the sides and top of the dry well.
- The dry well hole should be excavated 1 foot deeper and two feet larger in diameter than the well to allow for a 12 inch stone fill jacket.



CONSTRUCTION STEPS:

1. Locate rain gardens) within home. Locate at least 10 feet from septic field.
2. Measure the area drain from the table on this page.
3. Optionally, perform infiltration testing. Underlayment will be necessary decreased 10% for every 10% increase in infiltration.
4. Measure elevations and if garden the overflow elevation higher than the overflow be constructed on the drainage for erosion control.
5. Remove turf or other vegetation compact soils in the bottom infiltration area.
6. Mix compost, topsoil, and soil mix should be 1/3 or 1/4 fill rain garden with the surrounding surface. Dig rain garden should be at least 6 inches deep.
7. Build a berm at the downspout of the berm needs to be at least 6 inches high.
8. Match the surface of the best choice is ready stone.
9. Water all plants thorough needed to establish plant.
10. During construction built load nearby with a gentle slope from the source to the dry well.
11. Create an overflow at least 10 feet from the dry well.

SKETCH LAYOUT

PROVIDE PLAN VIEWS OF RAIN GARDEN AND HOUSE SHOWING DRAINAGE AREA DIRECTED TO RAIN GARDEN AND KEY DIMENSIONS AND OVERFLOW AREA RELATIVE TO PROPERTY LINE.

SIZING CALCULATION:

Contributing Drainage Area (Square Feet)	Depth of Amended Soil (inches)			
	18	24	30	36
100	45	35	25	18
200	90	70	50	36
300	135	105	75	54
400	180	140	100	72
500	225	175	125	90
600	270	210	150	108
700	315	245	175	126

MEASURE CONTRIBUTING DRAINAGE AREA AND READ AREA FOR GIVEN MEDIA DEPTH.

CONTRIBUTING DRAINAGE AREA= _____ SQ FT
DEPTH OF SOIL MEDIA= _____ INCHES
AREA OF RAIN GARDEN= _____ SQ FT

MAINTENANCE:

1. IRRIGATE VEGETATION AS NEEDED IN FIRST SEASON
2. REMOVE WEEDS
3. REPLACE UNSUCCESSFUL PLANTINGS
4. REPLENISH MULCH
5. REPAIR FLOODED AREAS
6. RAKE CLOGGED SURFACE TO RESTORE INFILTRATION
7. MONITOR RAIN GARDEN FOR APPROPRIATE DRAINAGE TIMES IF GARDEN DOES NOT DRAIN AN UNDERDRAIN MAY BE NECESSARY

CITY OF ATLANTA
DEPARTMENT OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

ATTACH THIS TWO-PAGE SPECIFICATION TO HOUSE PLAN SUBMITTAL

RAIN GARDEN SPECIFICATIONS PAGE 2 OF 2



Easy-to-Use Sizing Tables

Impervious Area **Design Options**

Treated

Rooftop Area (square feet)	Depth of Gravel From Top of Pipe (inches)			
	18	24	30	36
Required Linear Feet of MFD				
100	6	5	4	3
500	30	25	20	15
1000	60	45	40	35
2000	120	95	75	65
3000	185	140	115	100
4000	245	190	155	130
5000	305	235	195	165

Practice Size

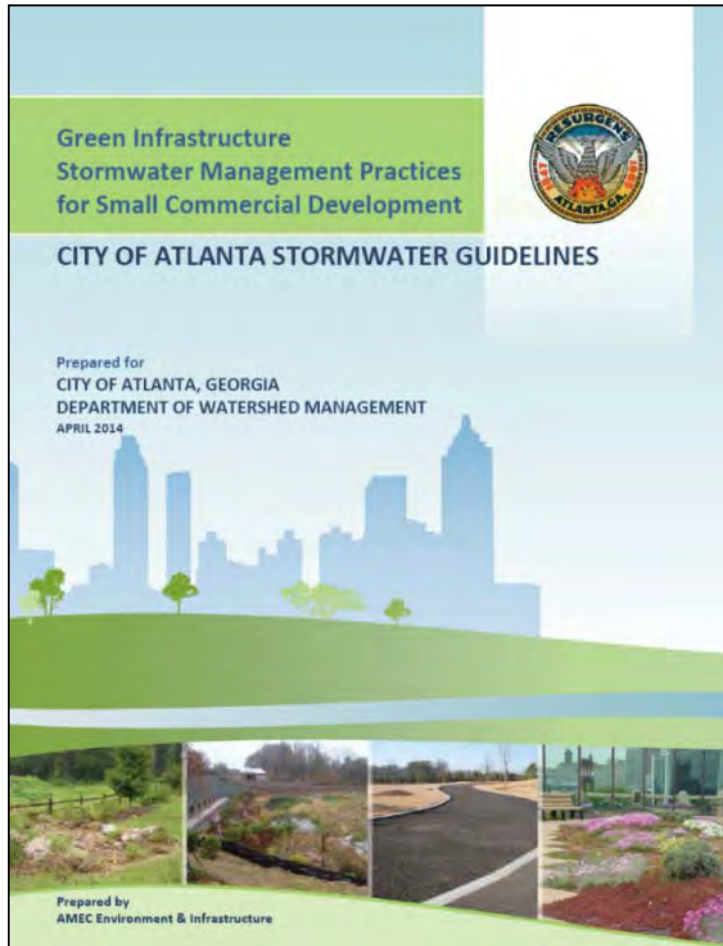
Modified French Drain Example

Sizing Charts

- Options within practical range
- Accommodate actual rainfall and runoff data
- Allows for median infiltration duration
- Assumes 0.25-0.50 in/hr infiltration rate



Small Commercial Manual



GI for Small Commercial

- For projects that add/replace between 500 and 5,000 ft² of impervious surface
- Catered to small urban redevelopment and addition projects
- Supplement to CSS and Blue Book
- Provides clarification to specific issues



Sizing Charts for each Practice

BIORETENTION TABLE A																	
Bioretention Surface Storage Volumes (cubic feet)																	
Bioretention Typical Dimensions (feet)	5x10	5x15	5x20	5x30	10x10	10x15	10x20	10x30	10x40	10x50	10x60	10x70	10x80	20x20	20x30	20x40	30x30
surface area (square feet)	50	75	100	150	100	150	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	400	600	800	900
Surface Storage at 6" Depth (cubic feet)	25	38	50	75	50	75	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	200	300	400	450
Surface Storage at 9" Depth (cubic feet)	38	56	75	113	75	113	150	225	300	375	450	525	600	300	450	600	675
Surface Storage at 12" Depth (cubic feet)	50	75	100	150	100	150	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	400	600	800	900

BIORETENTION TABLE B																	
Bioretention Soil Storage Volumes for all Infiltration Rates (cubic feet)																	
100% RRv Credit by Volume																	
Bioretention Typical Dimensions (feet)	5x10	5x15	5x20	5x30	10x10	10x15	10x20	10x30	10x40	10x50	10x60	10x70	10x80	20x20	20x30	20x40	30x30
surface area (square feet)	50	75	100	150	100	150	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	400	600	800	900
Soil Storage at 18" Depth (cubic feet)	24	36	48	72	48	72	96	144	192	240	288	336	384	192	288	384	432
Soil Storage at 24" Depth (cubic feet)	36	54	72	108	72	108	144	216	288	360	432	504	576	288	432	576	648
Soil Storage at 36" Depth (cubic feet)	48	72	96	144	96	144	192	288	384	480	576	672	768	384	576	768	864

note: table assumes a void ratio of 0.32



Example Design

Example Site Information

Size = ½ acre

Existing Impervious Surface= 100%

Tested Soil Conditions = Infiltration rate 0.15 inch/hour (Type C)

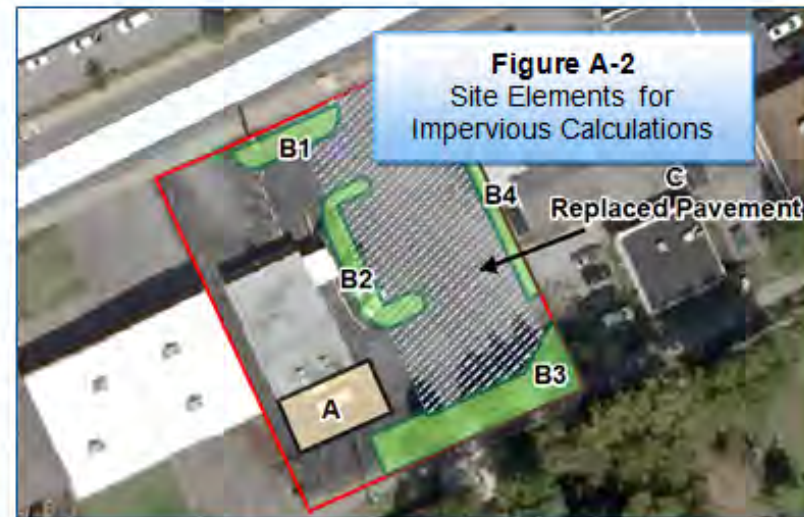
Proposed building addition = 1,000 square feet

Pre-development pavement area impacted = 7,500 square feet

Proposed net impacted impervious change (see Table A-1 and Figure A-2) = 4,700 square feet

Table A-1. Example Site Impervious Surface

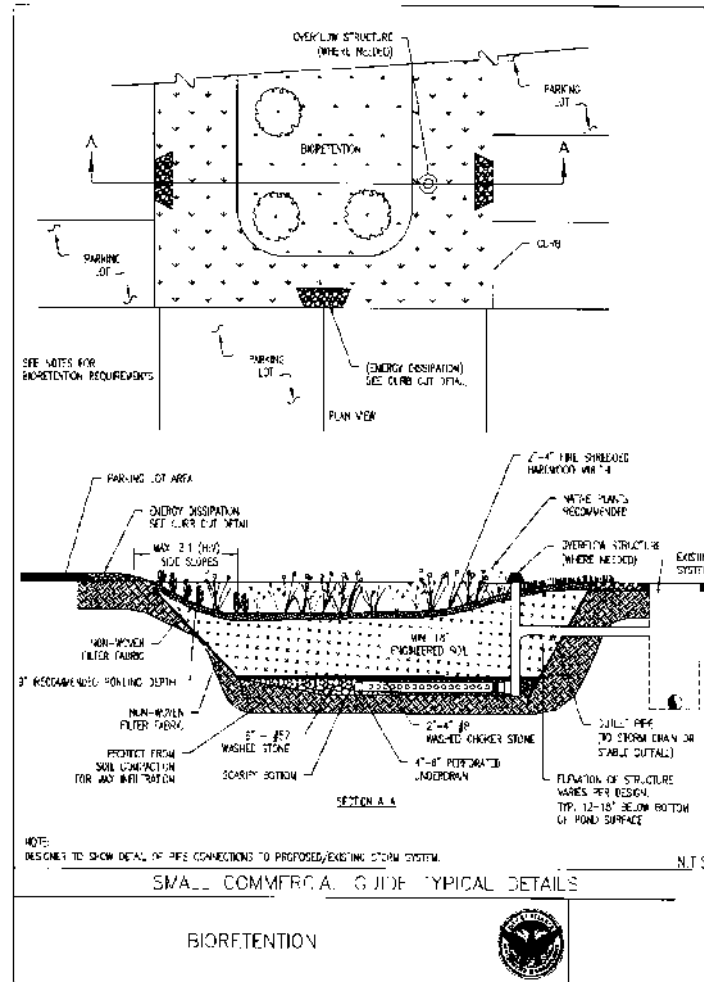
	Site element	Area (square feet)
A	Building addition	1000
B1	Demolished pavement for island	-(500)
B2	Demolished pavement for island	-(900)
B3	Demolished pavement for green buffer	-(1800)
B4	Demolished pavement for green buffer	-(600)
C	Replaced Pavement	3,700
	Impacted Impervious Surface	4,700



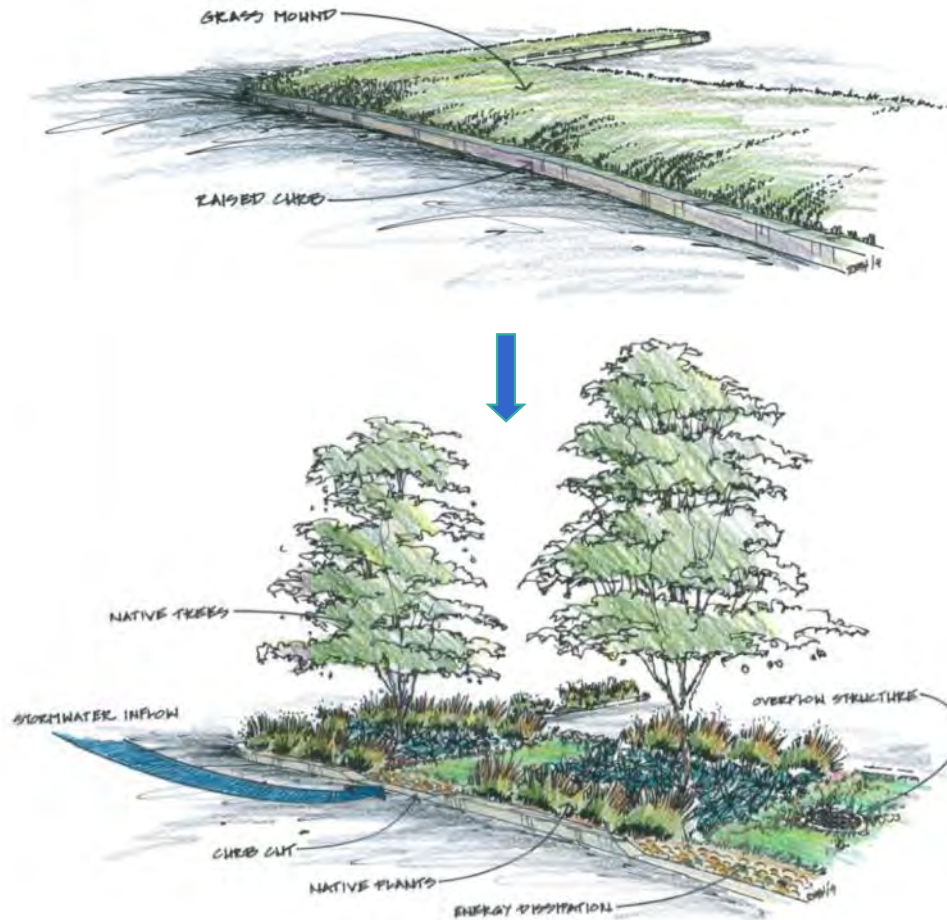
(Note: This manual applies because the net impacted impervious area is less than 5,000 square feet.)



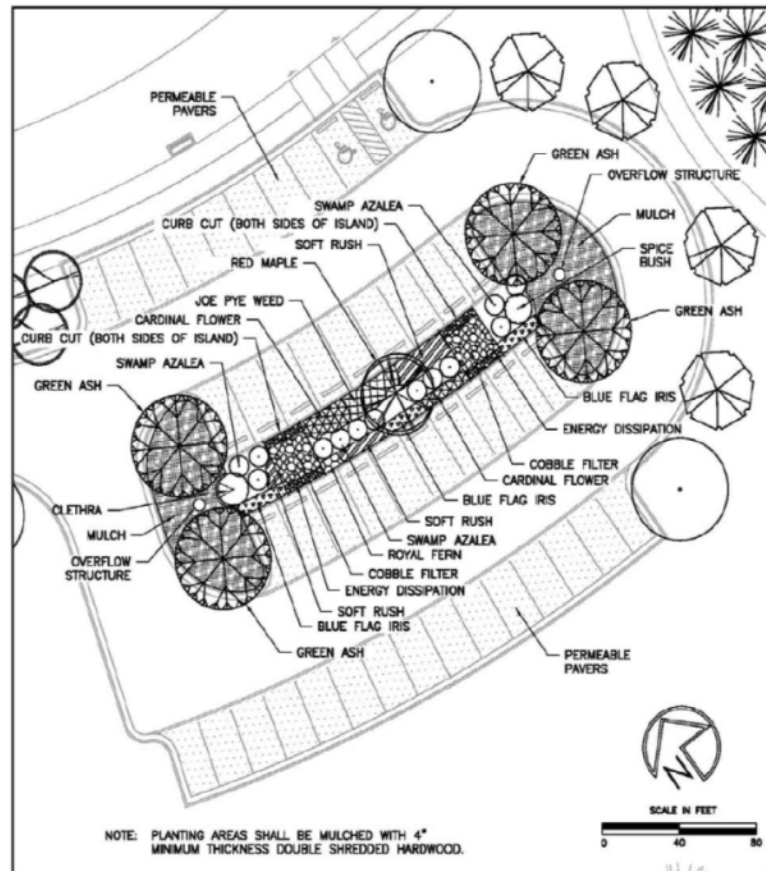
Typical Details



Retrofit examples: Landscape Islands



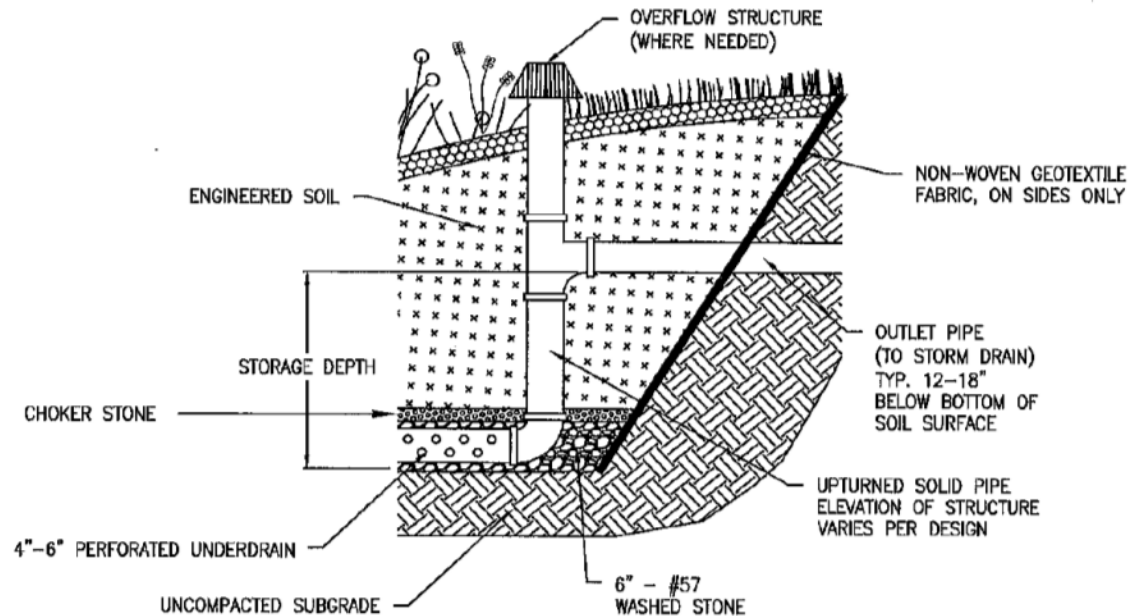
Example Landscape Plans



EXAMPLE #1: PARKING ISLAND BIORETENTION PLANTING



Innovative designs included



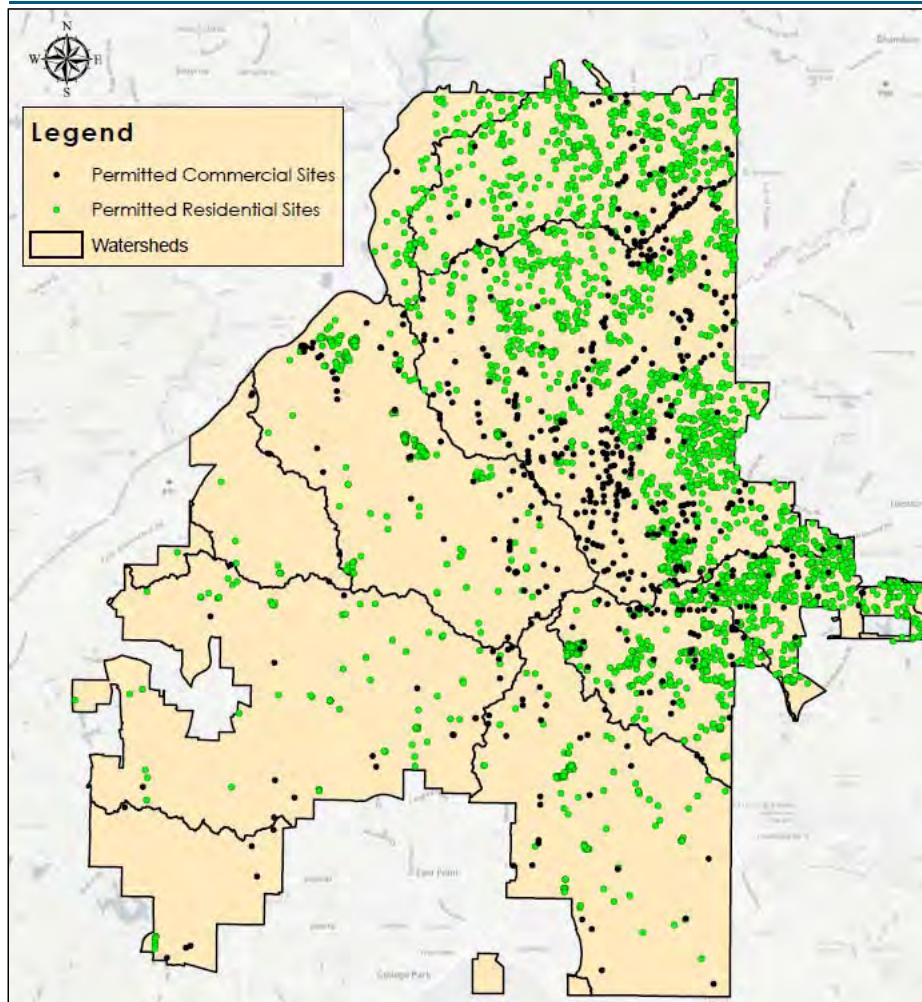
UPTURNED "S" UNDERDRAIN FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICES WITH SURFACE PONDING AND ENGINEERED SOIL

Upturned "S" Underdrain

- Creates saturated zone, aids in denitrification, additional infiltration in poor draining soils



Tracking Green Infrastructure with GIS



Permitted Sites Since Feb 2013

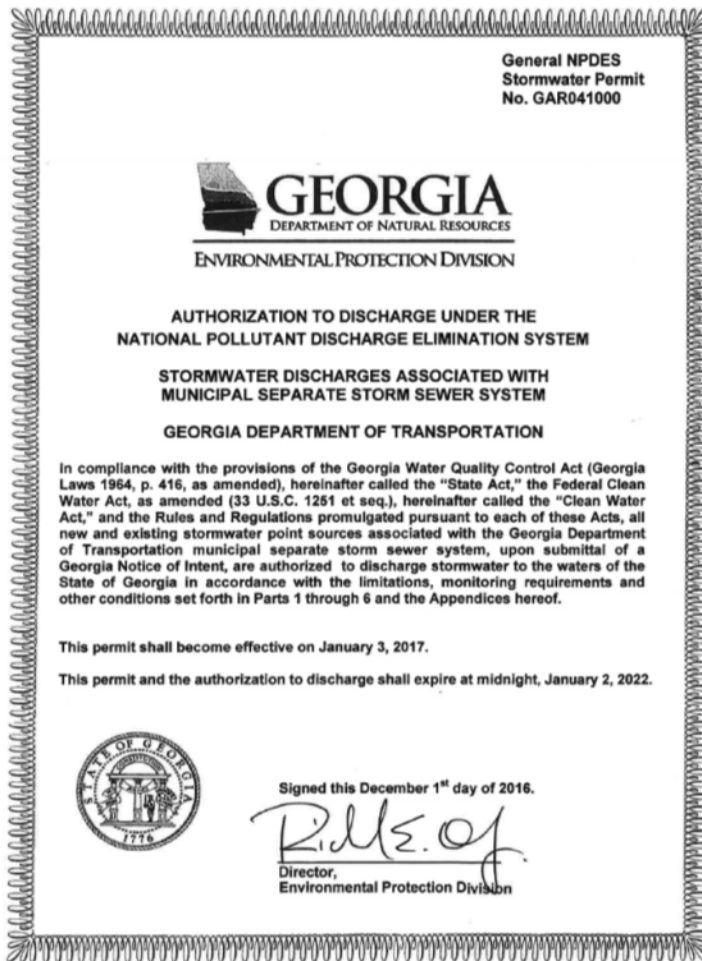
- 600+ Commercial
- 2,900+ Single Family Residential

GIS attributes contain:

- Owner
- Date of completion
- Copy of I&M agreement
- Inspections information
- Green infrastructure BMPs
- Detention BMPs
- Runoff Reduction Volumes



Updated MS4 Permits



Most Recent MS4 Permits

- Georgia DOT
- Phase I Medium
- Phase II

Includes Requirement to Adopt Runoff Reduction / Green Infrastructure Practices

- 3 year transition period
- Atlanta staff participated in both Blue Book update and proposed amendments to MS4 permits



Green Infrastructure can compete for space

Creativity with site layout

- Upfront coordination between Civil, LA, and Architect

Dual purpose practices:

- permeable pavement
- landscape islands → bioretention
- green roof
- underground detention/infiltration systems

Able to meet tree planting and runoff reduction requirements with one practice



Infiltration Practices in Atlanta

Soils analysis required for all commercial sites

- Infiltration rates, high water table, bedrock, contaminated soils

Compaction of Silt and Clay soils

- Loosening compacted soils on redevelopment sites
- Prevent compaction during construction
- Innovative designs (upturned underdrain) to encourage surface drainage and promote infiltration in clay soils

Erosion control

- Phasing installation to prevent sedimentation issues
- Installation of appropriate BMPs



Erosion Control and Phasing



Green Infrastructure Task Force

City staff plus partners

- Watershed, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Mayor's Office of Resilience, Planning and Community Development, Aviation
- Atlanta Beltline, The Conservation Fund, American Rivers, Invest Atlanta, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Trees Atlanta, etc.

Task Force Origins and Goals

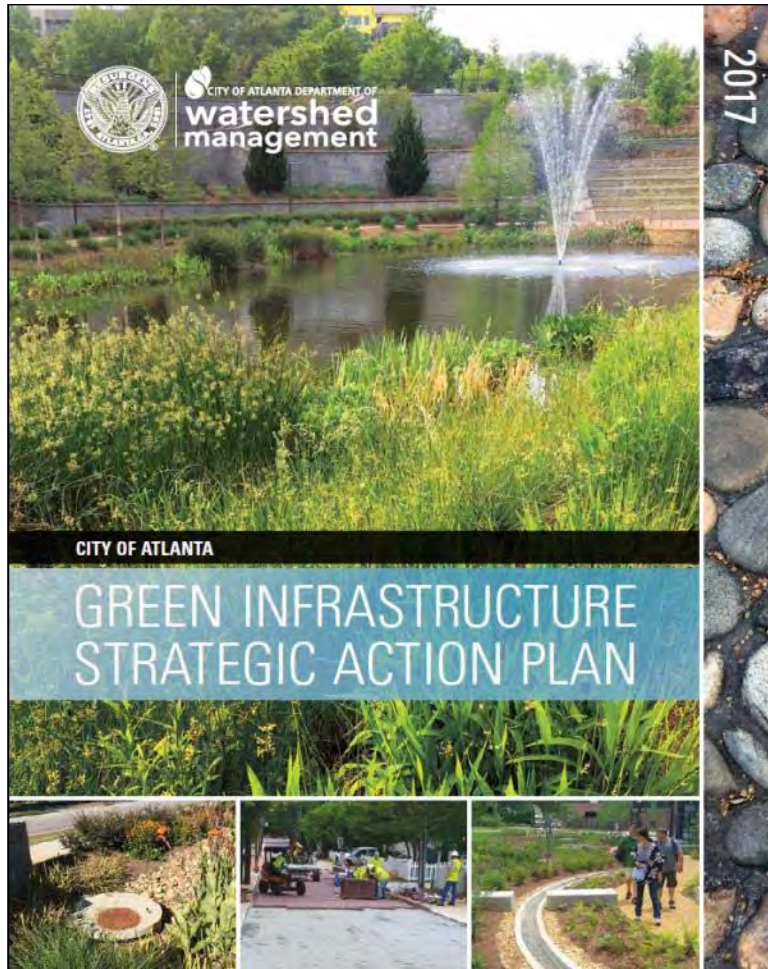
- Began through a Peer Exchange trip (2012) to Philadelphia
- Create 'Best-in-Class' program
- Focus on CIPs and processes
- Recently published Strategic Action Plan



Green Infrastructure Task Force



Strategic Action Plan



Strategic Action Plan Goal

- Through policies, projects, and partnerships, install enough GI to reduce an additional 225 MG runoff volume each year

Actions - Subcommittees

- Project Implementation
- Policy, Funding, & Planning
- Partnering & Outreach
- Data Tracking & Technical Analysis

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL:

225 Million Gallon
Reduction of
Runoff Annually

(Annual 1% reduction in volume of runoff from a 1" storm)



Question Break?



Historic 4th Ward Neighborhood - 2008



Combined Sewer Capacity Relief - Today



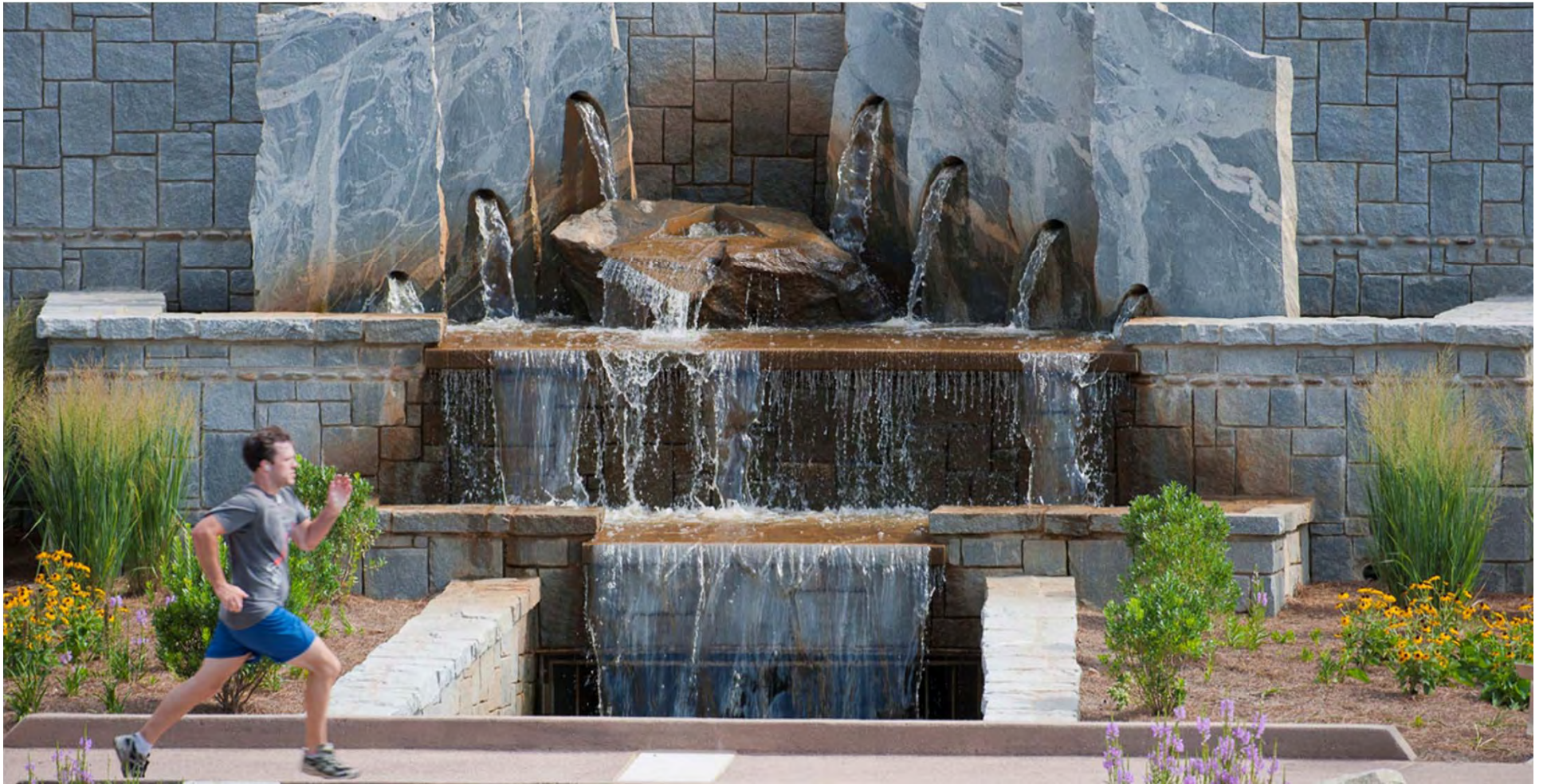


100 year storm

Nature Influenced Design



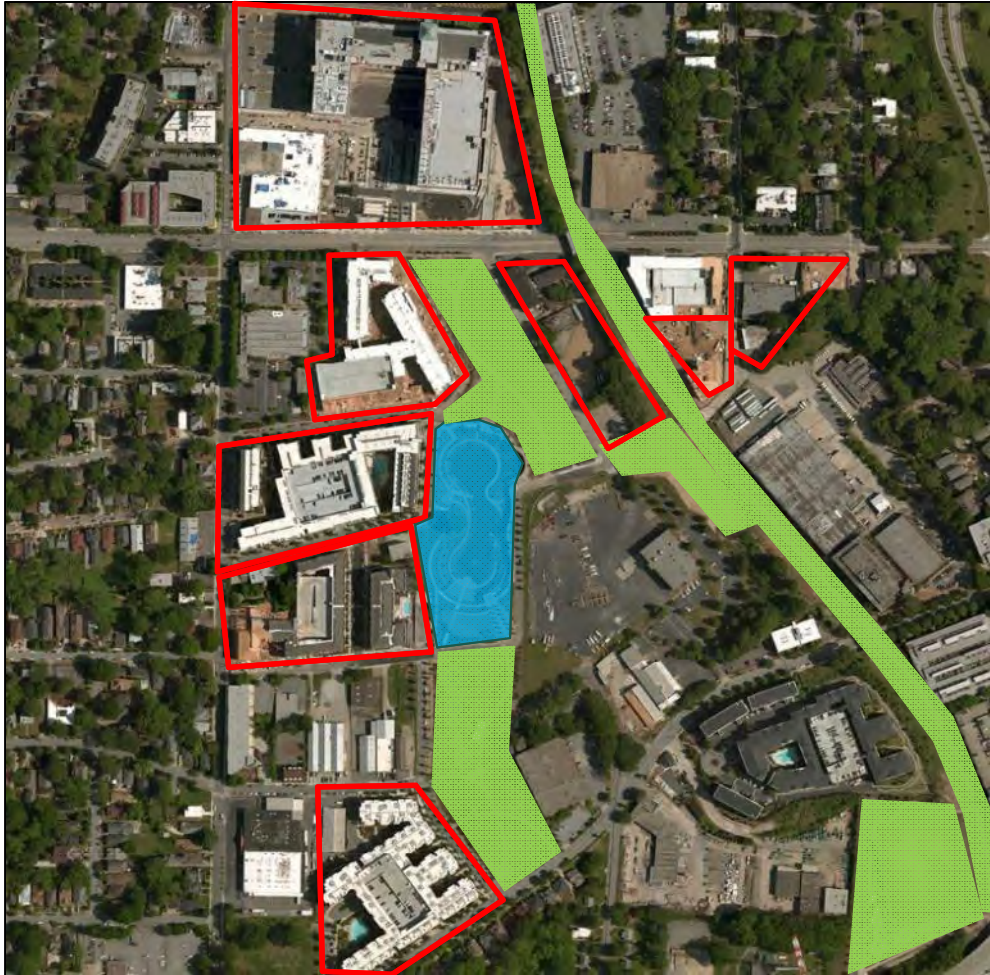
Aerating Fountain



Which would you prefer?



Spurring Economic Development



\$500M in Redevelopment

- Apartments
- Condos
- Ponce City Market



Spurring Economic Development



April 16, 2017 – 4” rain event



Three days later...



April 16, 2017 – 4” rain event



Three days later...



Southeast Atlanta Green Infrastructure Initiative

Combined Sewer Capacity Relief

Causes & Solutions 02

Solutions

- Rain Garden
- Porous Pavement
- Bioswale

- Detentions
- Porous Pavement
- Storage
- Relief

Causes

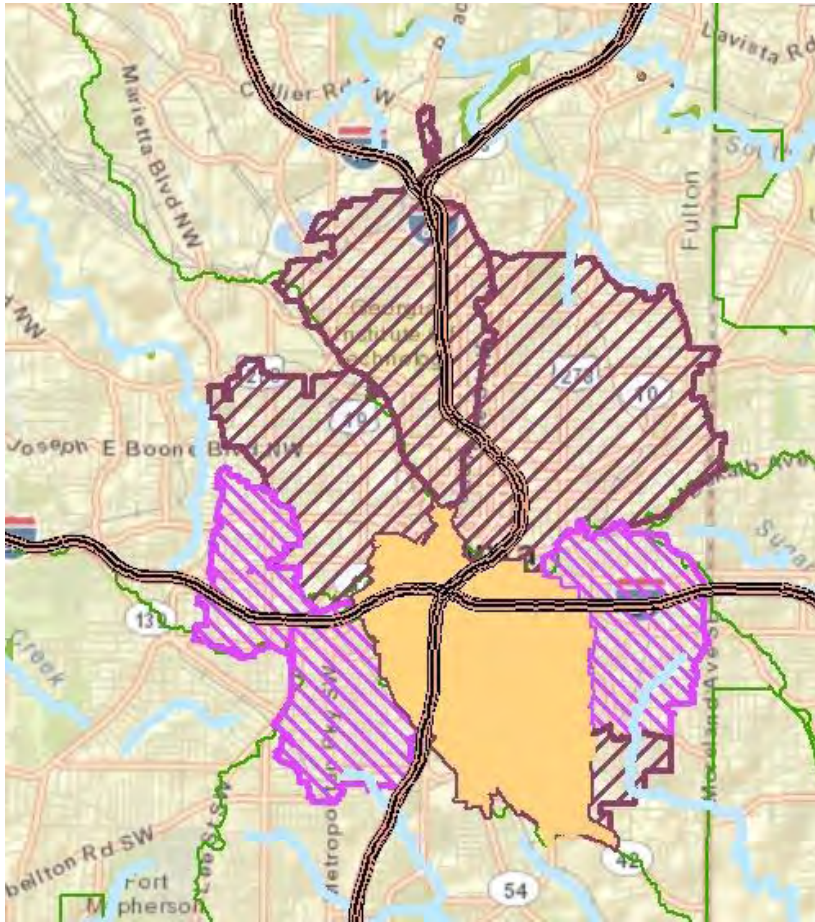
- Impervious Pavements
 - Parking Lots
 - 75/85 Interstate
- New Development
 - Roofs, Driveways, Patio
- Rainfall Intensity
- Geography (Peaks And Valleys)

The map displays the Custer Ave Combined Sewer (CSO) system in Southeast Atlanta. It features a network of sewer trunks (green lines) and identifies potential flood areas (red shaded regions). Key locations marked include Custer Ave CSO, Custer Ave, and various parks such as Grand Park, Inman Park, and Inman Square. Specific points of interest are labeled with callouts like 1C, 2, 1B, and 20. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the symbols for Custer Ave CSO, Sewer Trunks, and Potential Flood Areas.

A photograph showing a group of five people walking together outdoors. They are dressed in professional attire, including suits and a dress. The background shows greenery and a building.



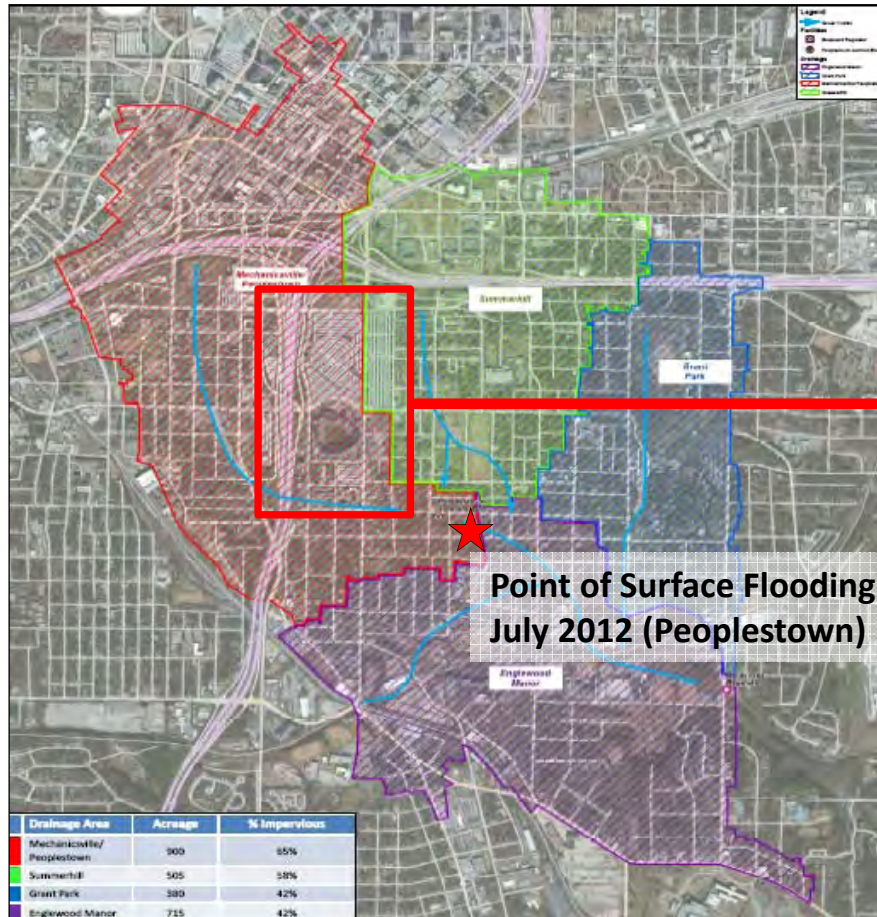
Cluster CSO Basin Location



- Heart of Atlanta
- Highly impervious
- Piped Streams
- Repeated Flooding



Contributing Conditions



Drainage Basin	Total Area (acres)	% Impervious	Impervious Area (acres)	Roadway Area (acres)
Mechanicsville / Peoplestown	900	65%	582	220
Summerhill	505	58%	293	110
Grant Park	380	42%	162	55
Englewood Manor	715	42%	301	62



Historical Perspective Map of Atlanta 1886



Peoples Town Junction
Box Location

Back to Back Rain Events

Rank	Date	Recurrence Level
1	7/9/2012	10-25 year
2	8/31/2006	5-10 year
3	7/11/2012	2-5 year
4	9/29/2009	2-5 year
5	7/3/2012	2-5 year
6	5/5/2003	2-5 year
7	7/20/2011	2 year
8	8/20/2000	2 year
9	6/3/2001	2 year
10	8/28/2009	2 year



Peoplestown Flooding



Community Engagement



Historic Perspective

Historical building practices

- Filing and piping of sewers
- Increase in impervious surface cover

Watershed	Land Use	% Impervious	Population	Building Area
Midtown/Perimeter	500	65%	500	100
Summit	500	50%	200	100
South Park	500	40%	100	50
East Atlanta	700	40%	100	50

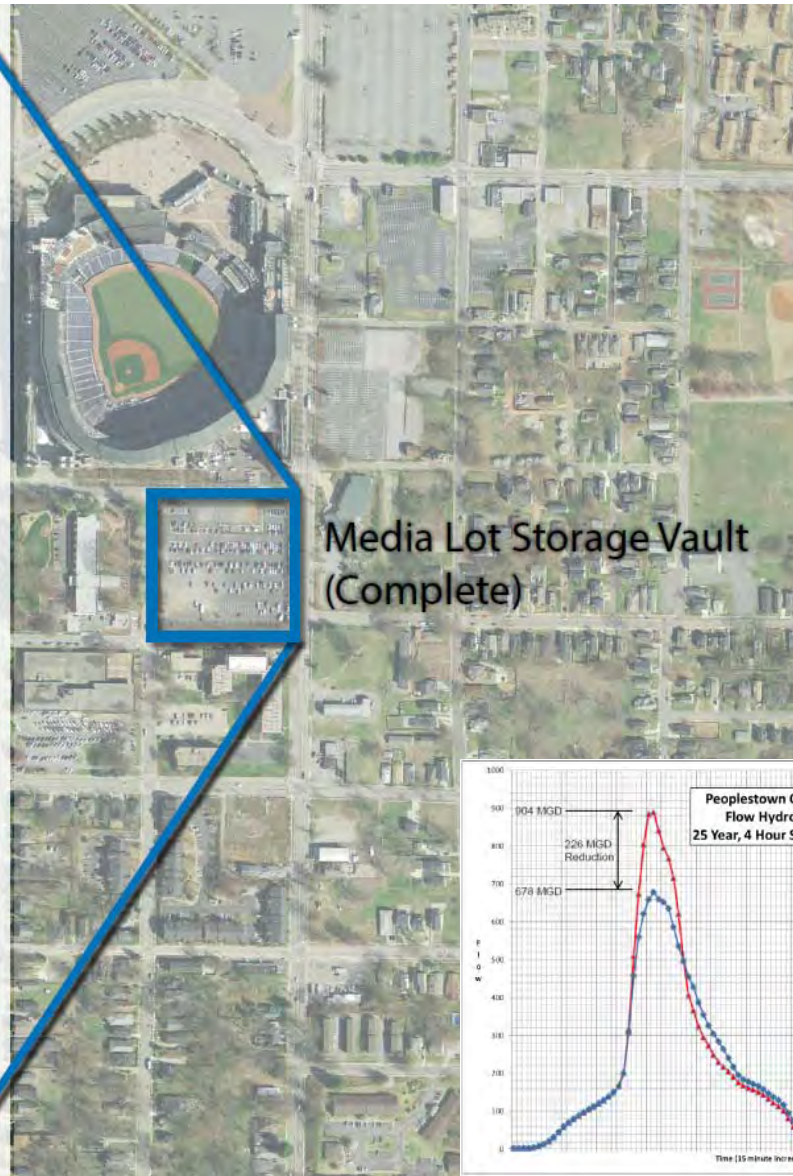


CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF
watershed
management

Phase 1 Projects- Completed

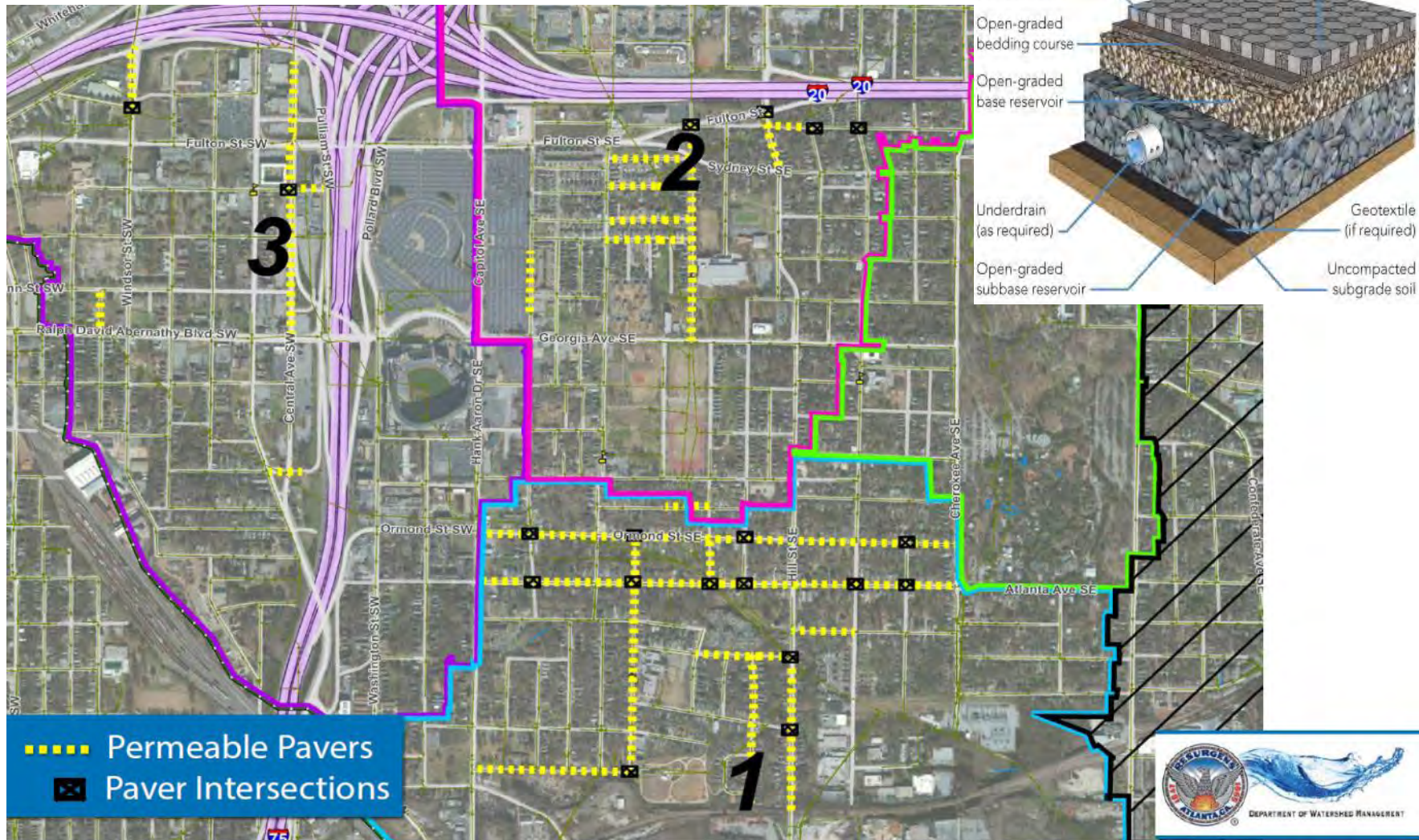


Phase 2: Gray Solution

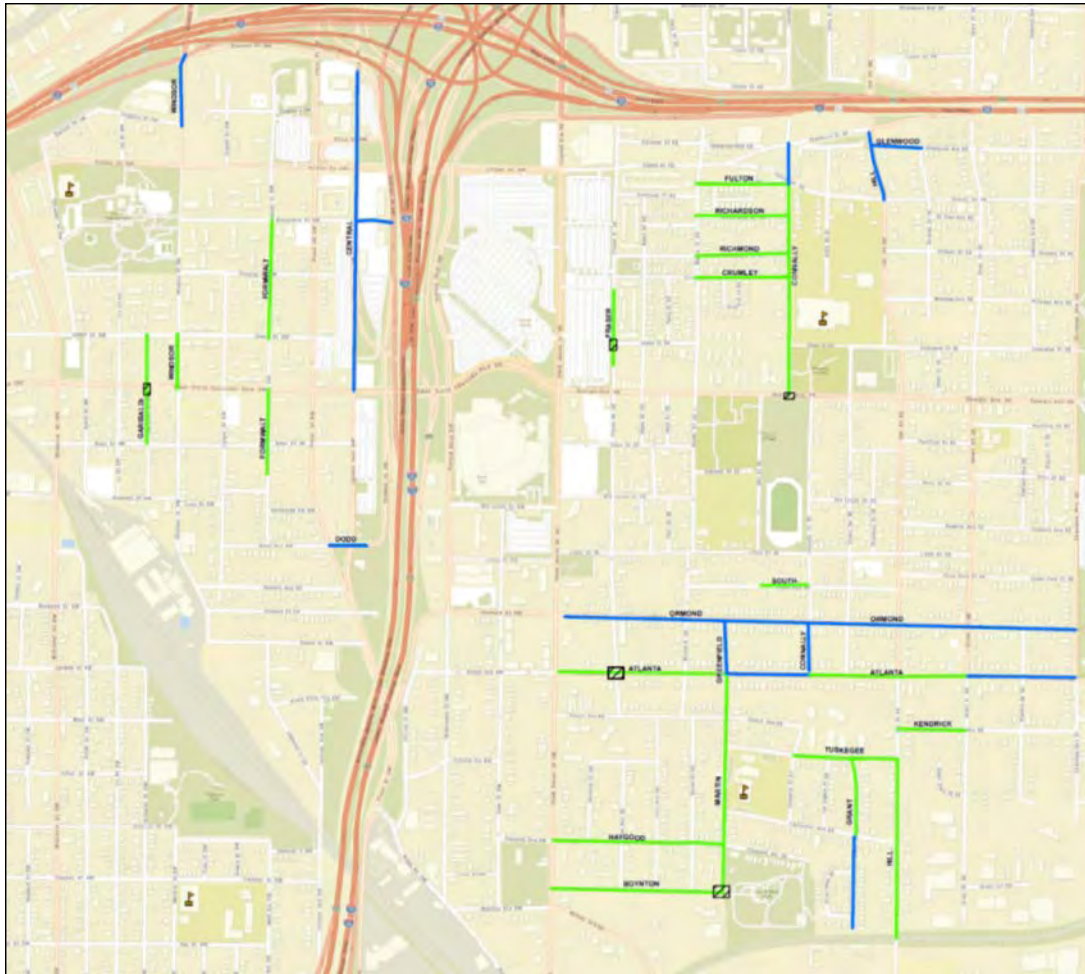


Phase 2: Permeable Roadways

- 4+ miles of Permeable Pavers



Updated Map

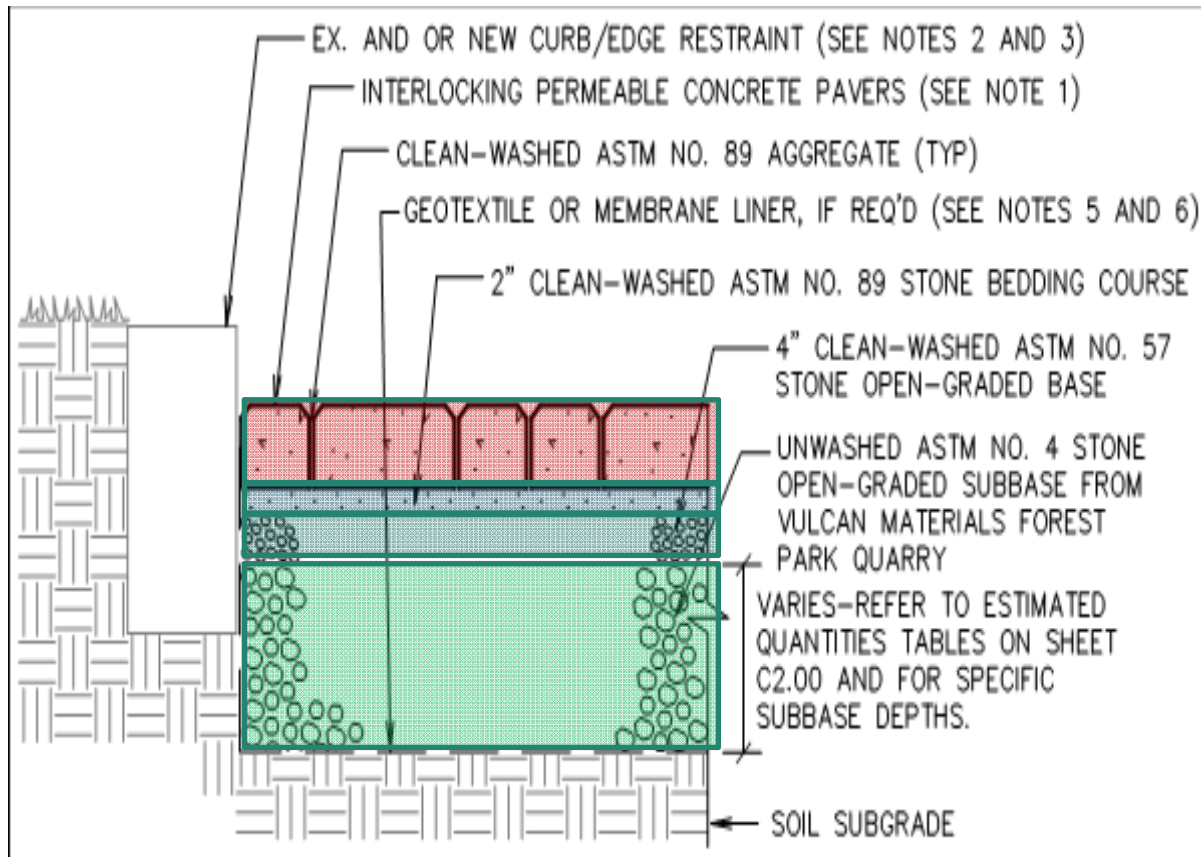


Legend

-  Schools
-  Gateway Intersections
- Pavers Status**
-  Proposed Streets to Compensate for Removed streets
-  Completed
-  Originally Proposed
-  Removed from Project
-  Currently Under Construction



Permeable Paver System

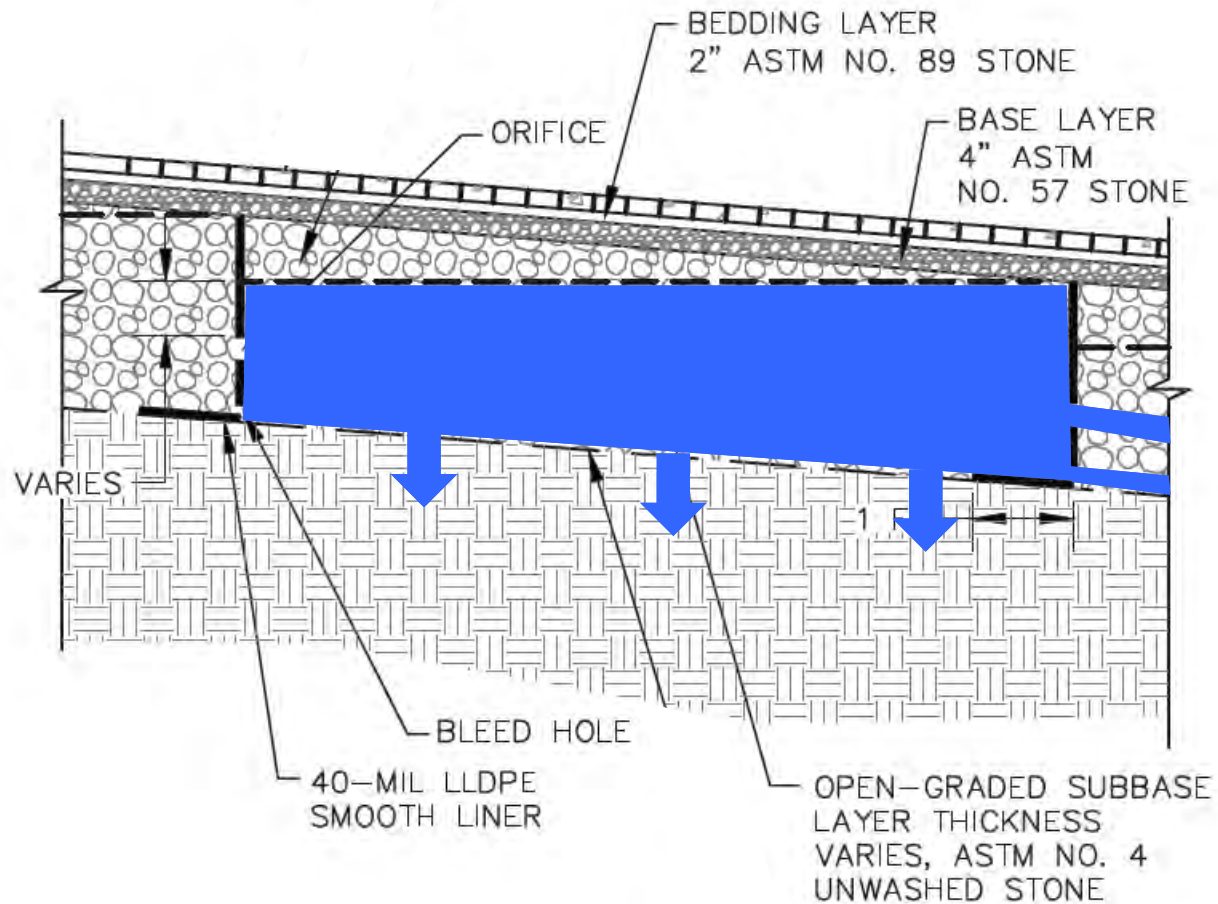


The paver system is made up of the following components:

- #4 Stone
- #57 Stone
- #89 Stone
- LLDPE 40 Mil Liner
- Permeable Pavers



Unique Design Considerations



Construction Sequence

- **Excavation, aggregate reservoir, paver installation**



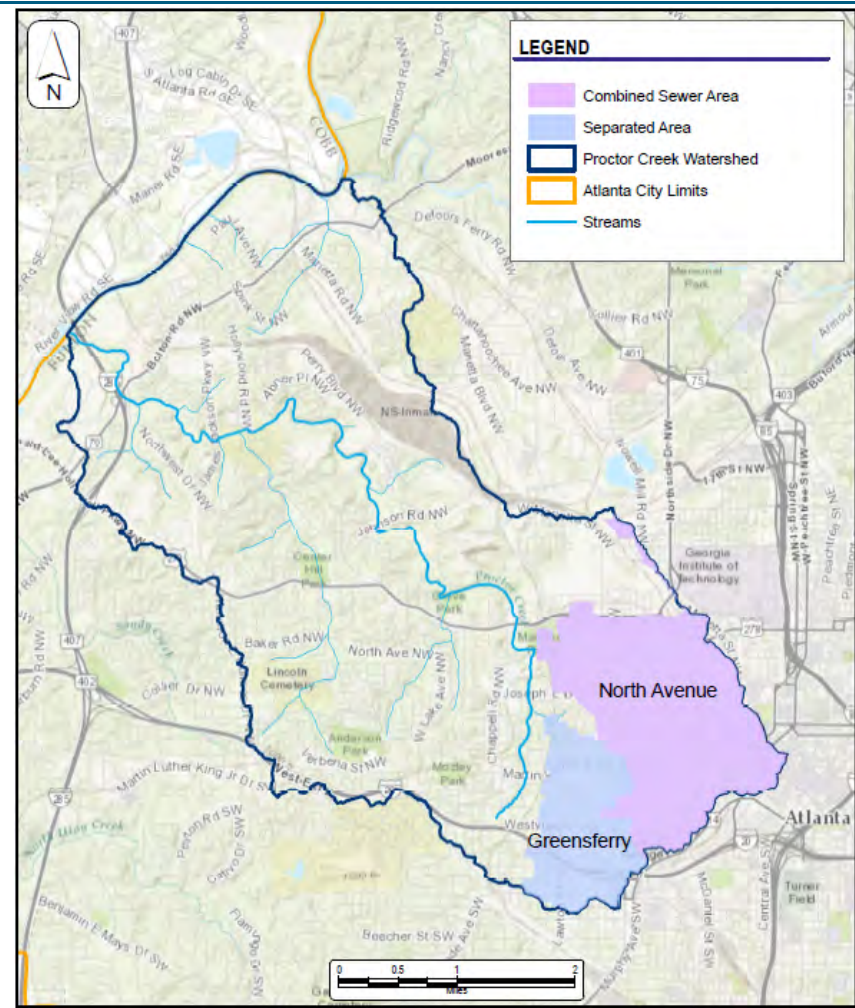
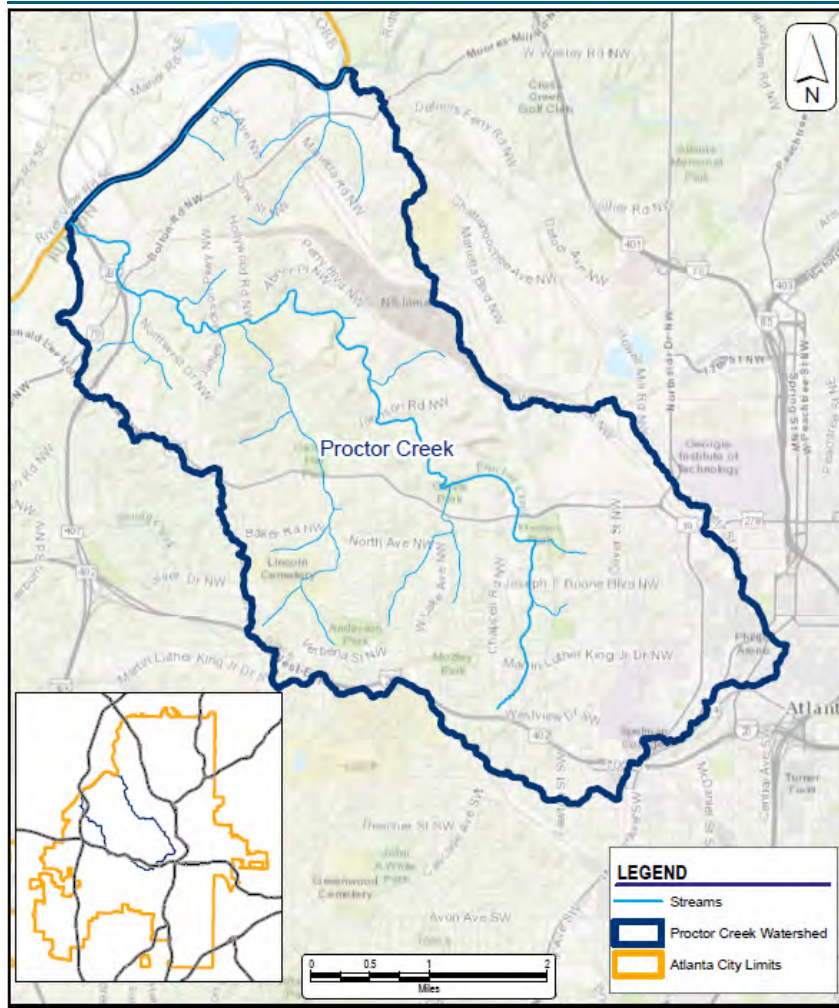
Completed Streets



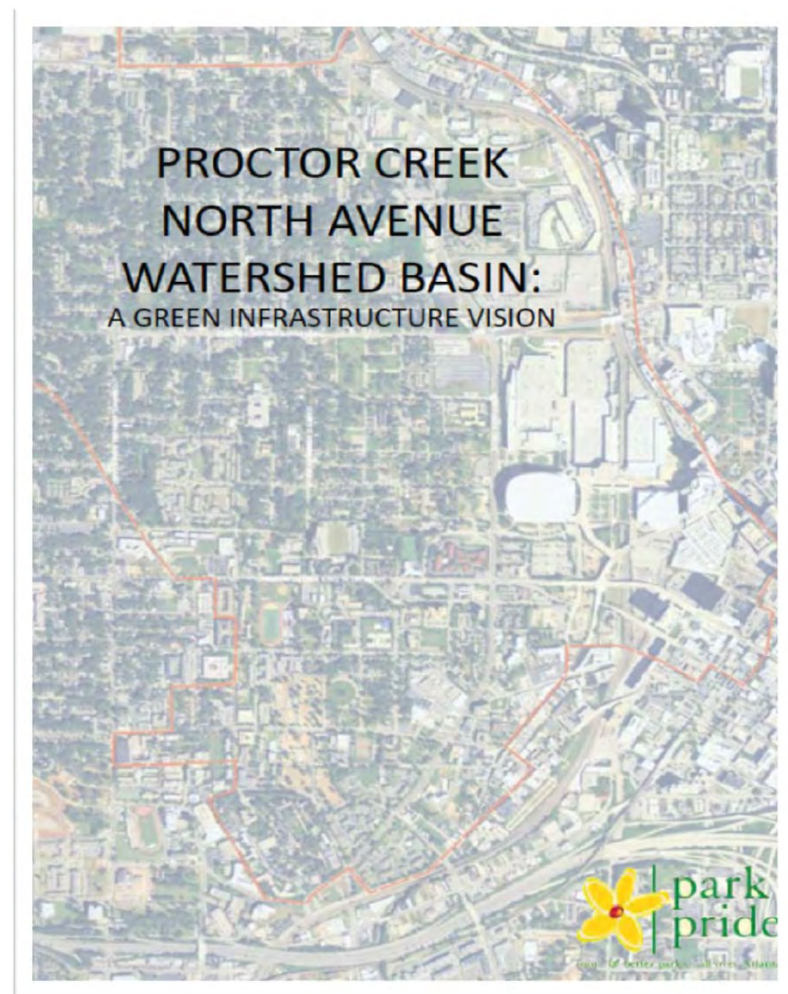
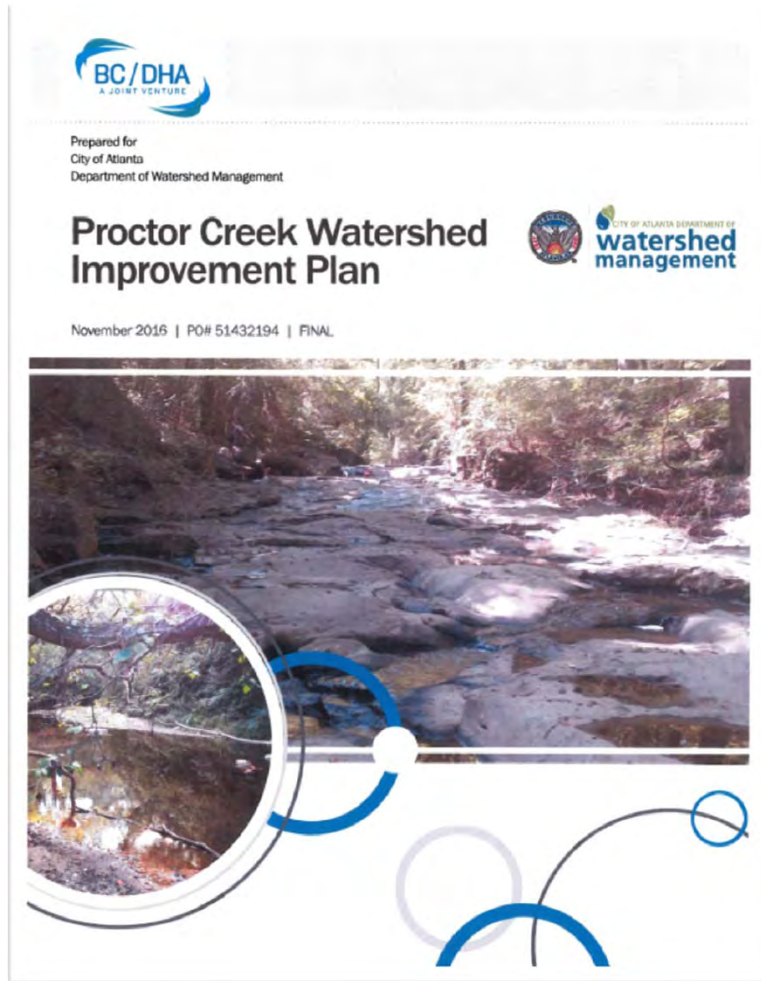
Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City



Proctor Creek Watershed - UWFP



Basin wide planning efforts

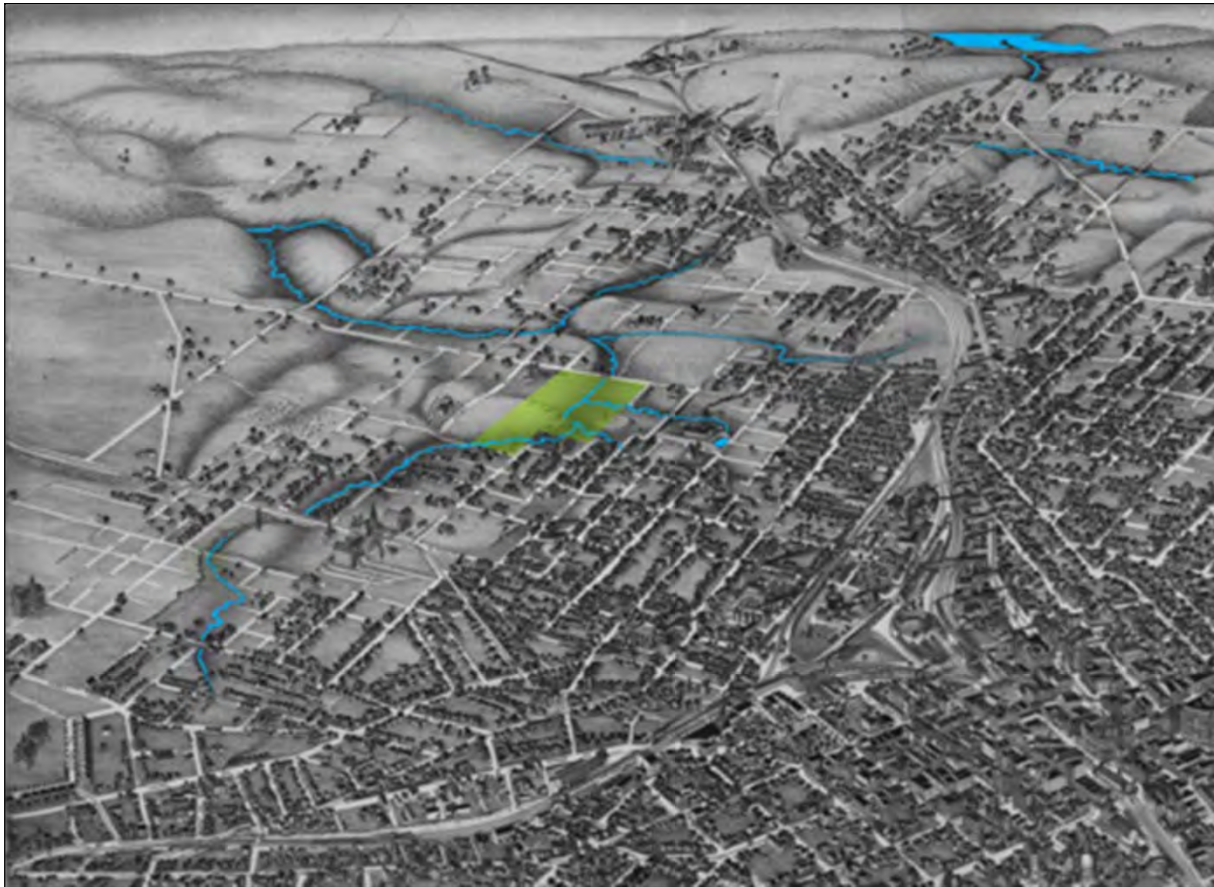


Neighborhoods

English Avenue and Vine City

- Steep decline in population over past 30 yrs
- Highest crime rates (twice the City of Atlanta average)
- Lowest occupancy rates
- Repeated flooding
- Fewest acres of planned greenspace
- 41% of households living below the poverty line (57% of children)
- 20% houses vacant
- 40% foreclosure rate

Upper Proctor Creek Capacity Relief

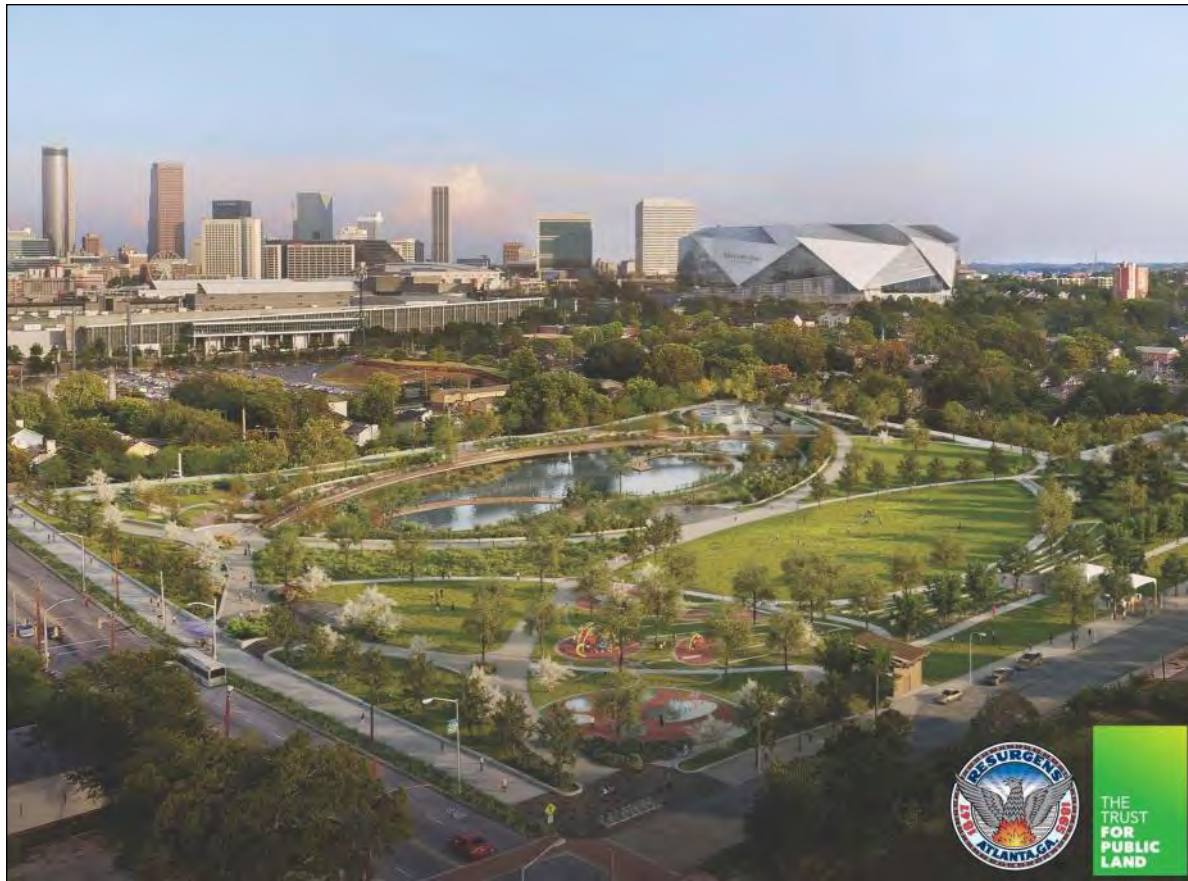


History

- 2002 storm event caused catastrophic flooding in the Vine City neighborhood
- Over 60 homes were purchased by the City as a result
- Combined sewer basin
- Opportunity for multiple partnerships to resolve flooding concerns and restore community health



Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City



16 acre site

- Provides 9+ million gallons of capacity relief, preventing localized flooding throughout the community
- Redirects surface runoff away from the combined sewer system
- Innovative stormwater management practices

Courtesy of HDR, Inc.



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Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City

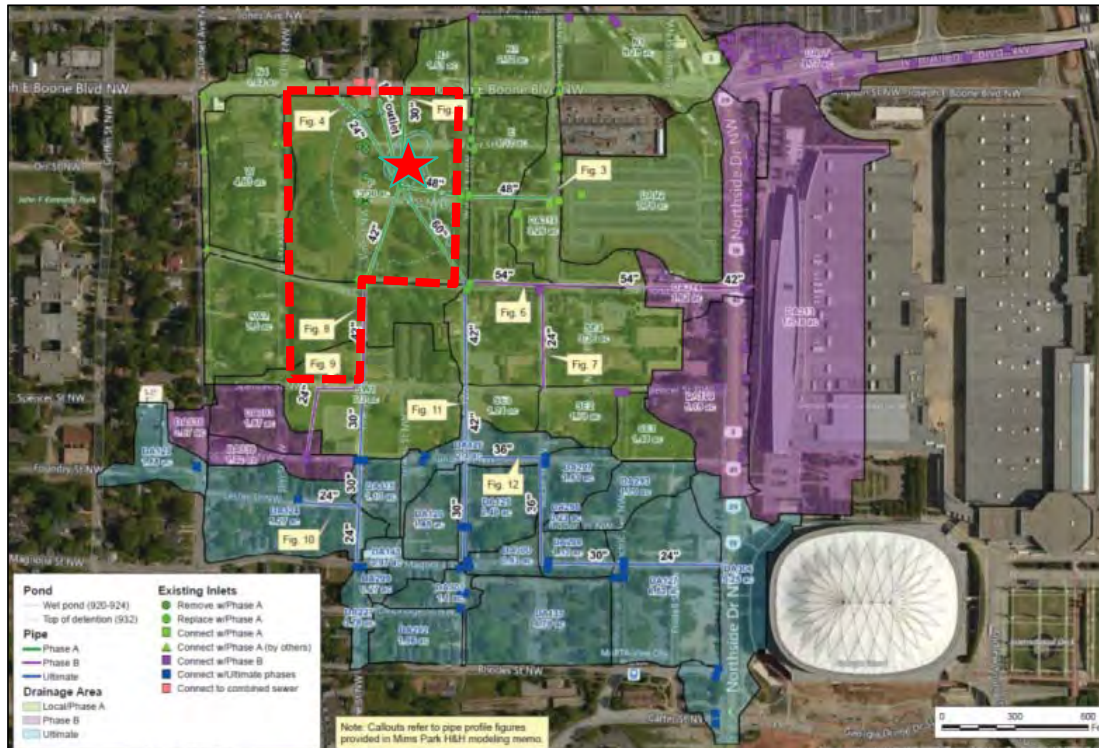


DWM Components of the Project

- 9+ MG stormwater wet pond with littoral shelf and created wetlands
- Green Infrastructure including bioretention, stormwater planters, rainwater harvesting cisterns, and soil restoration
- Rerouted combined sewer trunkline (96")
- Aerating water features
- New sidewalks and roadway improvements
- Separated storm drain pipelines



Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City



Phased Combined Sewer Separation

- Phase A (Green) 73 acres drainage
- Phase B (Purple) 36 acres drainage
- Phase C (Blue) 41 acres drainage
- Ultimate Drainage 150 acres
- Eliminates combined sewer spills up to the 100-year storm event



Partnerships

Department of Watershed Management (DWM)

- Pond design and construction, limited combined sewer separation, green infrastructure, soil remediation

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

- Park design and construction in coordination w/ Department of Parks and Recreation and DWM

National Monuments Foundation (NMF)

- Design and construct 16 statues of historical and civil rights leaders throughout the park

Adjacent projects

- Boone Blvd Green Street (DWM), PATH, Boone Park West





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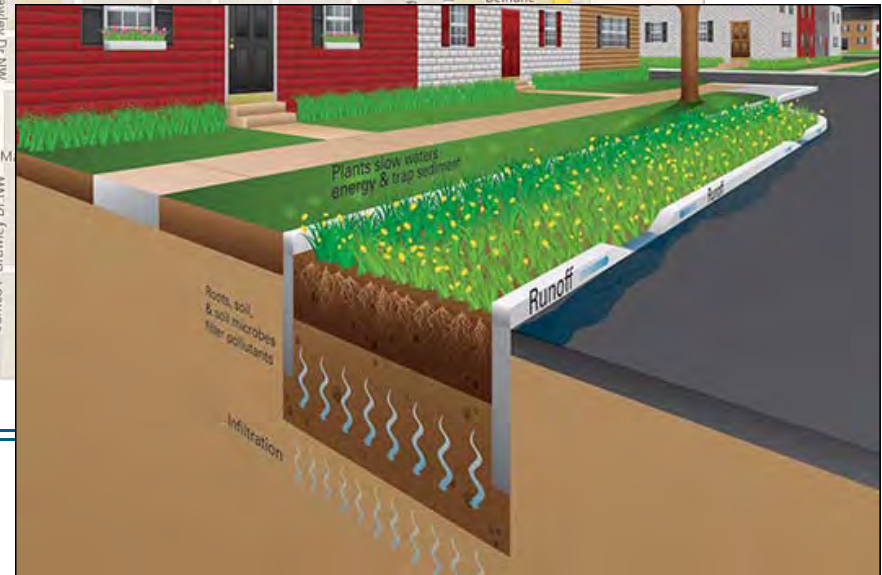
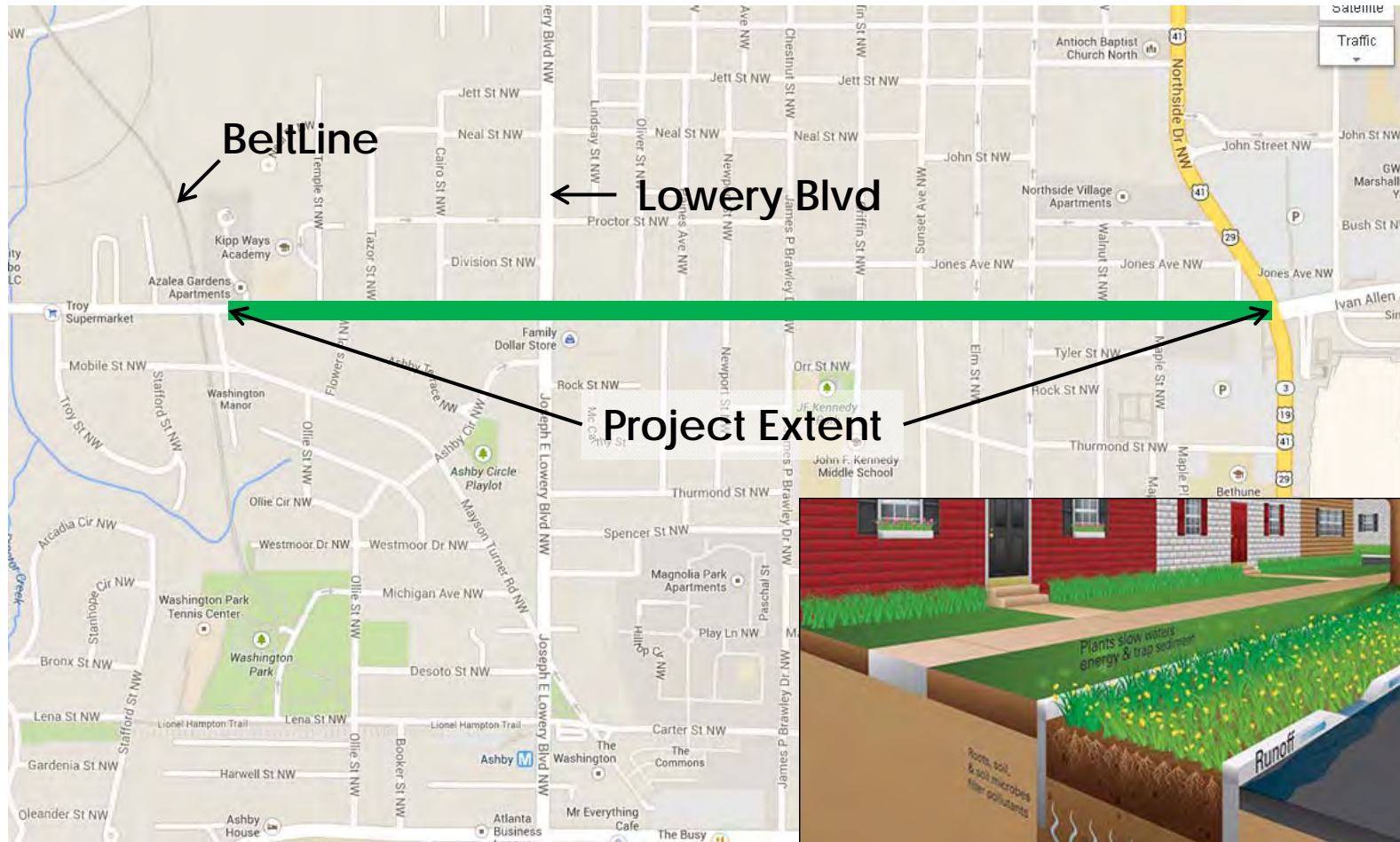


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Boone Blvd Green Street



Boone Blvd Green Street



Before and After



Leveraging Funding and Partnerships

- Invest Atlanta \$1M Grant for streetscape improvements
- Renew Atlanta \$1.1M
- EPD 319(h) Grant \$387K
- Total \$8.9M



In Summary...

- **Utilizing green infrastructure as a tool to address historic drainage issues and water quality is possible, practical, and can spur economic growth**
- **Coordinating w/ other City Departments and developing partnerships is vital**
- **Providing a robust outreach and education program and developing relevant guidance documents aids in transition**
- **Leading by example is key**



Questions?



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