



Stories and upcoming events from the
Proctor Creek watershed in northwest Atlanta

Testing the Soil for Green Infrastructure

Earlier this month, a team of EPA hydrologists and soil scientists visited Proctor Creek as part of the national Urban Soils Assessment, a research initiative aimed at informing green infrastructure development. The team collected soil cores at 13 locations in the watershed and used specialized tools to measure how water moves into and through the soil. Little is known about urban soils, and the goal of the research is to characterize urban soils and help city planners design green infrastructure to address environmental challenges related to stormwater. While they were in town, the researchers also visited a 4th grade class at M. Agnes Jones Elementary, a group of 2nd graders from Woodson Elementary, a group of Clark Atlanta students, and [Greening Youth Foundation's](#) Atlanta Youth Corps to discuss hydrology and soils. In total, the research team has collected samples and tested soil hydrology in 11 cities around the country and plans to use the information they gather to: (1) provide soil management options that support successful use of parks and green spaces for green infrastructure; (2) assist city planners in creating healthier, more sustainable communities; and (3) offer guidance on using green infrastructure to visually enhance city landscapes and improve quality of life for city residents and visitors. For more information about the Urban Soils Assessment [click here](#).



A Resident Forum for Engagement in Proctor Creek



On the first Friday of every month, residents from northwest Atlanta communities surrounding Proctor Creek come together to discuss the watershed. This resident-led forum, called the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, creates an opportunity for watershed residents to learn about Proctor Creek and plan activities that promote their mission: *to restore, revitalize, and protect the ecological health of the Proctor Creek watershed and the quality of life of all its people*. The Stewardship Council was first formed in the fall of 2013 through a collaboration of the [West Atlanta Watershed Alliance](#), [Community Improvement Association](#), and [ECO-Action](#). Since then, they have attracted the attention of numerous government agencies and partner organizations and empowered residents to engage in Proctor Creek. Approaching their second year in operation, the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council formally registered as a nonprofit organization this month, helping institutionalize their efforts and strengthen their capacity. The Council is currently developing their strategic plan for the next 3 years and encourages anyone living or working in the watershed to attend a meeting or contact one of their co-chairs (Na'Taki Osborne Jelks – 404-825-3872 and Tony Torrence - 678-663-1858). Visit their website by [clicking here](#).

Decentralized Community Gardening with GLEN

Vegetable gardens are popping up around the upper watershed neighborhoods as a new community gardening program begins to grow. The program, called Gardens' Link Empower Neighborhoods, or "GLEN," began in June with a focus on helping residents establish vegetable gardens at their homes. So far, four new gardens have been established at residents' houses and apartment complexes and a new community herb garden has been established. To help coach the new gardeners on keeping their plants healthy and productive, GLEN's Rosario Hernandez stops by the home gardens once a week to answer questions and share tips. The GLEN program is an initiative of [Historic Westside Gardens](#), a community nonprofit established in 2009 to address disinvestment and food security while acting as an incubator for urban farmers in Vine City and English Avenue. Through GLEN, the new home gardeners are linked to Historic Westside Gardens' two community training gardens located at 280 Elm Street and at 104 Vine Street where they learn urban farming techniques from experienced growers. Historic Westside Gardens plans to help establish two additional home gardens through the GLEN program by the end of the year. For more information about GLEN, [click here](#) or contact Gil Frank at 404-308-1899. (photo courtesy of the GLEN project)



OPPORTUNITIES

Emory HERCULES – Clarence “Shaheed” DuBois Community Grants

Grants are available for up to \$2500 for projects between Jan 15, 2016 – Jan 14, 2017 that address environmental health concerns in your community. Projects should aim to conduct outreach, promote community awareness of local environmental health concerns, or collect information needed to address health concerns related to the environment. Eligibility: not-for-profit 501c(3) community organizations that serve or are located within Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, or Rockdale counties. Applications due: **October 1, 2015**. For more information about the grant program [click here](#)

Love Your Block and Community Building Grants

Two upcoming grant opportunities from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta: (1) Community Building grants range from \$500-\$10,000 for established groups and organizations with at least a two year working history to implement projects addressing a neighborhood issue or concern. (2) Love Your Block mini-grants range from \$250-\$1,000 to support citizens and

neighborhood groups who want to plan and organize community-based beautification or improvement efforts. Love Your Block grants are for established or new and emerging groups and organizations. The deadline for both grants is 12pm **October 15**. Application materials are available on the Community Foundation website - [click here](#).

Emerald Corridor Foundation Community Giving Grants

The Emerald Corridor Foundation is an independent foundation that strives to improve the quality of life for residents in northwest Atlanta by supporting the civic institutions that form the foundation of a vibrant and healthy community. Specific areas of investment include: education, workforce training and development, environmental restoration and enhancement, recreation, arts and culture, and community development. Grants will be awarded in the \$500-\$15,000 range to institutions, programs and projects that: 1) demonstrate a specific and defined need in the community; 2) show measurable outcomes; and 3) have strong leadership. Strong candidates will be 501(c)(3) entities registered in Georgia, that have a Board of Directors and a proven track record of success. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis with the next round due **November 15th**. For more info or to apply [click here](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Urban Waters Small Grants

The mission of EPA's Urban Waters Program is to help local residents and their organizations, particularly those in underserved communities, restore their urban waters in ways that also benefit community and economic revitalization. For the 2015/2016 grant cycle, EPA seeks to fund projects that address urban runoff pollution through diverse partnerships that produce multiple community benefits. EPA expects each award to range from \$40,000 to \$60,000. Applications due **November 20**. The Agency will host one Information Session regarding via webinar on **October 22, 2015** at 2pm EST and will attempt to answer questions in this public forum. For more information about Urban Waters grants, the information session, or to apply [click here](#)

For additional funding and resource opportunities, visit:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: Utilizing Codes and Ordinances to Protect Rivers and Clean Water

Date: Tuesday, September 29 (1-2pm)

Webinar Registration: "Staci Williams of American Rivers will provide insight on important ways you can update local codes and ordinances to protect your river and stream. She will also discuss a few key examples of successes along the Waccamaw River that have helped to not only protect the river, but preserve clean water for local communities." To register [click here](#)

Organized by: [American Rivers Blue Trails](#)

[Georgia Food Oasis 2nd Anniversary Celebration - Eat. CHAT. Grow.](#)

Date: Saturday, September 29 (6-8pm)

Location: Good Samaritan Health Center Urban Farm, [1015 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway Northwest](#)

Description: "A sunset networking event at Good Samaritan's beautiful and bountiful urban farm. Learn more about our work and how to get involved. Come join representatives from over 30 of Atlanta's premiere food and urban ag organizations while enjoying complimentary wine, beer and bites from some amazing local chefs. Sensible footwear suggested!" For more information and to register [click here](#)

[Proctor Creek Stewardship Council Meeting](#)

Date: Friday, October 2 (1-3pm)

Location: Northwest Library at Scotts Crossing, Main meeting room, [2489 Perry Boulevard](#)

Description: "Inviting residents of NPU's G, J, K, L, T, M & Surrounding Neighborhoods to the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council meeting. Please come to share and learn about efforts to clean-up, protect, and restore the Proctor Creek Watershed and its surrounding communities. *Please Note: This month's meeting is an Internal "Stewards/Residents Only" Meeting to help facilitate internal strategic planning. New residents, student-residents, and others living and working in/around the neighborhoods through which Proctor Creek flows are welcome to attend."

Contact: Na'Taki Osborne Jelks @ 404-825-3872 or Tony Torrence @ 678-663-1858

[Multiple Volunteer Projects - Hands On Atlanta Day 2015](#)

Date: Saturday, October 3 (9am-1pm)

Location: Multiple Locations within the Proctor Creek watershed and across Atlanta

Description: "Hands on Atlanta Day brings more than 7,000 individuals and corporate volunteers together in one single day of service across the city of Atlanta, making a difference to more than 100 nonprofit and school partners. Volunteer tasks vary by project." Volunteer locations within the Proctor Creek watershed include: Maddox Park, Westside Atlanta Charter School, Kennedy Middle School, Boyd Elementary School, Best Academy, Bethune Elementary School, the Kindezi School, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Hope Through Divine Intervention, the Sadie G. Mays Health and Rehab Center, and more! Register in advance by [clicking here](#)

[Proctor Creek Clearwater Revival - Trust for Public Land Annual Fundraiser](#)

Date: Sunday, October 4 (5-9pm) **Location:** [608 Gary Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30318](#)

Description: "The Trust for Public Land invites you to Proctor Creek Clearwater Revival, a Celebration of Land. Join us for cocktails, live music, catered dinner and silent auction - all on the banks of Proctor Creek." For more information and to purchase tickets [click here](#)

[Tree Planting with Trees Atlanta in Westview](#)

Date: Saturday, October 10 (9am-12pm)

Description: "We will be planting trees in the Westview neighborhood. We would love your help!" To sign up [click here](#)

7th Annual Festival of Lights

Date: Saturday, October 10 (9am-7pm, Parade starts at 10am)

Location: [870 Proctor Street NW](#)

Details: Annual community festival organized by Historic Westside Cultural Arts Council. Free food, kids and youth carnival, live entertainment & dance contest, health fair & non-profit exhibitors, history tour, and 3 on 3 basketball tournament. For more info, contact Tracy Bates (tybates@bellsouth.net)

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) L Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 13 (7pm) and each 2nd Tuesday of the month

Location: [595 North Avenue](#) **Agenda:** For most recent NPU meeting agenda, [click here](#)

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) T Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 14 (7pm) and each 2nd Wednesday of the month

Location: KIPP Primary School, 1444 Lucile Ave SW

Agenda: For most recent NPU meeting agenda, [click here](#)

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) G Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 15 (7pm) and each 3rd Thursday of the month

Location: Fire Station #28, [1925 Hollywood Road, NW](#)

Agenda: For most recent NPU meeting agenda, [click here](#)

Volunteer Day - Lindsay Street Park Landscaping Project with Trees Atlanta

Date: Saturday, October 17 (9am-12pm)

Location: [834 Oliver Street, between North Avenue and Beutell Street \(Lindsay Street Park\)](#)

Details: A volunteer day in partnership with Trees Atlanta to install landscaping for English Avenue's first park. To register [click here](#)

Atlanta Planning Advisory Board - 2015 Citizen Engagement Summit

Date: Saturday, October 17 (9am-3pm) **Location:** Atlanta City Hall, [55 Trinity Avenue](#)

Details: "Citizens will: Gain knowledge and insight on city and community-based products and services; Receive information on advocating, navigating and organizing in order to find solutions and make their voices heard; Be empowered to share resources that will build/rebuild and enhance communities. This event is free. Breakfast & lunch included. The city parking deck is located on Central Avenue across from the city courthouse and the Atlanta Public Schools Administrative building." Parking is \$4. Register by October 14 by [clicking here](#).

Save The Date - Westside Harvest Festival with [Georgia Food Oasis](#)

Date: Saturday, October 17

Details: "The first annual Westside Harvest Festival will highlight the abundance in Atlanta's

Westside neighborhoods. If you or your organization are interested in participating, please email yvonne.wagner@acfb.org. We have opportunities to contribute to neighborhood and farm tours, a cooking competition, a kids area, and more."

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) K Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 20 (6:30-8pm) and each 3rd Tuesday of the month

Location: C. A. Scott Recreation Center, [1565 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive](#)

Agenda: For most recent NPU meeting agenda, [click here](#)

Lindsay Street Park Ribbon Cutting

Date: Wednesday, October 21 (11am)

Location: [834 Oliver Street, between North Avenue and Beutell Street \(Lindsay Street Park\)](#)

Details: "Please plan to join us to celebrate the completion of the first park for the English Avenue community! More details to follow."

Webinar - EPA Urban Waters Small Grants Information Session

Date: Thursday, October 22 (2pm)

Description: EPA has announced a request for proposals for their Urban Waters Small Grants due on November 20. This webinar is an information session about the grants and opportunity to ask questions. For more information about the grants and the webinar [click here](#)

Tree Planting with [Trees Atlanta](#) in Hunter Hills

Date: Saturday, October 24 (9am-12pm)

Description: "We will be planting trees in the Hunter Hills neighborhood. We would love your help!" To sign up [click here](#)

Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) J Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 27 (7pm) and each 4th Tuesday of the month

Location: Frederick Douglas High School, [225 Hamilton E Holmes Dr. NW](#)

Agenda: For most recent NPU meeting agenda, [click here](#)

Annual Fall Affordable Housing Conference

Date: Wednesday, October 28 (8:30am-5pm)

Location: State Bar of Georgia Conference Center, [104 Marietta St, Third Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303](#)

Details: "What have you done lately to build new capabilities within your organization? Presenters from HUD, the Center for Community Progress, Enterprise Community Partners, Community Housing Capital, Metro Fair Housing Services, and more will explain the shifts in today's political environment and suggest new tools to further our mission-driven work. Keynote speaker: Taifa Butler, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute" For more information and to register [click here](#)

Organized by: Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Fifth Third Bank, Neighborworks America, PNC Bank

16th Annual Creating Opportunity Conference

Date: Thursday, October 29 at 2pm - Saturday, October 31 at 3:30pm

Location: Hyatt Regency Atlanta, [265 Peachtree Street Northeast Atlanta, GA 30303](#)

Details: "Creating Opportunity is for anyone who wants to maximize the power of the vote, the voice or the dollar. We start with PUSHTech2020 Think Tank, a pitch competition. You will learn how to monetize your great ideas, use the Constitution to protect your civil rights and technology to enrich your life and relationships. Creating Opportunity will inspire parents, policy makers, youth and educators to use culture and entertainment to drive high achievement and stabilize communities." To register [click here](#)

Organized by: The Citizenship Education Fund and [Rainbow PUSH Coalition](#)

Tree Planting with [Trees Atlanta](#) in Vine City/AUC/English Avenue

Date: Saturday, October 31 (9am-12pm)

Description: "We will be planting trees in the Vine City/AUC/English Avenue neighborhood. We would love your help!" To sign up [click here](#)

[Atlanta BeltLine](#) 4th Quarterly Briefing of 2015

Date: Tuesday, November 3 (6-8pm)

Location: Cleveland L. Dennard Conference Center at Atlanta Technical College, Building B, [1560 Metropolitan Parkway, SW, Atlanta, GA](#)

Description: "Come get the latest updates about the Atlanta BeltLine! Quarterly briefing public meetings are designed to provide the community and stakeholders citywide with updates on the progress of the Atlanta BeltLine with regards to planning, design, construction, community engagement, affordable housing, public art, and transit and transportation. For more information contact: Nathan Soldat, Community Engagement Advocate at NSoldat@atlbeltline.org"

River Rendezvous at Proctor Creek!

Date: Saturday, November 7 (9:30am-12:30pm)

Location: Grove Park Recreation Center, [750 Francis PI NW](#)

Details: The Proctor Creek River Rendezvous is back! "Help Proctor Creek and the community by becoming a water quality monitor for the day! Take water samples from Proctor Creek and your neighborhood streams, Explore west Atlanta's green spaces, and Learn more about Proctor Creek! Lunch provided. Register now and get a free T-Shirt by [clicking here](#) or calling 404-752-5385."

Organized by: [Chattahoochee Riverkeeper](#), [West Atlanta Watershed Alliance](#), [Proctor Creek Stewardship Council](#), and [Georgia Adopt-A-Stream](#)


Note that event organizers occasionally change event details after printing

For the most recent list of events relevant to the Proctor Creek watershed, visit:

EXPLORE PROCTOR CREEK

The mainstem and tributaries of Proctor Creek flow throughout a 16 square mile area of northwest Atlanta, though finding the flowing water can sometimes be difficult. Here are three accessible spots to see Proctor Creek in action:

- **Grove Park** - Proctor Creek flows along the northern edge of the park and can be seen near the intersection of [Hortense Place NW](#) and [Florence Place NW](#)
- **PATH Riverside Park Trail** - A paved trail runs along Proctor Creek for approximately half a mile from Johnson Rd to a location behind the West Highlands neighborhood. Access adjacent Boyd Elementary School ([1891 Johnson Rd NW](#))
- **Pet Heaven** - A pet cemetery adjacent to Proctor Creek just south of the bridge on Jackson Pkwy ([near 1500 James Jackson Pkwy NW](#))

 More Proctor Creek information online - AboutProctorCreek.com

 Facebook - Facebook.com/AboutProctorCreek

 Twitter - [@AbtProctorCreek](https://twitter.com/AbtProctorCreek)

You received this newsletter because of your involvement, leadership, and interest in activities related to Proctor Creek and Northwest Atlanta. Numerous individuals, organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions are actively working within the Proctor Creek watershed to improve the environment and the quality of life of residents. To share information for the next newsletter, email contact@aboutproctorcreek.com

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You are receiving this email because you have been involved in activities and discussion related to Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed or because you have expressed an interest in learning more about the watershed.

About Proctor Creek
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