# Urban Ecology Framework
# STORY OF PLACE
# VISION AND GOALS

**May 22, 2018 – Public Meeting**

## STORY OF PLACE
### Urban Ecology Framework

- The framework will characterize the landscape ecology of Atlanta, exploring the distribution natural resources that make this city unique and propose strategies for connections, protection and improvement of environmental assets for the benefit of all community members.

- It is not a site-specific restoration plan, but a landscape-level framework with recommendations and strategies that set the stage for future more detailed actions.

# OUTLINE

Welcome & Orientation

Centering

Story of Place
- Urban Ecology
- Existing Conditions Mapping

Story of Place Activity

Vision and Goals
- Previous Plans
- Draft Vision and Goals

Vision and Goals Activity

Wrap-up Discussion

Reflections

## CENTERING

*Bringing one's attention to the present moment*

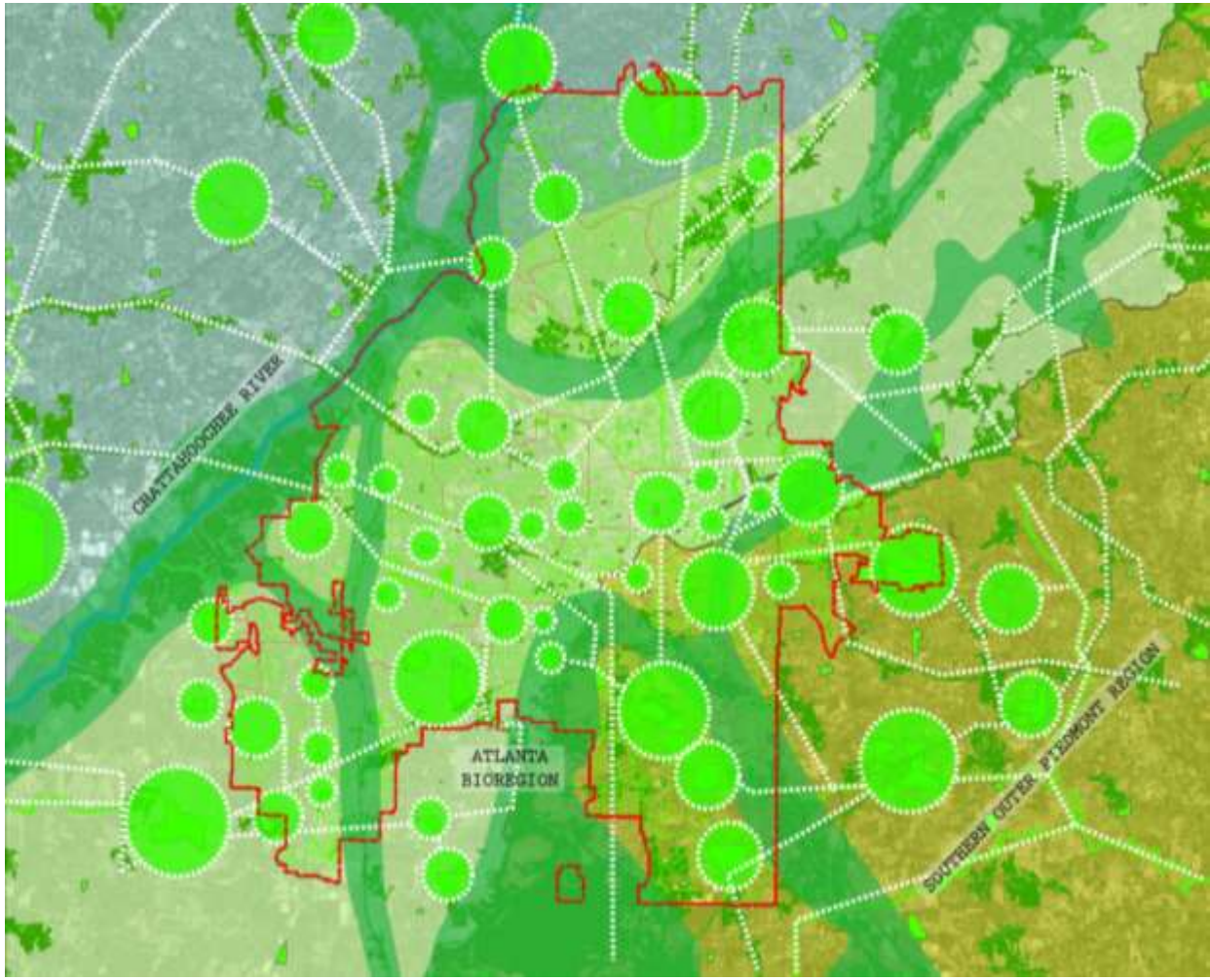
*Becoming grounded in the intention of the day*

*And in engaging with the group present*

## STORY OF PLACE

### Urban Ecology - A Definition

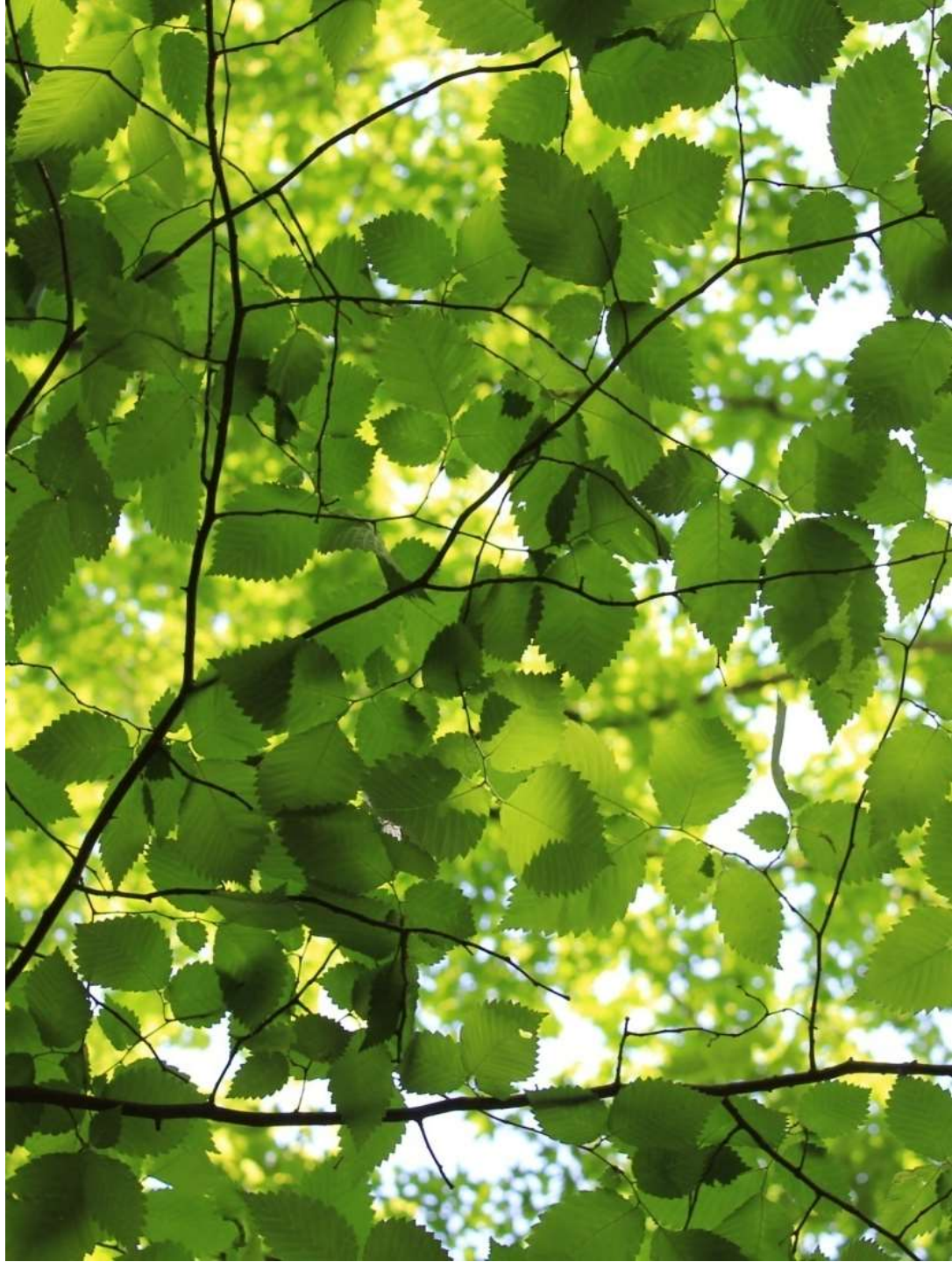
- Interactions of nature and humans in an urban context – people and nature in community together.
- Impacts of development on function of ecology in cities
- Heat island and microclimate, biodiversity, pollution, & modifications to landscapes
- Considers everything from sustainability and resilience.



## DATA ANALYSIS

1. Habitat and biodiversity
2. Ecosystem services
3. Parks and open space
4. Environmental justice and climate justice

**Cross-cutting themes:**
Resilience, Function,
Conservation,
Access/Connectivity



# STORY OF PLACE
# DEFINING ATLANTA'S ECOLOGY

***FROM THE NATIONAL***
***TO THE LOCAL SCALE***

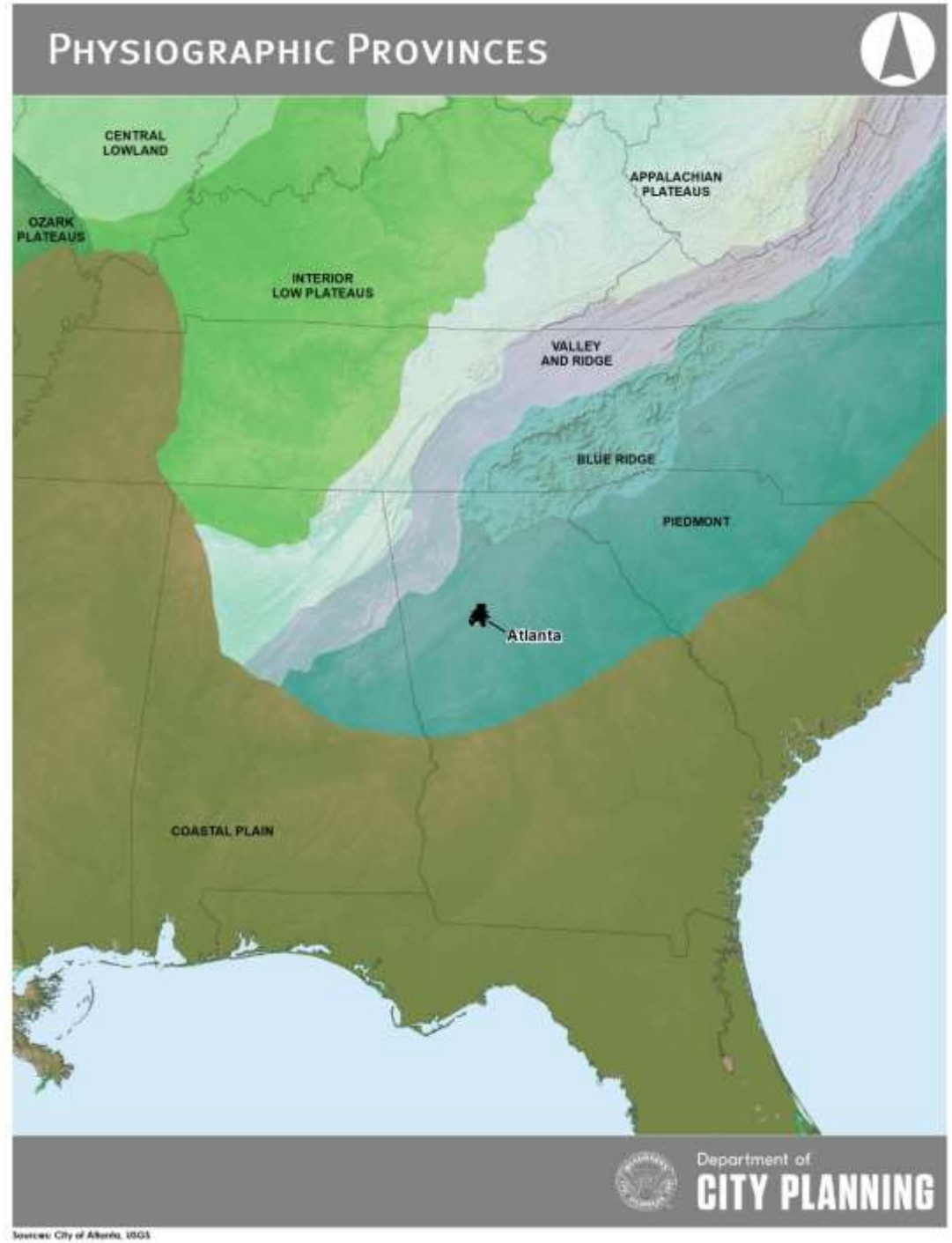
# STORY OF PLACE

## Defining Atlanta's Ecological Character


## National / Mega Region – Migratory Flyways

# STORY OF PLACE

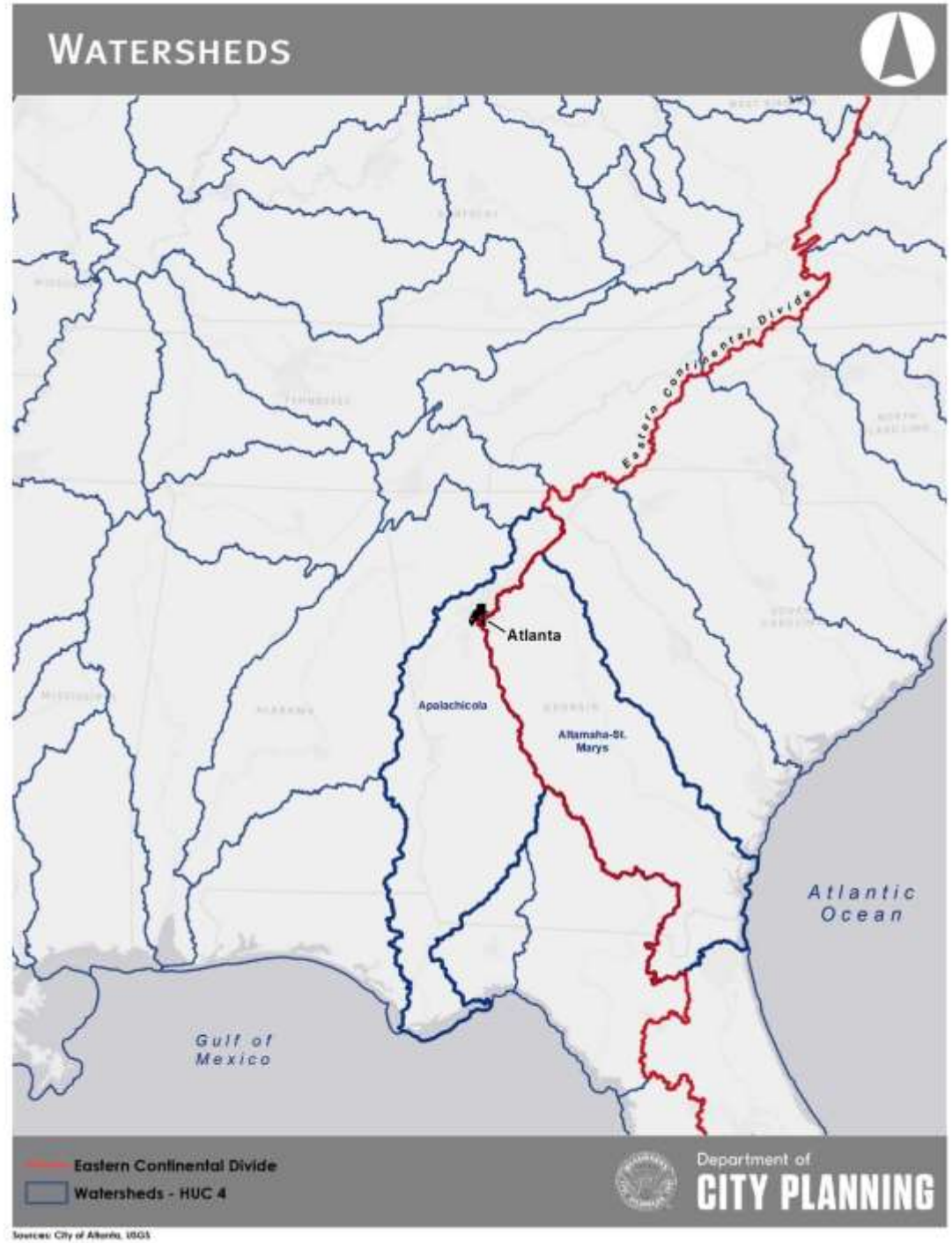
## Defining Atlanta's Ecological Character




## National / Mega Region – Physiographic Provinces

# STORY OF PLACE

## Defining Atlanta's Ecological Character




Sources: City of Atlanta, USGS

## National / Mega Region - Watersheds

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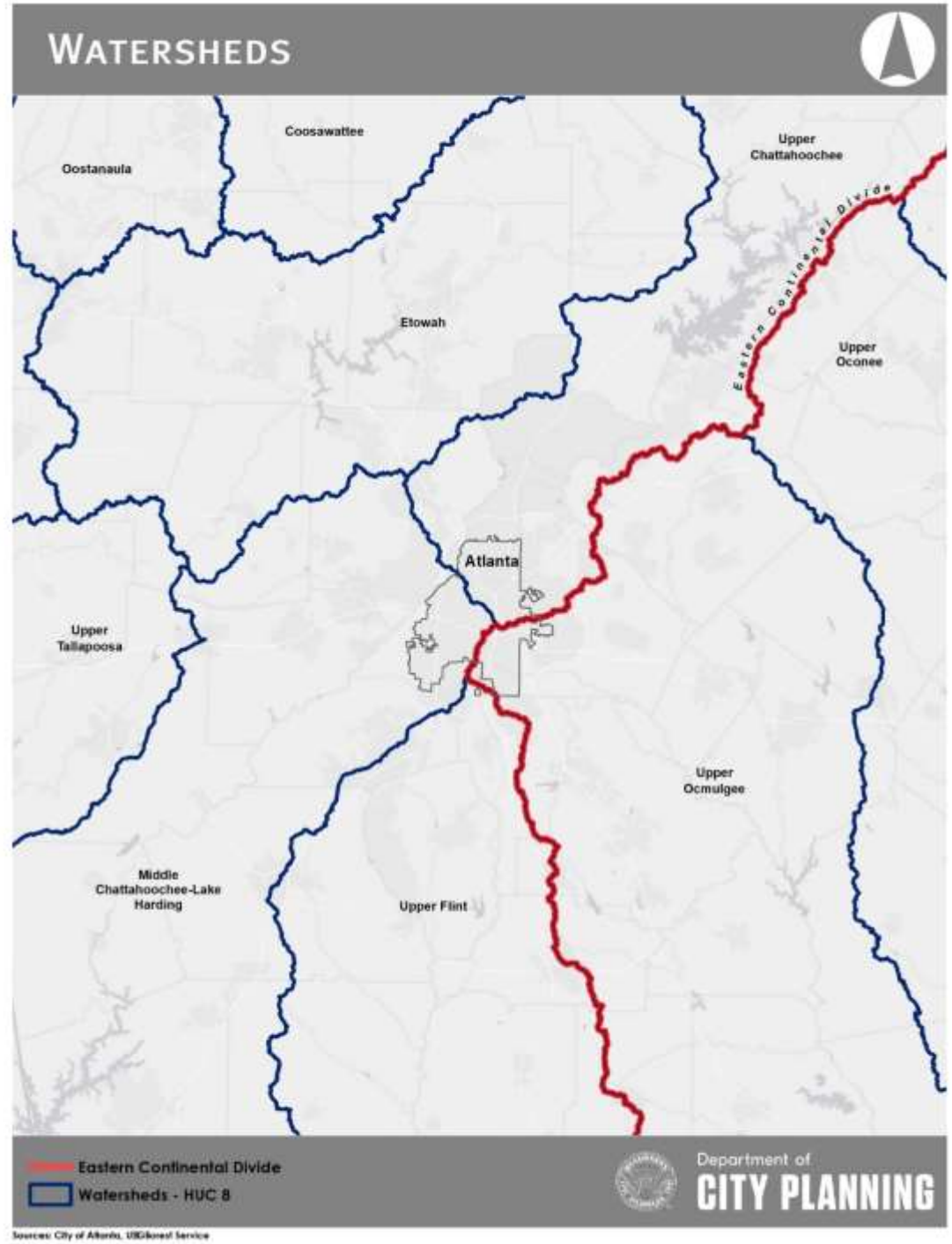


Regional – Watersheds

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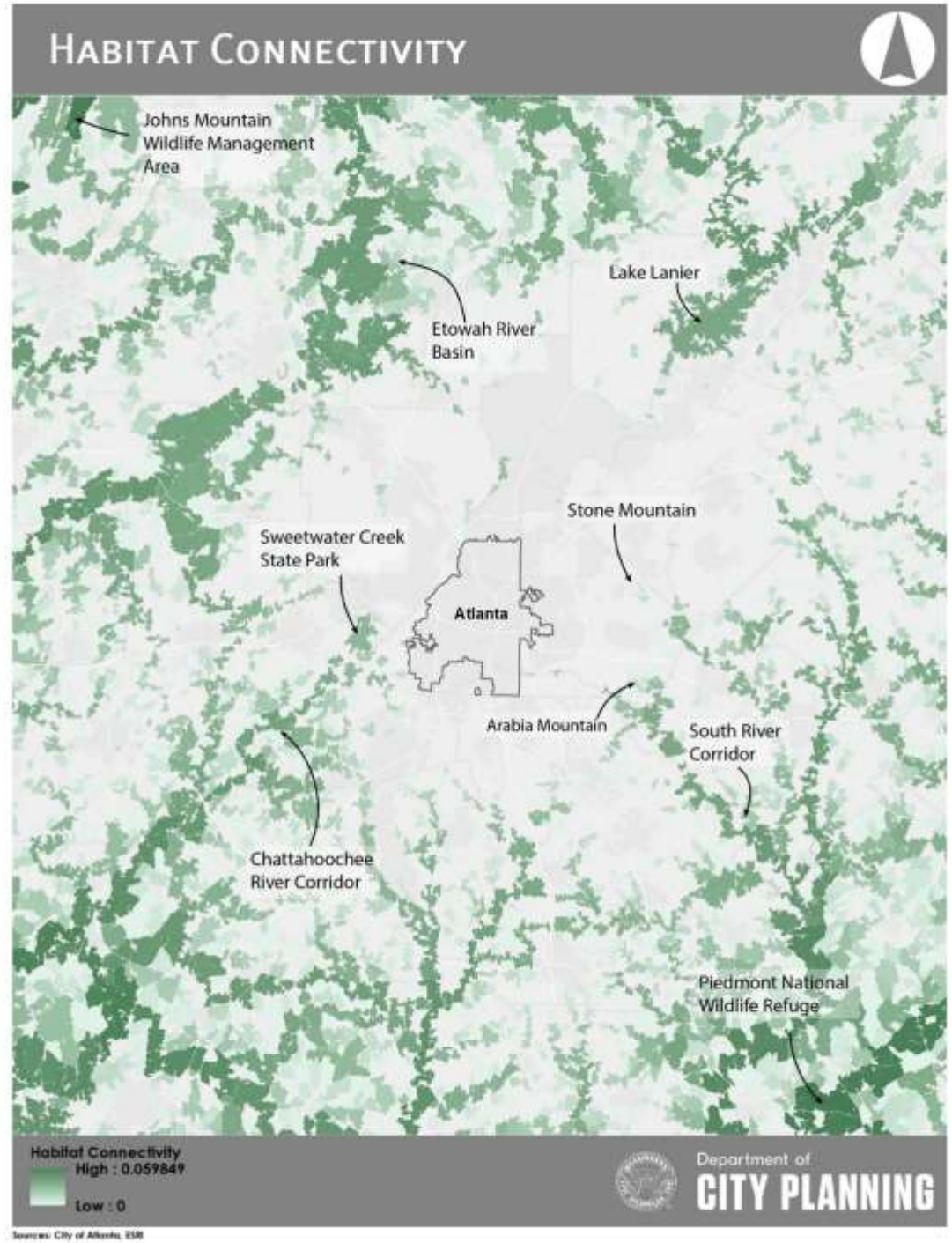


## Regional – Habitat Connectivity

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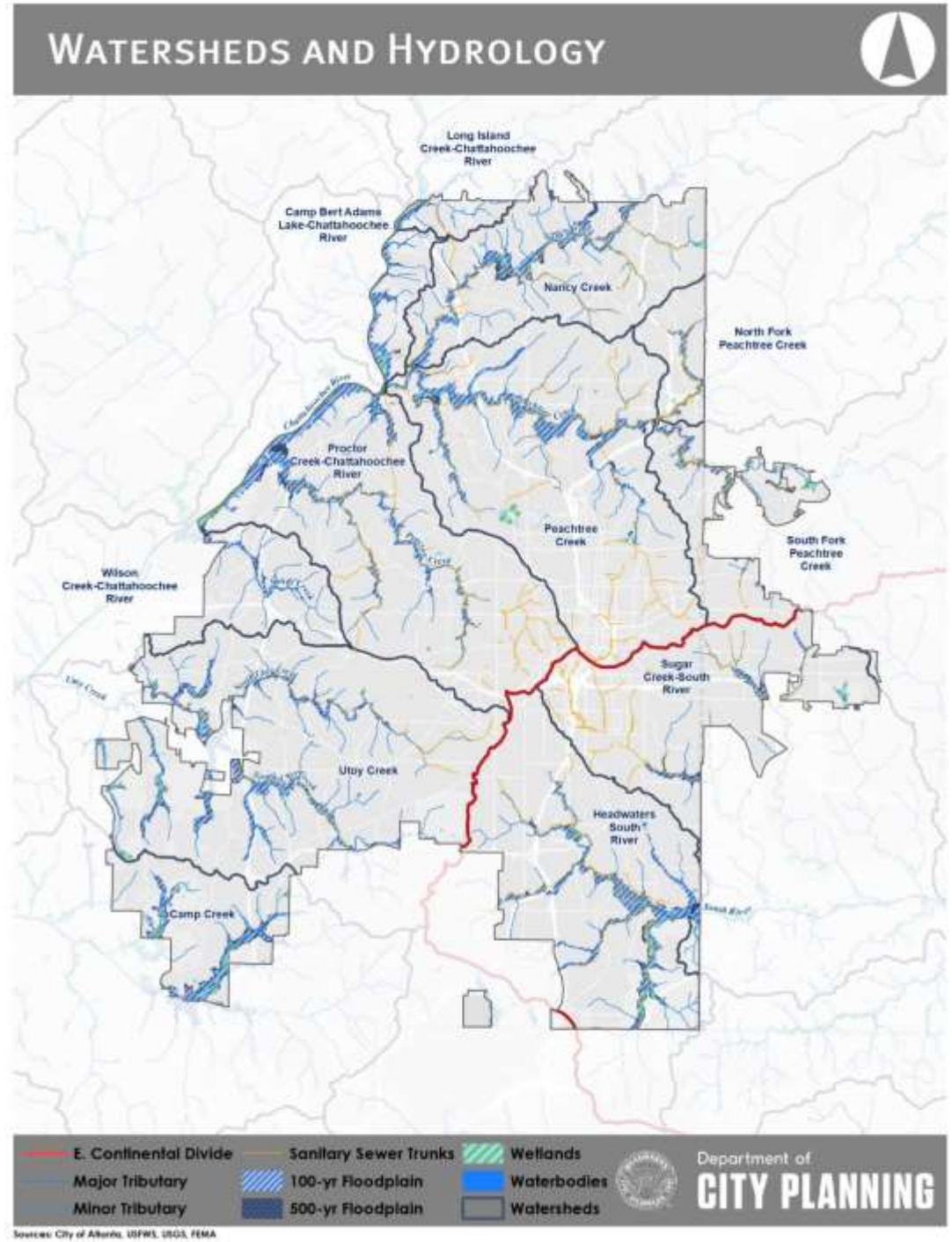


City – Watersheds and Hydrology

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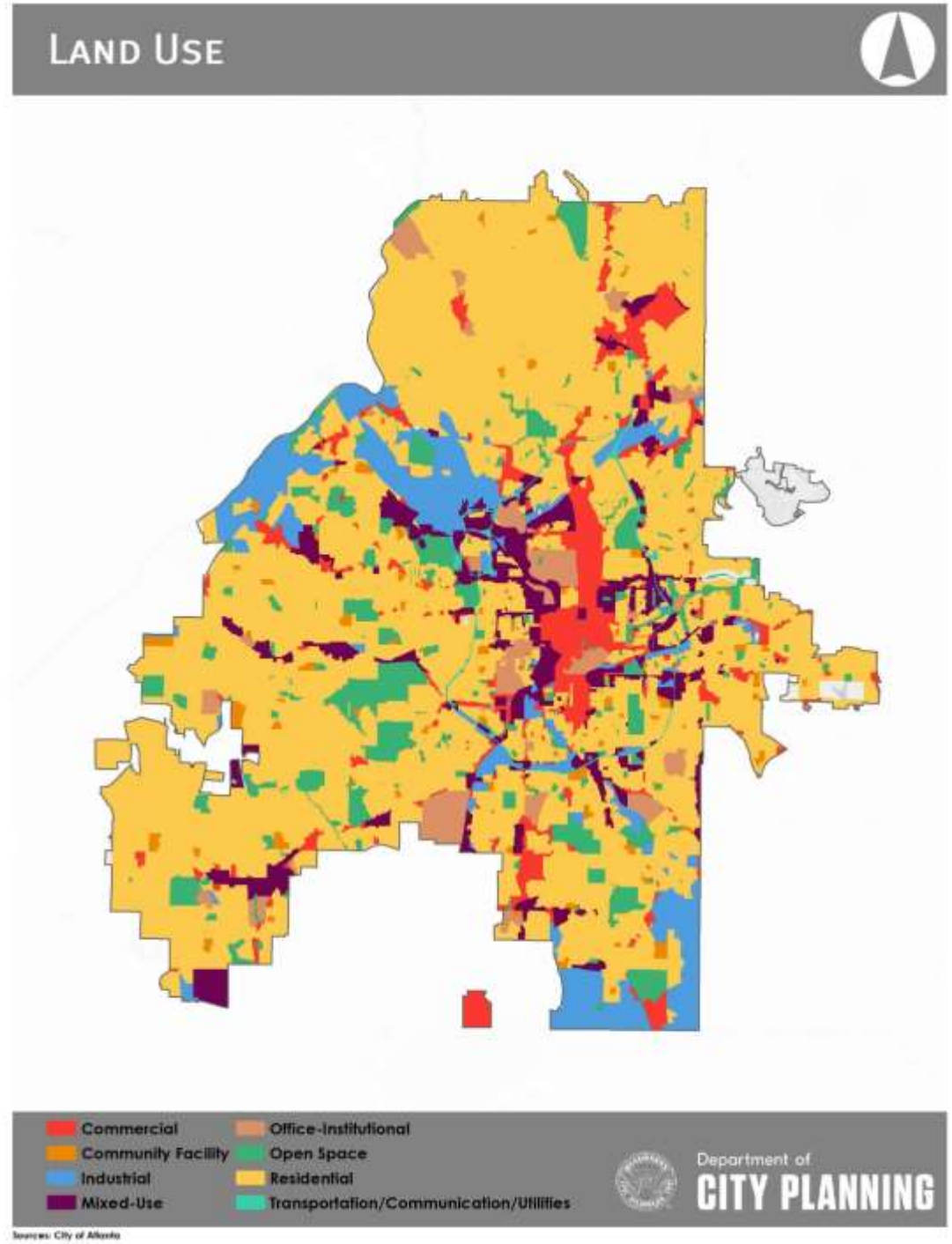


City – Land Use

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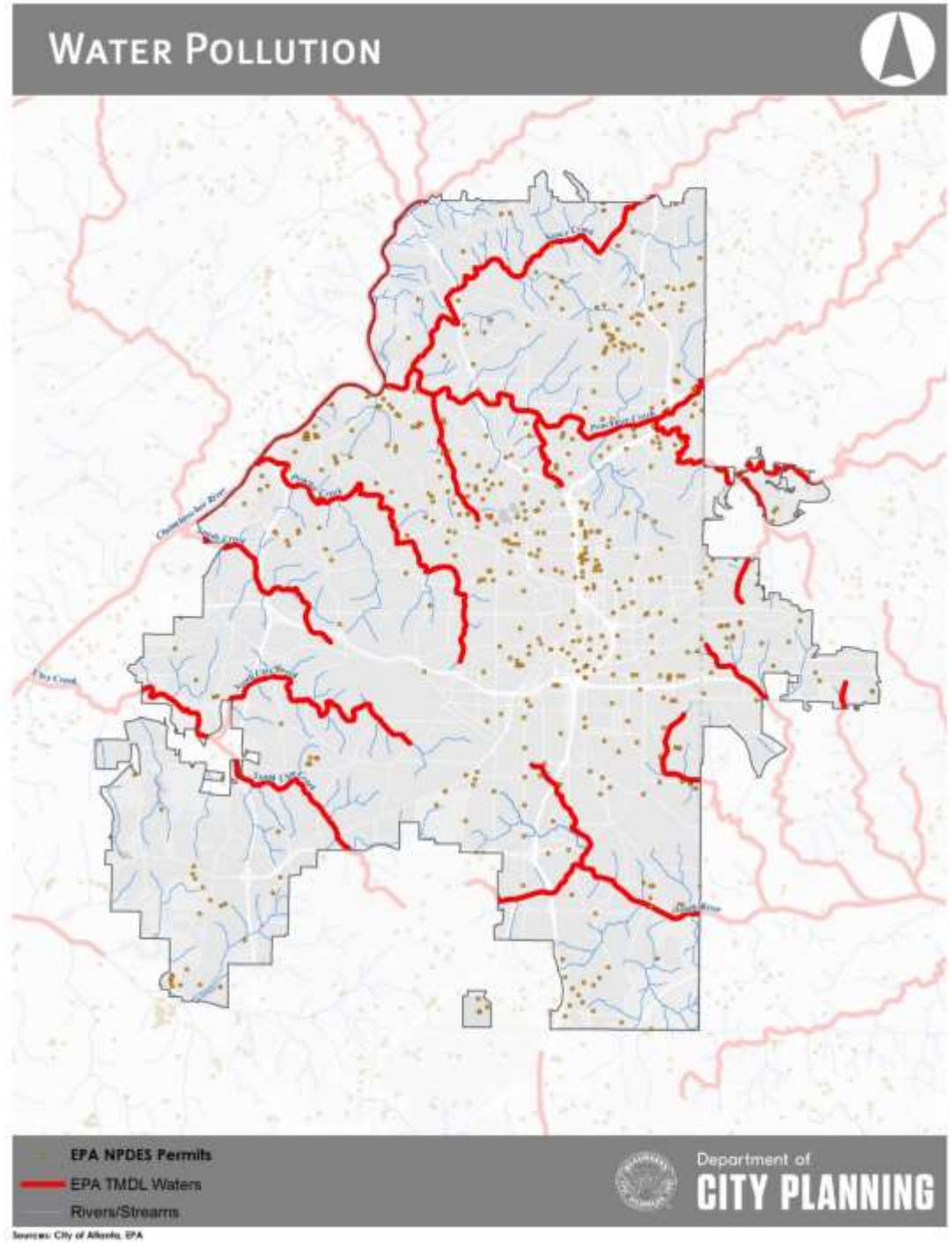


City – Pollution (Water)

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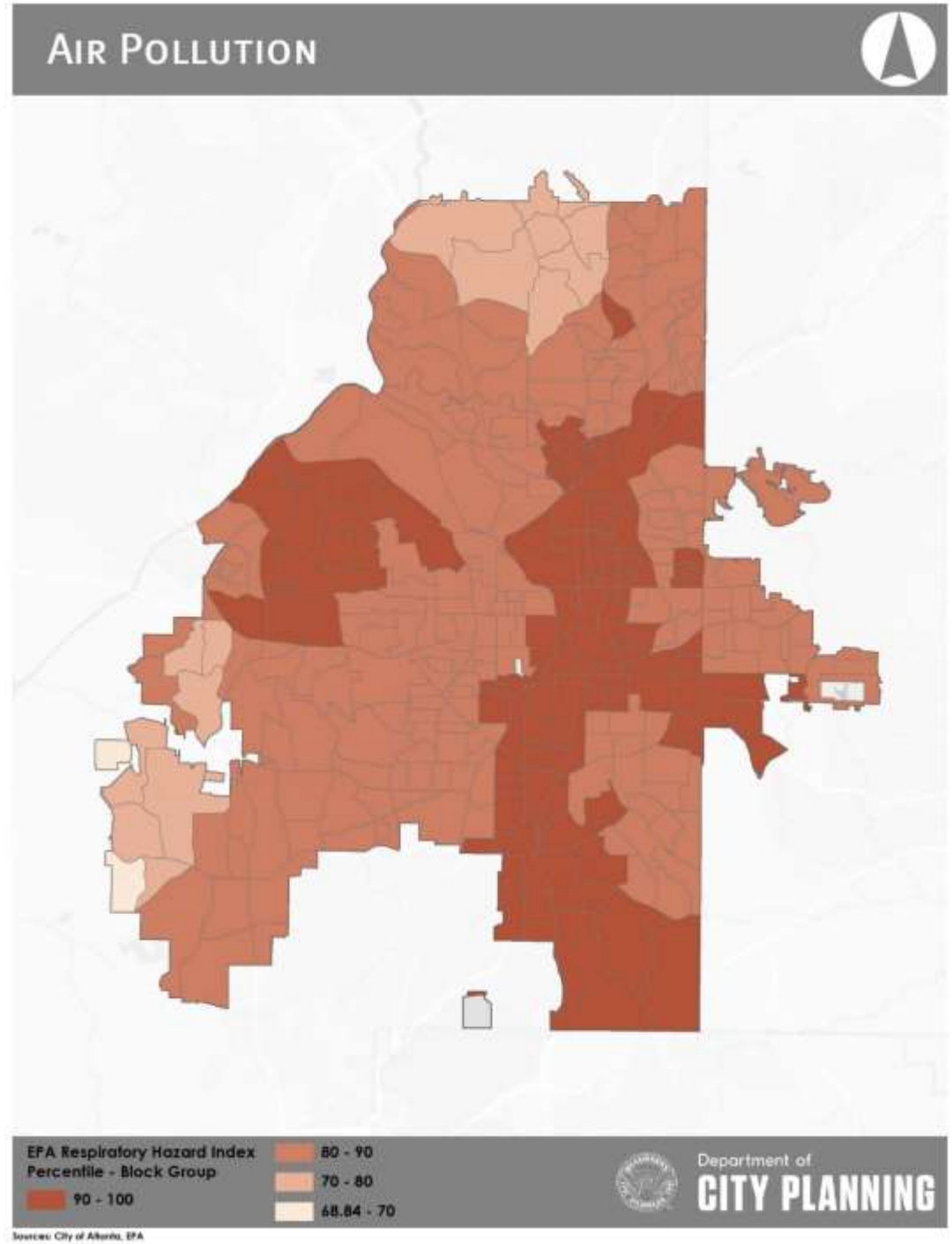


City – Pollution (Air)

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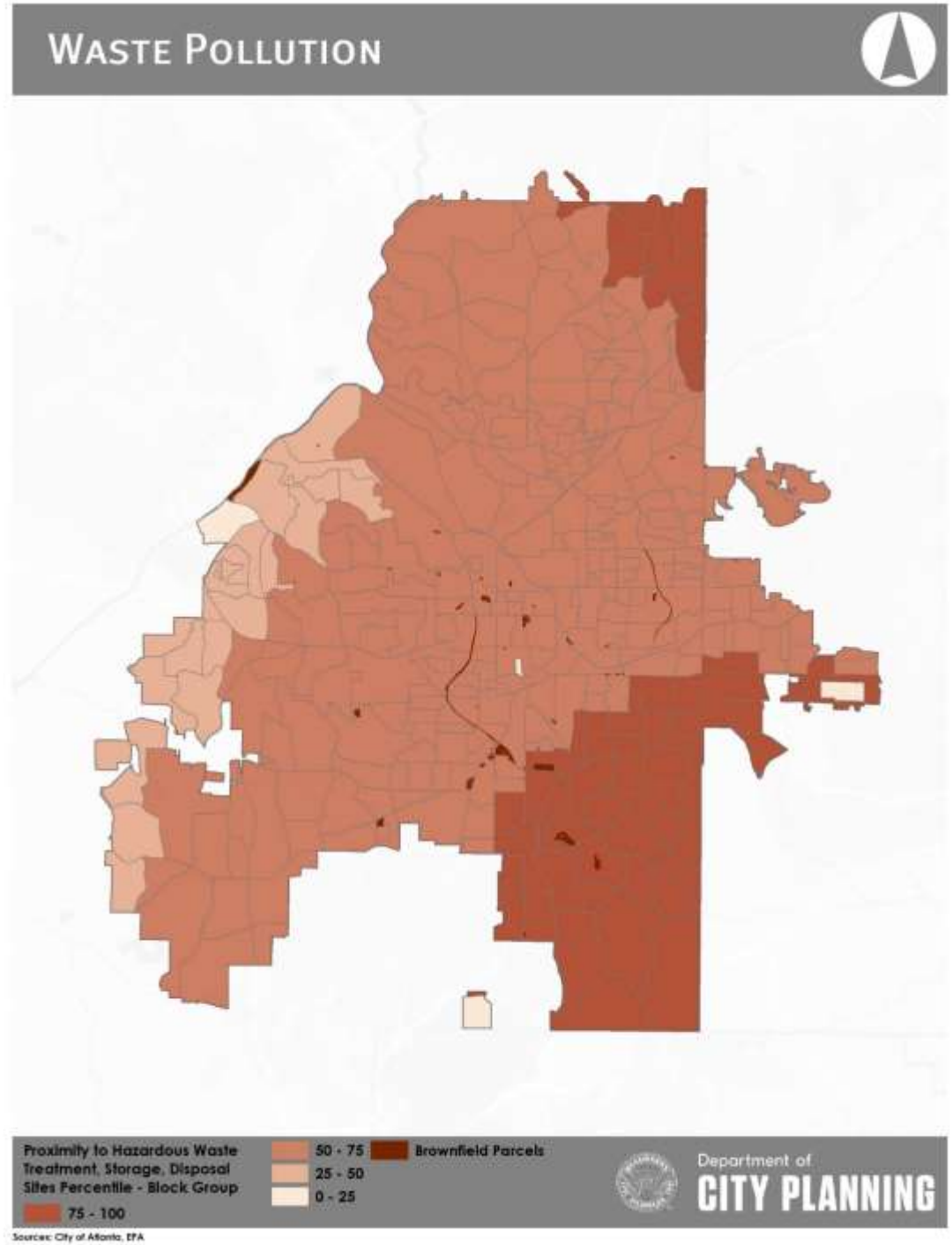


City – Pollution (Waste & brownfields)

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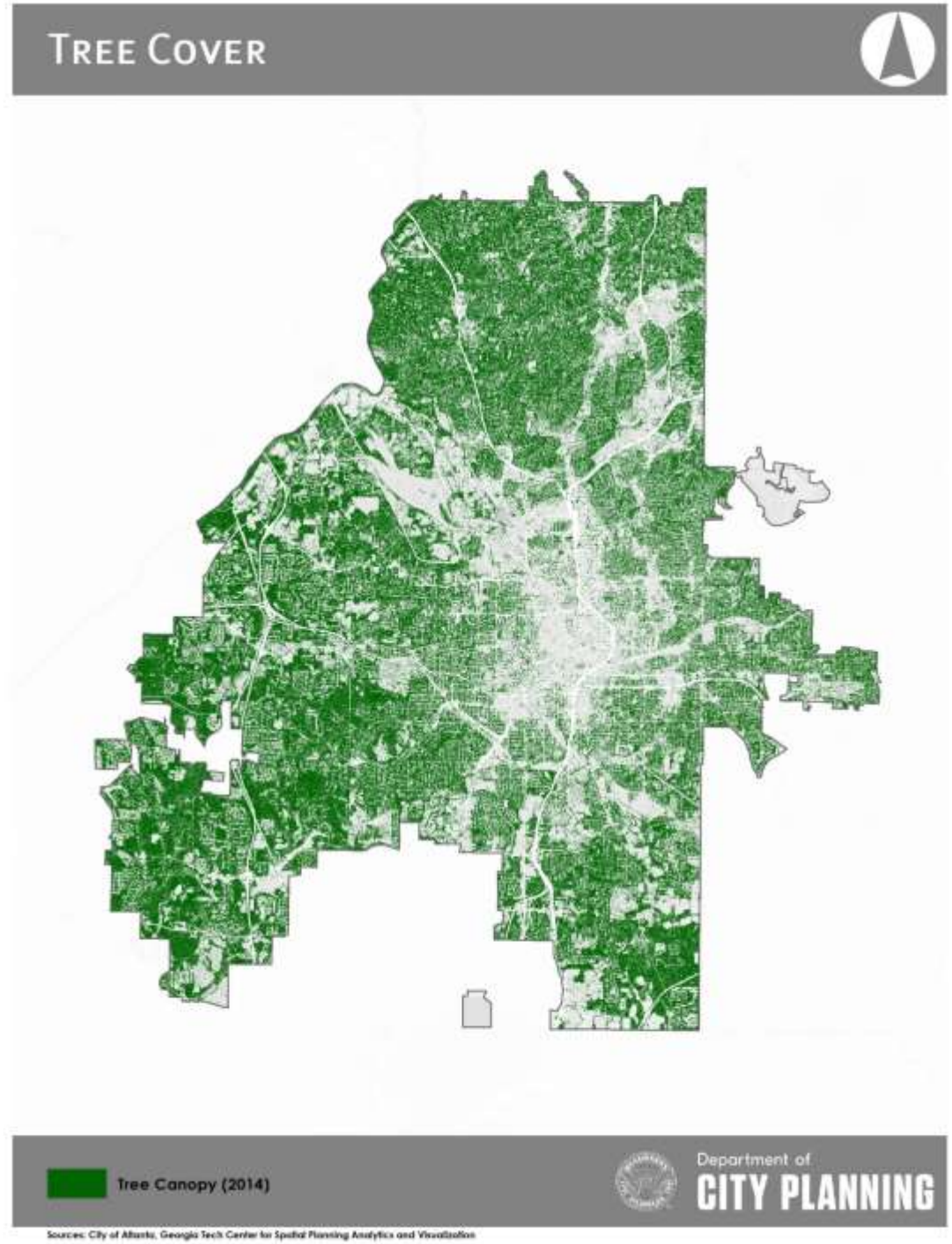


City – Tree Cover

# STORY OF PLACE

## Defining Atlanta's Ecological Character


City – Impervious Cover

# STORY OF PLACE

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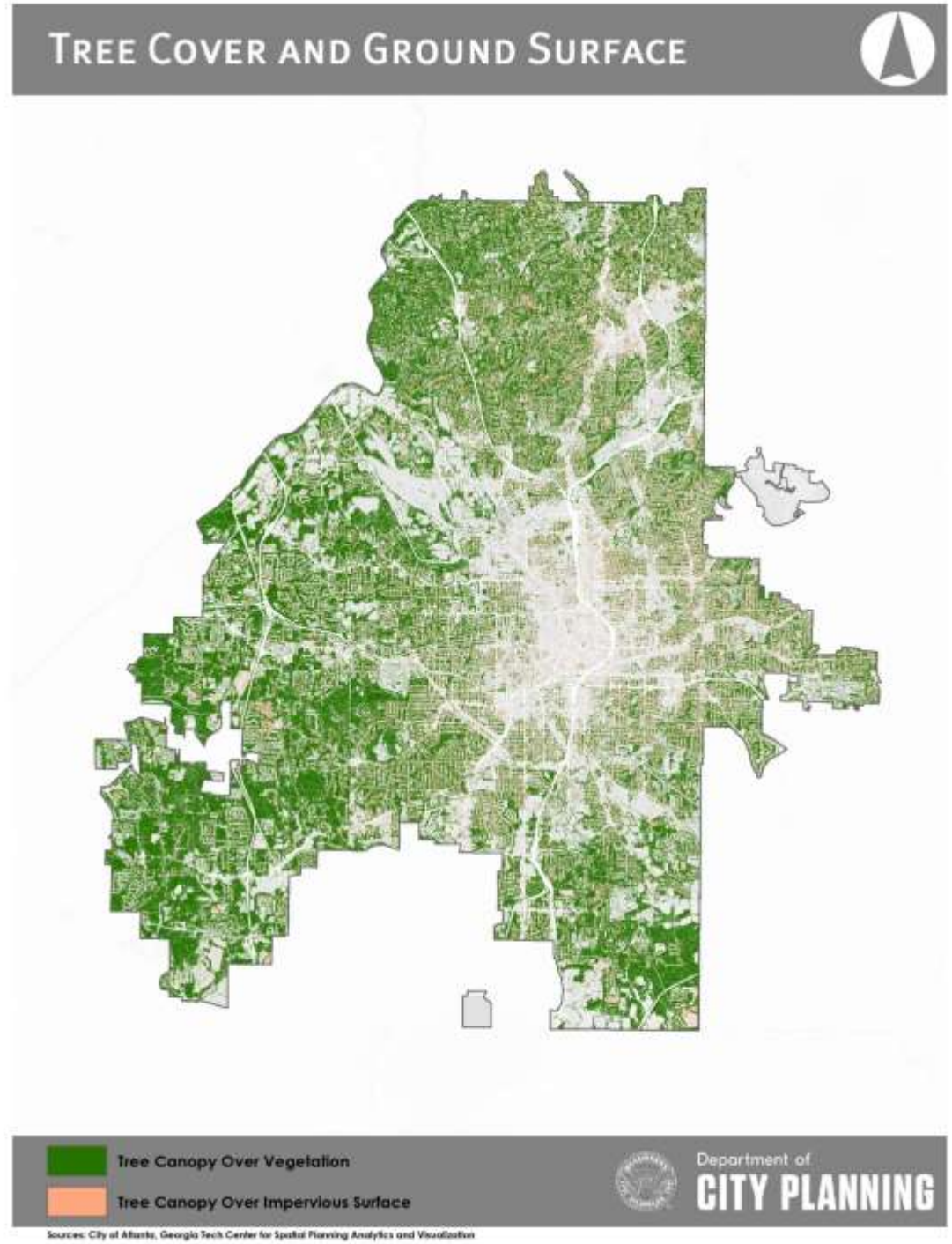


City – Forest Patches

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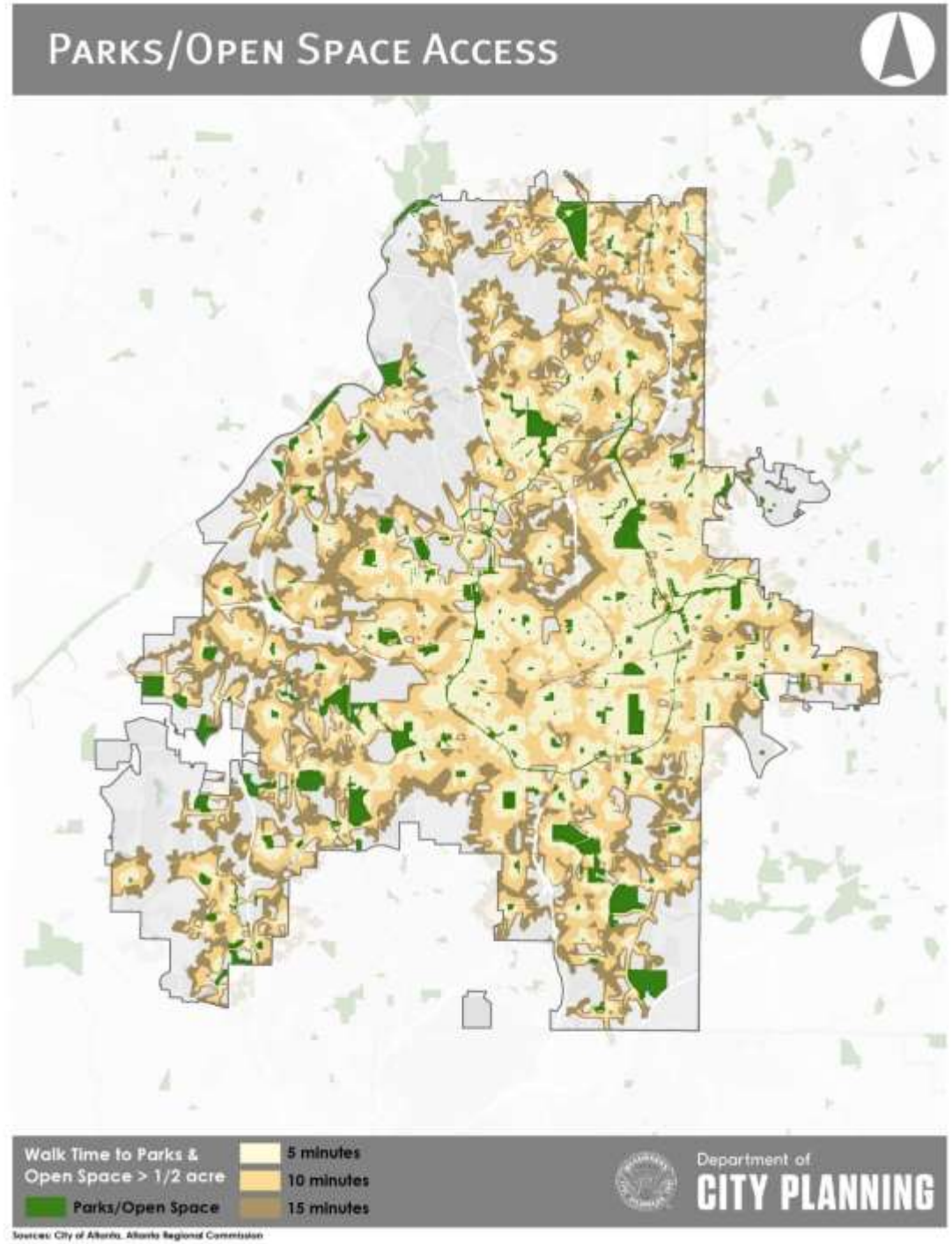


City – Parks/Open Space Access

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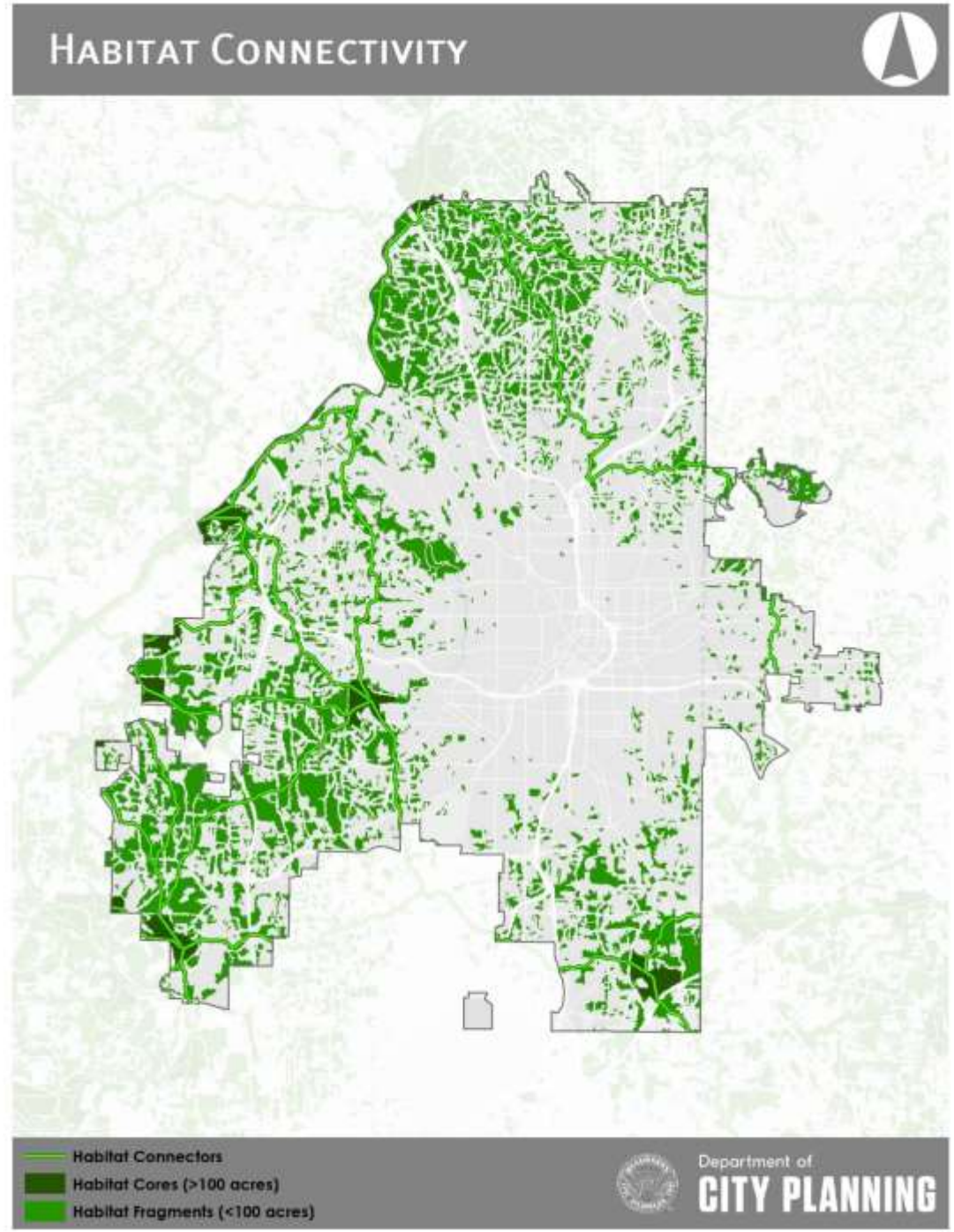



City – Habitat Connectivity

# STORY OF PLACE ACTIVITY

## STORY OF PLACE
## World Café Roundtable Discussion

# What is Atlanta's Story of Place?

***What makes Atlanta unique today from an ecological perspective?***

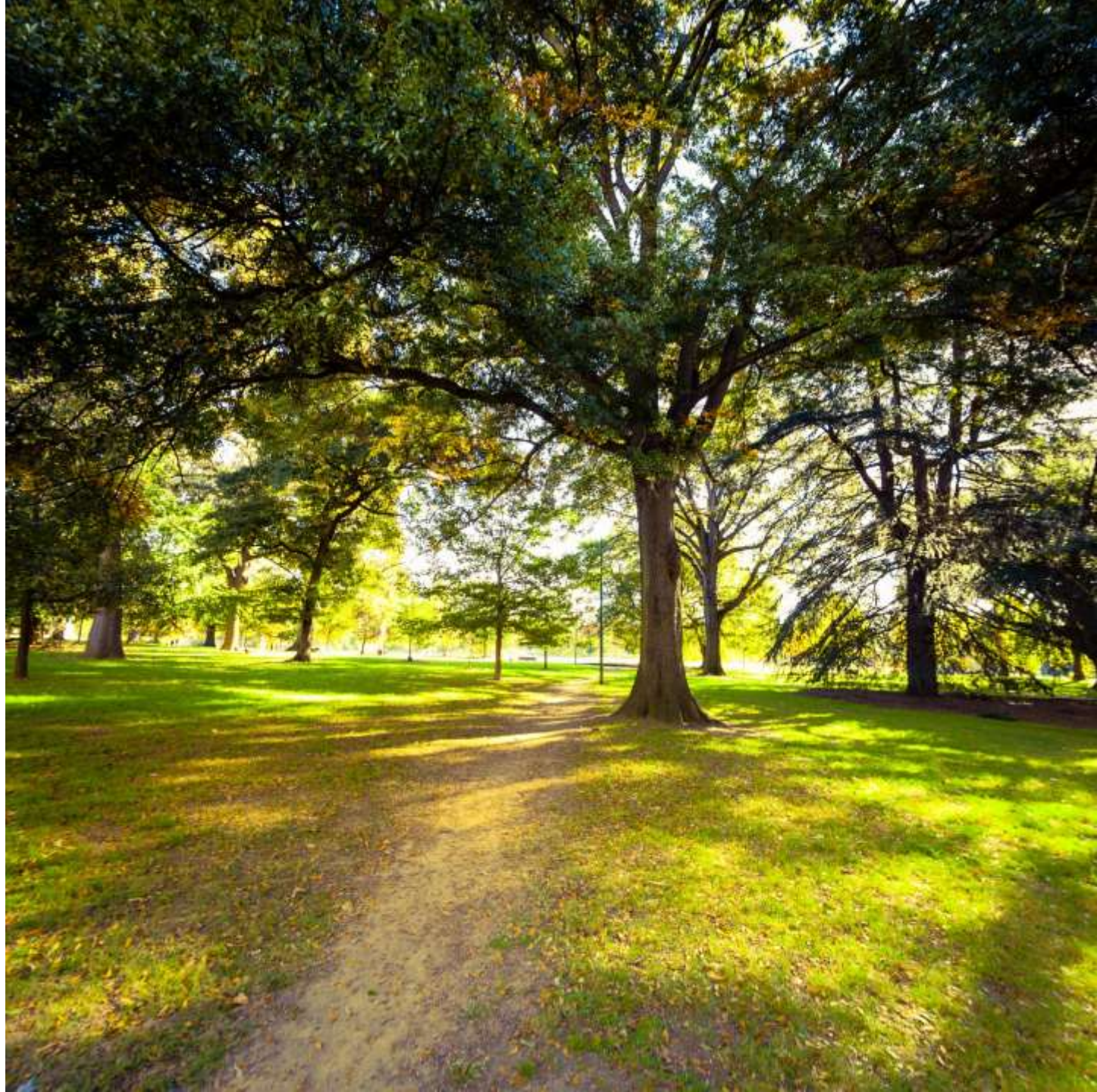
***How did we get here?***

***What current trends and patterns are you seeing?***

***What is challenging about Atlanta's urban ecology? and the trends shaping tomorrow?***

***What threatens Atlanta's ecological uniqueness?***

***WRAP-UP DISCUSSION***



# VISION AND GOALS

# VISION

Describes a community's values and aspirations for what the future could look like, the dream for the future of the City and its ecosystems

# GOALS

Set the priorities for fulfilling that vision with statements of purpose

## VISION AND GOALS

### Past Studies

## CITY DESIGN

### Design for Nature

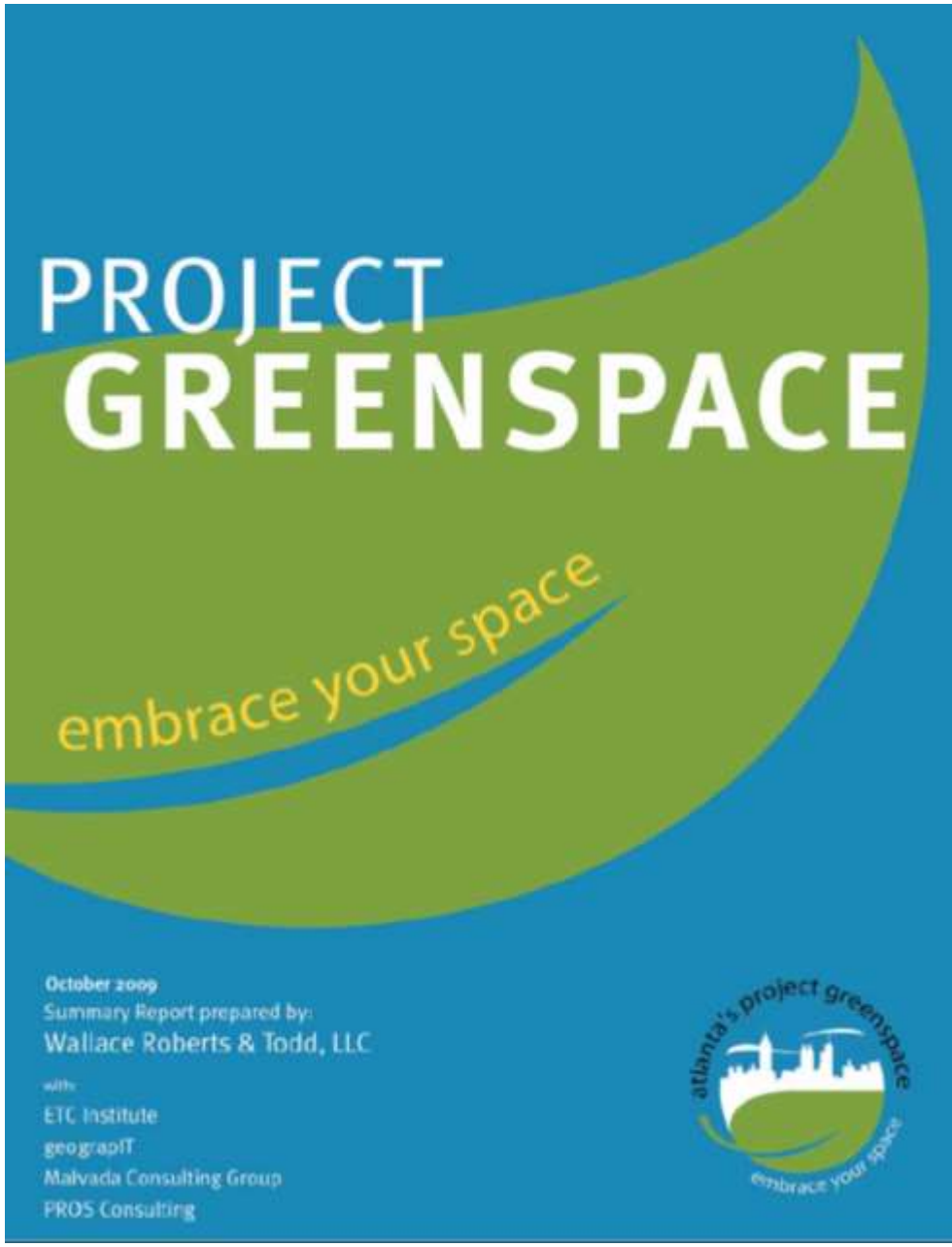
- Design for wildness and habitat, integrated into the life of the city
- Design for retreat and adventure - a citywide trail network
- Design for comfort – tree canopy to maximize both human and ecological benefits
- Design for people in Nature- connections of city life and nature
- Design for lifestyles -clusters of ecodevelopment organized around nature

## VISION AND GOALS

### Past Studies

### PROJECT GREENSPACE

1. Increase acreage and distribution
2. ***Establish connections between greenspaces***
3. ***Protect environmentally sensitive lands***
4. ***Protect and restore Atlanta's tree canopy -*** meet a target of 40% coverage
5. Promote the use of greenspace as ***community gathering*** places
6. Promote public/private partnerships to ***grow and manage the greenspace system***
7. Promote and coordinate the ***dedication of greenspace*** within new development and redevelopment projects

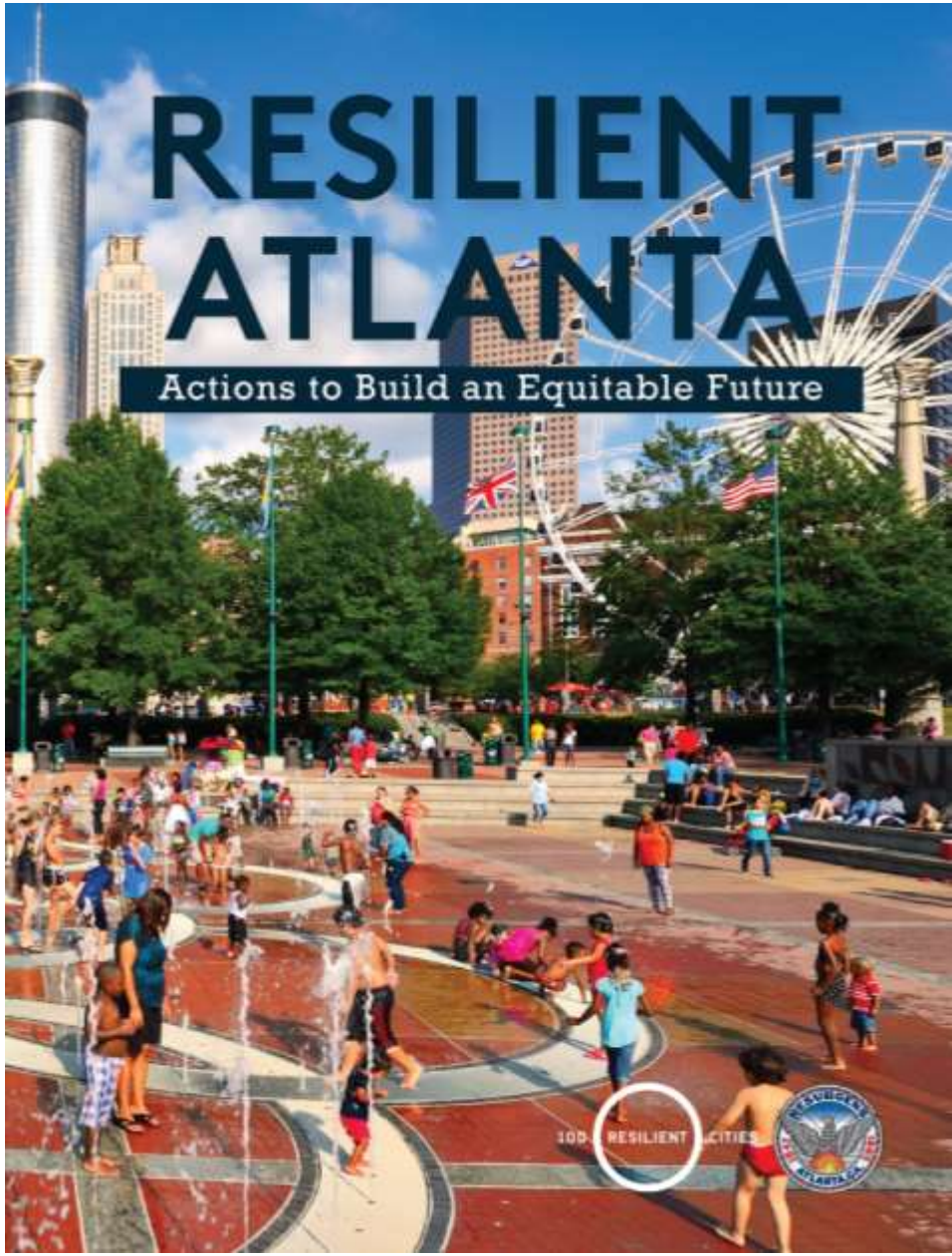


## VISION AND GOALS

### Past Studies

### RESILIENT ATLANTA (from 57 total Actions)

- Resilient food system- All Atlantans to live within ½ mile or less of affordable, fresh and healthy food, support pollinator ***habitat***
- Distribution of 25 acres of ***arable land*** to urban farmers and growers in Atlanta and implement citywide composting
- Address ***environmental justice*** and rapid growth of brownfields - 7 mile Proctor Creek Greenway, 50 acres of linear park
- ***Protect and expand Atlanta's tree canopy.-*** improved air quality, additional shade, reduction in air pollution, stormwater runoff, and carbon emissions
- ***Improve water quality in streams, reduce surface flooding***, and address aging infrastructure - Create a stormwater utility fee to fund city stormwater management plan



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# VISION

A city grounded in its unique ecological character, both verdant and vibrant, with **accessible greenspace and functional ecological systems**.

A framework that strategically **guides the projected increase in population density such that development respects our forest resources, watersheds, public greenspace, transportation needs, livability and connectivity.**

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# GOAL 1

**Conservation- Habitat and Biodiversity**
Target areas for plant and animal species preservation and ecological enhancement. Identify areas of opportunity for increased building density that have lower adverse environmental impacts and greater connection to current and planned greenways and greenspace.
**Design for wildness and habitat.**

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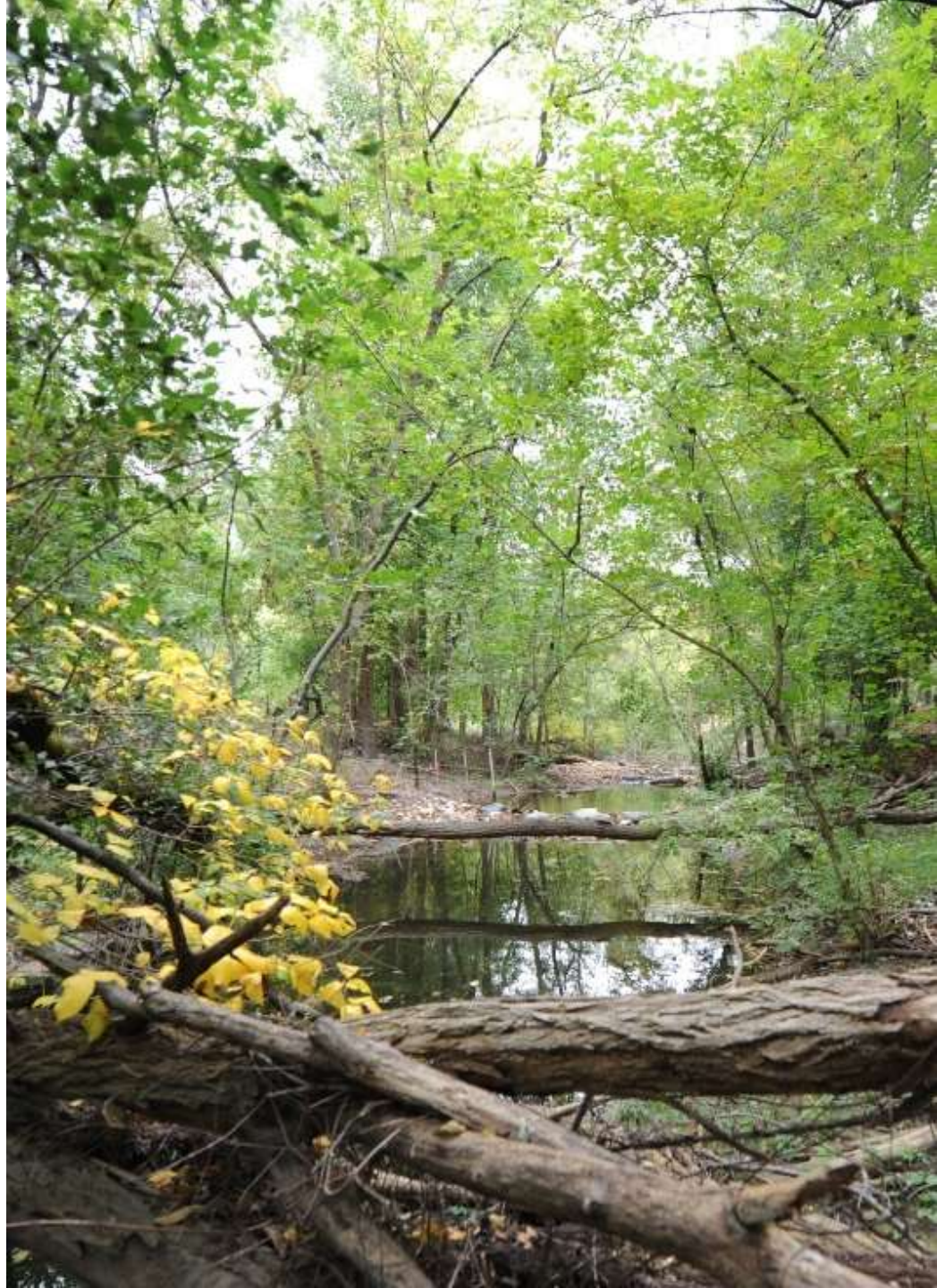
# GOAL 2

**Function - Multifunctionality of Greenspace**
Develop strategies and prioritization of the ability of each greenspace or greenway to provide a range of services, from enhancing biodiversity and providing flood retention to recreational, community, and respite opportunities. **Design for comfort.**



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# GOAL 3

**Access/Greenspace Connectivity**
Develop strategies for a comprehensive and interconnected system of greenway connections between neighborhoods, employment centers, and existing/future transit that are publicly accessible.
**Design for retreat and adventure;**
**Design for people in nature.**

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# GOAL 4

**Resilience**

Develop strategies for how **ecological systems within the City of Atlanta can promote and support resilience through integrated and interconnected green space, ecological function, and adaptive landscapes.**

# VISION AND GOALS
# STATION ACTIVITIES

## VISION AND GOALS
## Station Activities

### Station 1 – Vision
**What do Atlanta's natural systems look like in 50 years?**

### Station 2- Setting and Prioritizing Goals
**What are your goals for conserving and restoring Atlanta's ecosystems, quality, and access to green space, generating jobs, etc.?**

### Station 3 - Other Considerations
**How do we engage? How do we fund? How do we spread the word?**

# WRAP UP DISCUSSION

**THANK YOU!**