

UEF NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Technical Advisory Committee Work Session Summary Brief

Date: Monday August 27, 2018

Time: 3:30 – 5PM

Location: WeWork Terminus, 3280 Peachtree Road, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30305

Attendees: 17

Team members: 6

Purpose of the meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on the Urban Ecology Framework (UEF) the Needs Assessment data analysis approach and findings. The team also presented the updated Vision and Goals and the 4 Future Alternative Scenarios that respond to the findings from the Needs Assessment.

Needs Assessment Data Analysis key takeaways:

Overall the feedback from participants on the Needs Assessment analysis approach and the variety and quality of the of mapping was positive.

The following are key takeaways:

1. Parks and Recreation and Watershed Management would like to review the information in more detail to ensure that the data analyzed includes and excludes appropriate lands.
 - a. Additional coordination with City Departments such as the Parks and Recreation Department and Watershed Management, is recommended to see how the UEF can inform and help advance current work efforts.
2. A few organizations and agencies on the TAC may have additional data that could help enhance the next steps in the UEF process. Department of Watershed Management has data to share to help expand on protected areas (conservation easements and greenways). The United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Atlanta Botanical Gardens (ABG) suggested they have data to help inform maps of ecological function in the region (unique native habitat zones and native regional ecosystems beyond forest).
3. There was interest in identifying and exploring how best to protect private properties and areas not included in parks that are located in high biodiversity value zones and may be providing natural resource benefits. Also, exploring how zoning and population densities overlay with high biodiversity areas.
4. Moving forward, thought needs to be given to how the final UEF plan will become a tool for development review and how the maps developed through the process can be utilized as a resource once the plan is complete.
5. As the plan is presented to the general public, the project content and metrics should be explained simply and clearly to allow the layperson to understand how the project benefits them personally. For example, concepts such as ecosystem services and social vulnerability should be explained in a more tangible manner.

Future Scenarios key takeaways:

The Consultant Team presented four Alternative Future Scenarios: 1) Equity and Access, 2) Landscape Ecology, 3) Equity and Ecology, and 4) Grey to Green Infrastructure. Overall, the Future Scenarios were well received by participants. Following are key takeaways from the future scenarios:

1. A request for more descriptions of the scenarios be included on the maps as well as what the outcomes of the scenarios would be in terms of recommendations (to come in next phase).
2. City staff requested a work session focused on providing more input to the team and including more input from the Green Infrastructure Task Force.