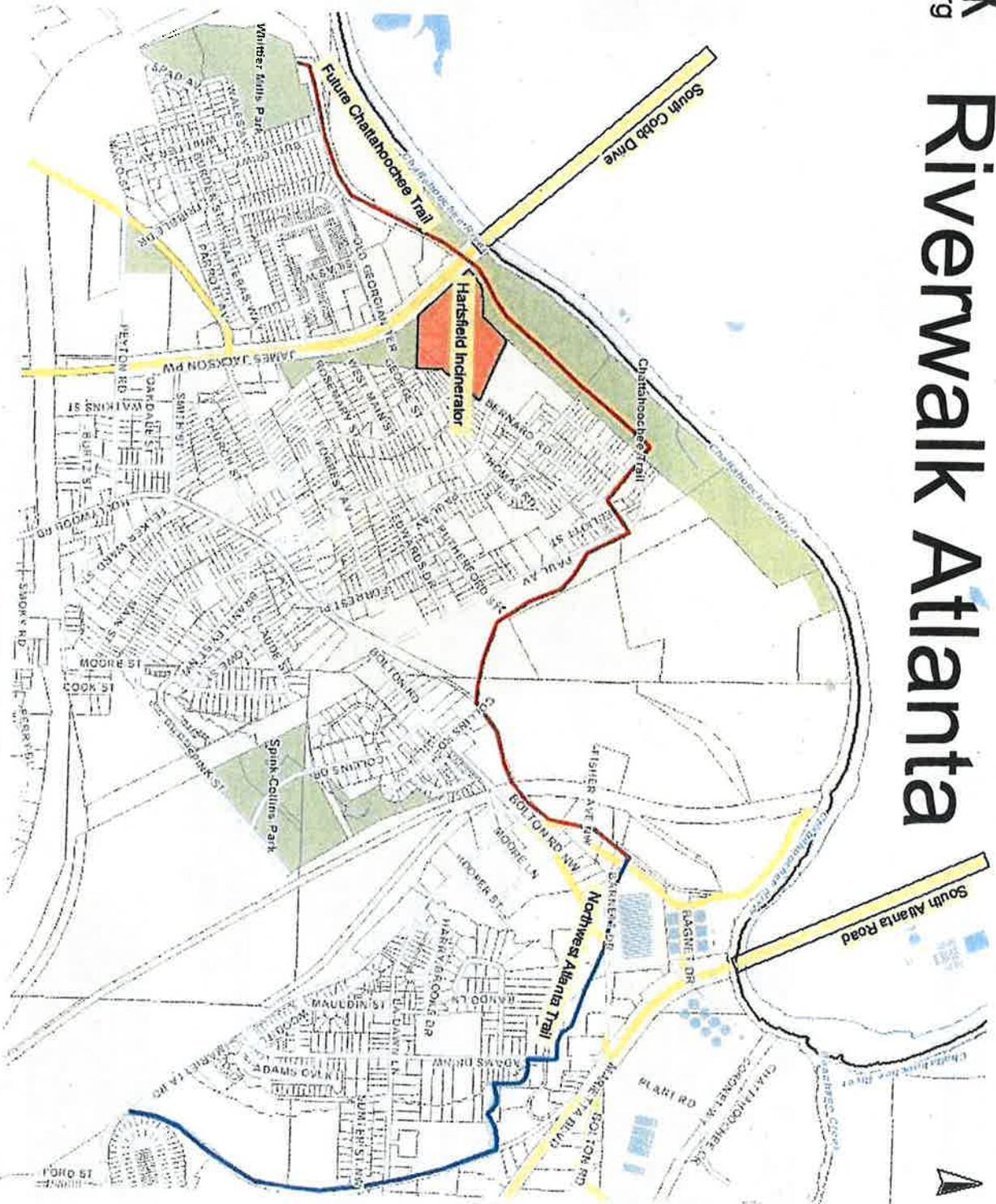




Riverwalk Atlanta

- Chattahoochee Trail
 - appx. 60 acres
- Hartsfield Incinerator
 - 11.3 acres
- Riverside Park
 - 6.85 acres
- Total Acreage
 - 78.15 acres
- Additional Adjoining Property Available





Riverwalk Atlanta

"Where Atlanta Meets the Chattahoochee"

A proposed 100+ acre park in the City of Atlanta along the Chattahoochee River located in NW Atlanta with the main entrance at the former Hartsfield Incinerator on James Jackson Parkway / South Cobb Drive.



Riverwalk Atlanta will repurpose the five story Incinerator building for public use as a Welcome Center, Event Facility, Classrooms, Art Gallery, Local History Museum, River and Trail Concessions



Riverwalk Atlanta will provide public outdoor plaza, amphitheater, parking, pavilions, playgrounds, gardens, meadows, educational and secondary nature trails, boardwalk, river overlook, fishing piers, boat ramp and dock



A major element of Riverwalk Atlanta will be the PATH Foundation Greenway Trail, which will connect the Silver Comet Trail to the Atlanta Beltline.



Riverwalk Atlanta
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Program Title: Groundwork USA Program

Organization: National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program in partnership with Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Program and Groundwork USA.

Program Goal(s):

- Increase the capacity of communities to improve and care for their local environments themselves.
- Develop holistic community specific approaches to improving environmental health and community well being – physical improvements, education and job training, community leadership and civic engagement.
- Transform vacant and derelict lands into community assets for conservation, recreation and economic development.
- Raise the profile of urban environmental transformation as part of a comprehensive approach to smart growth strategies, community stabilization, and economic redevelopment.

Brief Description: The Groundwork USA Program is a growing network of community ‘do-tanks’ for the environment called Groundwork Trusts. Locally organized and controlled, each Groundwork Trust delivers projects and programs to address local environmental justice issues through a creative mix of professional staff, volunteers, partners and stakeholders, with funding from the public and private sector. There are now 22 Groundwork USA pilot communities across the US, including 3 communities selected in 2013; 19 Groundwork Trusts have been established. The network is led by Groundwork USA, a national nonprofit working to increase the effectiveness of the local Trusts with information sharing, training, resource development, technical assistance and quality control. For more information, www.groundworkusa.org

Program Design: Beginning in 1997, the Network is designed to encourage information sharing, support, and collaborative thinking among established and developing Groundwork Trusts and the communities they serve. The NPS and EPA support the Network and establishment of GW Trusts through technical assistance (NPS) and seed funding (EPA).

Establishing a new Groundwork Trust is a multi-step competitive process and brings many public, private and community stakeholders to the table to build consensus on community assets and needs and the role for a GW Trust in their community to address those needs. This diverse group, many who have not worked with each other before, forms a local Groundwork Steering Committee to work with the National Park Service to evaluate Groundwork for their community. If in agreement, they apply to NPS for Groundwork USA Pilot Funding and Technical Assistance. If their proposal is selected, they then work with NPS on in-depth feasibility study and launching strategy. Upon completion, if the final decision is to establish the new GW Trust, NPS provides seed funding and technical assistance to help establish the new GW Trust in partnership with the local government and the partners on the Steering Committee. The new Groundwork Trust also becomes part of the GW USA Network to draw on the expertise of the other GW Trusts and the Groundwork USA national office and Board.

Target audience: The focus is the community itself and their role in leading the environmental restoration of their community. To accomplish this, each GW Trust engages municipal government, business and civic leaders, foundations, churches, community organizations, nonprofits, residents and other stakeholders to build consensus and achieve results. Engaging youth as leaders and doers is a high priority for all GW projects and programs.

Role of the Community The community, integral to achieving success, leads the Groundwork Trust from establishing a steering committee and leading the feasibility process to governing the organization and directing and participating in projects and programs.

Results: Groundwork USA Performance Measures – 2012

- Environmental Improvements
 - # Trees planted: 2,544
 - # Bulbs and flats of vegetables and flowers planted: 12,735
 - # Acres of parks, openspace and derelict land improved: 413
 - Tons of CO2 reduced or sequestered: 3,515
- Community Engagement
 - # Youth (<18 yrs old) actively engaged: 12,694
 - # Adults (> 18 yrs old) and seniors actively engaged: 21,102
 - # Volunteer hours: 76,722
 - # Partners engaged: 796
- Integrating the Economy and Environment
 - # Person weeks of green job training provided: 786
 - # Jobs created or retained (fulltime, part time, summer): 281
 - Dollars leveraged (public and private sector and in-kind): \$8,831,342.00
- See www.groundworkusa.org for stories and pictures of recent accomplishments

Evaluation: NPS and Groundwork USA evaluate work being accomplished by the GW Trusts and the benefits to the communities they serve through quarterly reports, annual performance measures, regular network conference calls and an annual conference and Youth Summit. Each GW Trust is also evaluated and assisted through a more intensive Peer Planning and Review (PAR) which includes site visits and interviews with staff, board members and partners.

Funding – EPA provides \$400,000/year on average to NPS in an Interagency Agreement to support Trust development. NPS provides staff resources of about \$200,000 per year to assist communities and administer/manage the Groundwork USA Program. All other resources are leveraged by the GW Trusts, their partners, and Groundwork USA (\$8,831,342.00 in 2012).

Lessons Learned:

- Begin with where the community is, not where you want them to be, and listen.
- Build the capacity in the community to sustain the project and program objectives over the long haul, these are not short term deliverables.
- Deliver what you commit to and be honest about setbacks.
- Provide the information needed for community members to participate in decision making in a substantive way, not just lip service.
- Celebrate, have fun and provide food.

Challenges:

- Availability of resources compared to the level of need.
- Time required to ramp up a credible and effective GW Trust organization compared to the more immediate time horizons of funders, partners and the community itself.
- Building the capacity in the community to sustain the project and program objectives over the long haul and maintaining focus with the myriad of challenges the community is facing.
- Recruiting and retaining leadership that reflects the communities that Groundwork serves.