

**Public Meeting 1- Activity 3 Results | Questions Exercise -  
UEF Public Meeting 5/22/2018**

**Q1: How can the public connect with Atlanta's nature and ecology?**

Embrace natural fertilizers in farming

Encourage schools to get their hands dirty and explore nature

Programming

Community gardens

@connectwithnature.com

Trails

Creeks and Streams

Nature festivals

Educate general public - advertising, signs, tours, speak at campuses/schools

Schools

Festivals and community events (like food truck Thursdays and Screen on the Green events)

Programs in the schools such as what is now at Drew Charter

Anything to entertain the kids! (and can maybe even be educational)

More network and pathways

How? Be constantly reminded, they already do; know it or not

Recreation!

Bike paths

More farms

More bike hubs, coffee shops by the water

Activities with children!

Forest schools and nature based preschools (the Garden School in Marietta, Turning Sun Schools in Atlanta/Tucker)

Urban ecology centers (a la Milwaukee)

Create a state holiday where everyone is encouraged to go outdoors - climb a tree, ride a bike, go for a hike

Theater in outdoor spaces, public spaces

Key partnerships:

- Education
- Align schools to parks
- Use as extension of class activities

Make the natural world clearly visible in the heart of the city --> green walls, green roofs, street trees, greenways, apparent public/alternative transportation options (prioritize over cars)

-Encourage being outside/make being outdoors attractive and easy

people growing up in the city connect with the nature that many of my peers do not know is in such close proximity/surprisingly accessible to where they live

Mobile urban ecology center (lab) and curriculum

Connected trails

Attractive and consistent system of signage, wayfinding and fixtures at creek crossings and parks and trails

Ask questions

Walking tours

Your own backyard

Volunteer: Citywide Earth Day activities

Market days for community engagement in raised bed design. Even a Save the Bees day focused on planting genus's and families of pollinators. I'll help: [ezymoves1257@gmail.com](mailto:ezymoves1257@gmail.com)

Go outside. Inside too. Nature is everywhere

Volunteer (especially at Trees Atlanta)

Fernbank Natural History Museum Atlanta, Zoo Atlanta, Amphibian Foundation, Trees Atlanta, Atlanta Audubon Society, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, schools/universities

Parks

@NaturewithGabe

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**Q2: How should we fund Atlanta's future green space and ecological priorities?**

Federal grants, urban water partnerships

Zoning and code enforcement with teeth (liens for non-payment, jail time, etc.)

Is there a model for requiring infill developers to protect and make accessible to human (general public) use, the unbuildable buffer lands around creeks? i.e., Hawthorn Park subdivision in Kirkwood

Sell plants

Make polluters pay

Stormwater fee model

Civic crowd funding

Membership models

Developers mitigate

Tree ordinance that requires replacement trees live for 5+ years or fine is imposed, collected, lien set up and litigation follow up if needed for noncompliance with code

Invest in alternative (solar) energy

Needs to be a top-down initiative - citizens should feel empowered to contribute to this effort than taxes

A governmental culture of stewardship; City should put \$ where mouth is if ecology is a priority. Set an example and LEAD

State and local taxes

Get local schools involved and ask them to do yearly fundraisers that would contribute to the parks that the very children would be growing up in and teaching them to love and care for their environment

High fees for large footprint homes - assess developer and homeowner

Urban ecology bond fund for infrastructure development AND for maintenance

Plant shop

Developer fees

Large companies (Coca-Cola, Publix, technology companies, banks, etc.) assessed fees to contribute to greenspace preservation

Community Eco-gardens create competition funded mostly by community volunteers!

Tax incentives for green roof development (with guidelines for appropriate plantings and requirements for maintenance and active lifespan)

Conservation easements rewarded with reduced taxes and other incentives

Private/city funding - coalitions with conservation fund, Nature Conservancy, etc.

-Impact fees

-Stop mortgaging the future on development whims of the moment

-Place a fee on developers who convert pervious surfaces to impervious surfaces (plus a tax incentive to go the other way)

Millage rate increase as population increases

Urban ecology = infrastructure so give it a pot of money like you would for any built infrastructure!

Partnerships with Atlanta-based or Atlanta-entering businesses

-It should have funds set aside to be developed and maintained like any other infrastructure

Events, classes and projects in parks raise awareness and engagement - a portion of the capital raised can be used to drive economy

A real estate sales transfer tax

Directed impact fees

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**Q3: How can we best communicate Atlanta's ecology opportunities to the public and public officials?**

If you build it (and actually invest real \$ to make it NICE) they will come...

Connect economic opportunities and growth clearly to sustainability and a healthy urban ecology

A really cool exhibit/science center/place for families to go on the weekends and school field trips

Social media:

-hashtags/campaigns

-create locations

Use of mobile devices that provide interface to nature physical environment

Waling tours/nature guides/ambassadors

Interactive art installations examining nature/science/culture

Leverage communities and people who already shepherd and protect greenspaces. These will mostly be from higher income areas. Then provide additional resources for lower income areas.

Reach out to local nonprofits and join forces, especially environmentally minded ones who work with volunteers on a daily basis

Vote

Field trips! Tours on private property, urban explorers

Events (not meetings) - Clean-ups, harvest parties

Atlanta Intown, WABE PSAs

Put a message (with graphics and engaging visuals, something simple) on residents' water bills, tax notices, DMV docs, etc. Anywhere the bulk of Atl citizens interact with the City

Marketing campaign to demonstrate how crime goes down and neighborhoods safe as a result of friendly, safe communities connected by parks, green spaces, fresh air and programs to benefit all

Set up tables at festivals with maps and these engagement activities! --> People can sign up to be volunteers and get involved

Take officials on site to greenspaces in Atlanta and teach them about the value of preserving

Concentrate efforts in marginalized/underserved communities

Festivals and events around ecological assets

Signage (continue species I.D.) along Beltline

Festivals and events around ecological assets

Schools! Why do people care about the environment? "Consistent exposure to nature from an early age" - Ken Leinbach, Urban Ecology Center

- Let's get one of those!

Active parks are safe parks

Partnerships in programming with APS and universities

Create an educational nature center near, next to, or on top of the Continental Divide

Diverse messengers/change agents --> community gatekeepers

-Atlanta Audubon

-Park Pride

-Trees Atlanta

-Greening Youth

-Beltline Partnership

-Blue Heron Nature Preserve

-Chattahoochee River Keeper

-Atlanta Urban Explorers

Utilize existing social infrastructure like APS, rec centers, nonprofits, etc. These orgs already have the pulse of the community

Accessible language (minimize jargon)

Explicitly acknowledge climate change

Get in on the "meeting before the meeting" - engage in public processes (budget!) BEFORE it's too late!

Massive social media campaign (including launch events and more events like this one)

Partner with business to promote the message

Nature habitat (trees and flowers) education and promotion