

Advancing Stormwater Management at the Atlanta University Center Community:

Goals, Expectations and Reflections on
Our Current Progress

Dr. Yomi Noibi
Environmental Community Action Inc.
(ECO-Action)



Conference Goals

- Share progress on completed, ongoing, and proposed stormwater management and green space at the Atlanta University Center (AUC).
- Underscore the need to *retain* and *detain* stormwater at AUC's high elevation in order to prevent and reduce the impact of flooding on low lying underserved communities.
- Expand the AUC Green Infrastructure Leadership Team to advance innovative stormwater management and green space at the AUC communities.

Conference Expectations

Wanted:

- Drum Majors for Comprehensive Stormwater Management
- AUC College Leaders
- AUC College Directors of Planning and Facilities



Conference Expectations

Collect Reflections:

- To gather as many reflections as possible in our limited time, we ask that all Conference attendees record their thoughts throughout the proceedings in the CHAT





About ECO-Action

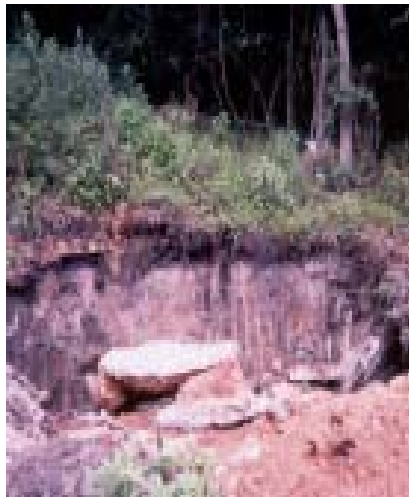
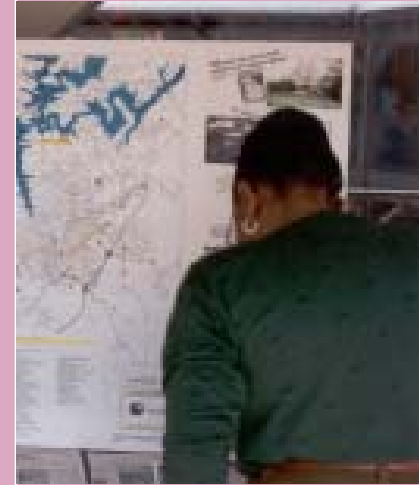
- ECO-Action is a statewide, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote a safe and healthy environment by helping Georgia communities *organize* to address environmental health threats.
- Since 1998, we have assisted more than 140 community groups in 95 Georgia counties—providing community organizing assistance, training, capacity building, and leadership development.

Dimensions of ECO-Action

Helping people help themselves



Dedicated to information sharing, learning and skill building



Getting results



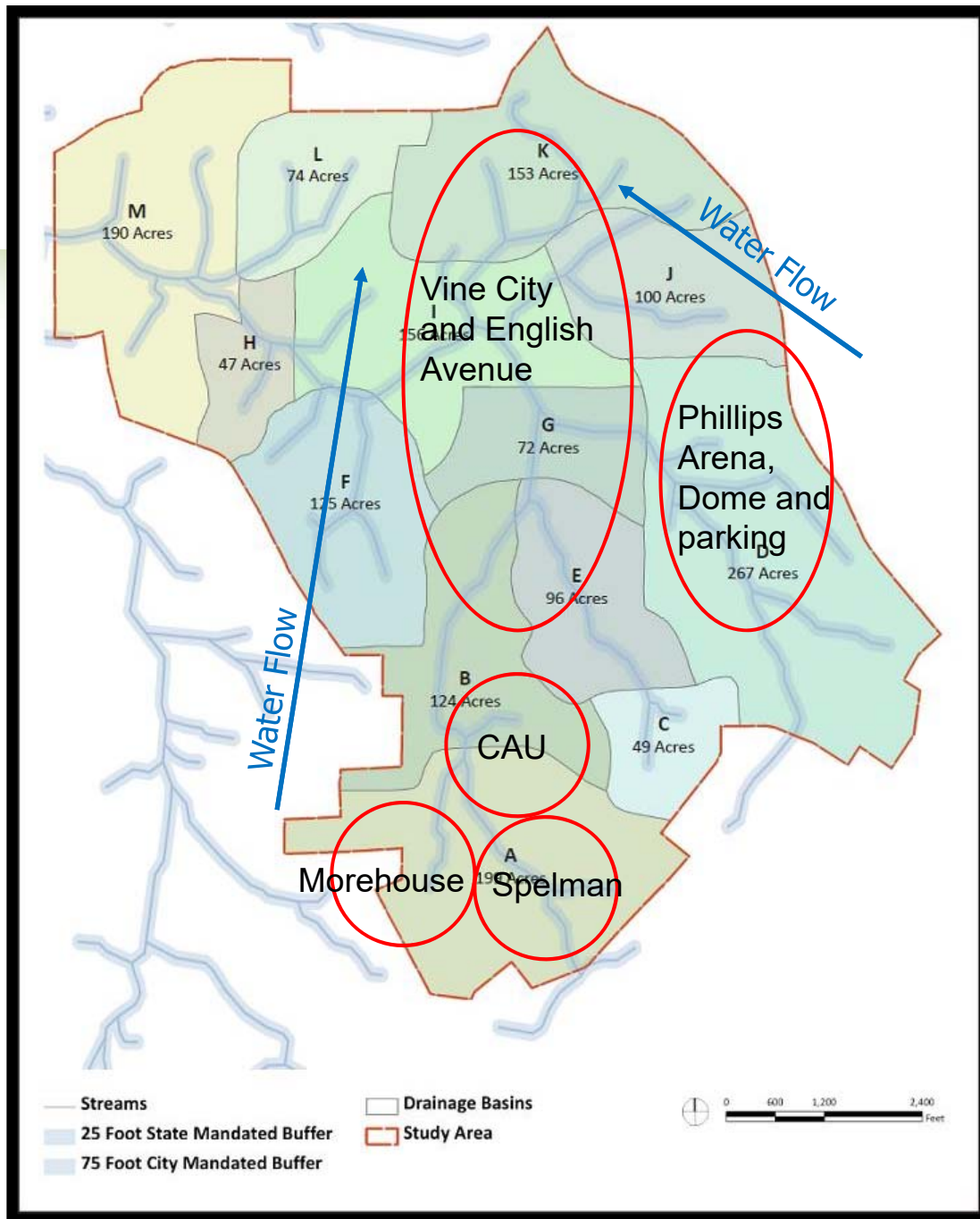
Valuing and envisioning social justice and equity

Stormwater at the AUC

Problem and Background

- In 2014, EPA awarded ECO-Action funding to engage the AUC campuses to mitigate the impact of their *stormwater and combined sewer overflows* on Proctor Creek communities with green infrastructure





Earlier, Park Pride and community members had advocated for the development of conceptual plans for the lower elevation sub-watersheds in Vine City and English Avenue. Community members like Able Mable Thomas & Tony Torrence led this stage of the project.

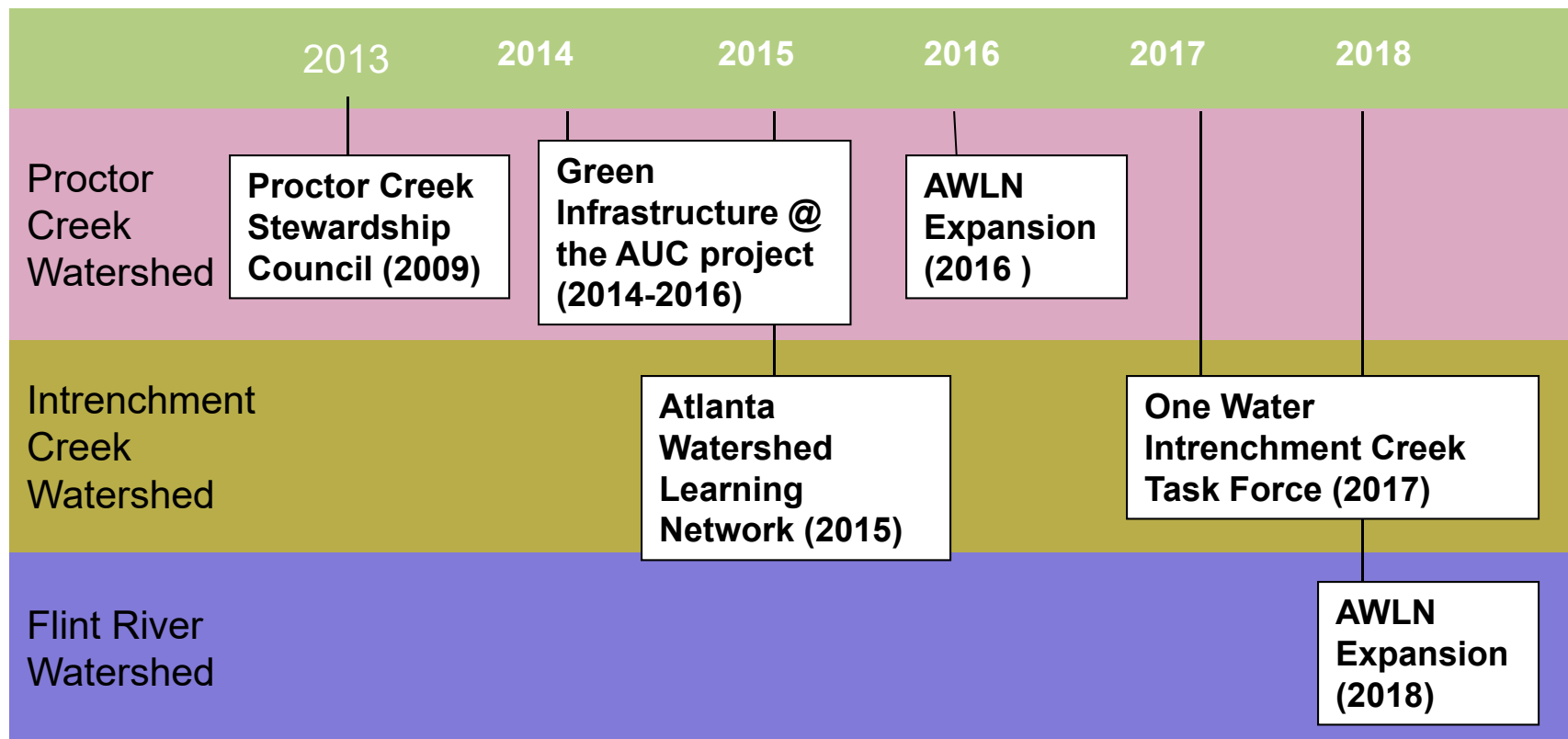
ECO-Action's later project addressed the need for stormwater retention and detention at the higher elevation, AUC colleges through student-driven activities.



The Green Infrastructure at the AUC Project

- Was completed between 2014 and 2016
- It sought to:
 - Share Green Infrastructure Concepts through teaching and research
 - Engage students in Community Outreach, Collaboration & Service Learning
 - Involve students in Green Infrastructure Conceptual Planning
 - Host Community Forum and Conferences

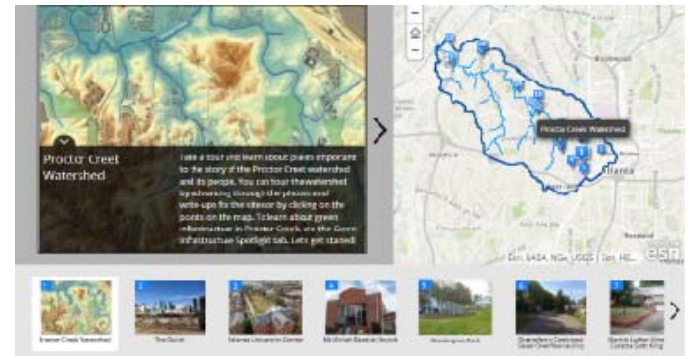
Efforts toward GI have expanded both in Proctor Creek and Atlanta at-large

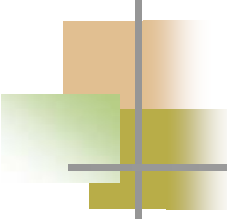


Leveraging Partnerships & Nurturing Opportunities to Advance GI

- Currently ECO-Action continues to promote and share Green Infrastructure benefits in the Proctor Creek Watershed:
 - EPA Story Mapping for the Proctor Creek
 - Community Driven, Health Impact Assessments
 - AWLN Expansion

ECO-Action is now focused on nurturing opportunities and leveraging collaboration, partnerships so that AUC stakeholders can take ownership of adapting/adopting implementing the 9 conceptual plans.





Without the collaboration of these partners and the resolution of stormwater issues at the AUC, Proctor Creek Communities will continue to suffer from flooding impacts.

This conference seeks to advance this effort!

