EPA's Health Impact Assessment of Green Infrastructure in the Proctor Creek Communities of Atlanta, Georgia

National HIA Meeting
HIA and Environmental Regulation

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Proctor Creek Boone Boulevard Green Street Project HIA

Decision: Implementation of a green infrastructure project along Joseph E. Boone Boulevard, NW (in concert with road diet project)

Decision-Makers: City of Atlanta, Georgia

Role of HIA: Evaluate potential positive and negative health impacts of the green street project design and inform stakeholder decisions

HIA Lead: Region 4 – Office of Environmental Justice
Office of Research and Development

HIA Partners:

What is Green Infrastructure?

Planter Boxes

- A non-traditional approach

- Purpose: To maintain healthy waters, protect the environment, promote health, and support sustainability

- Uses natural processes:

  ❖ Vegetation   ❖ Water Conservation
  ❖ Soil Filtration   ❖ Carbon Sequestration
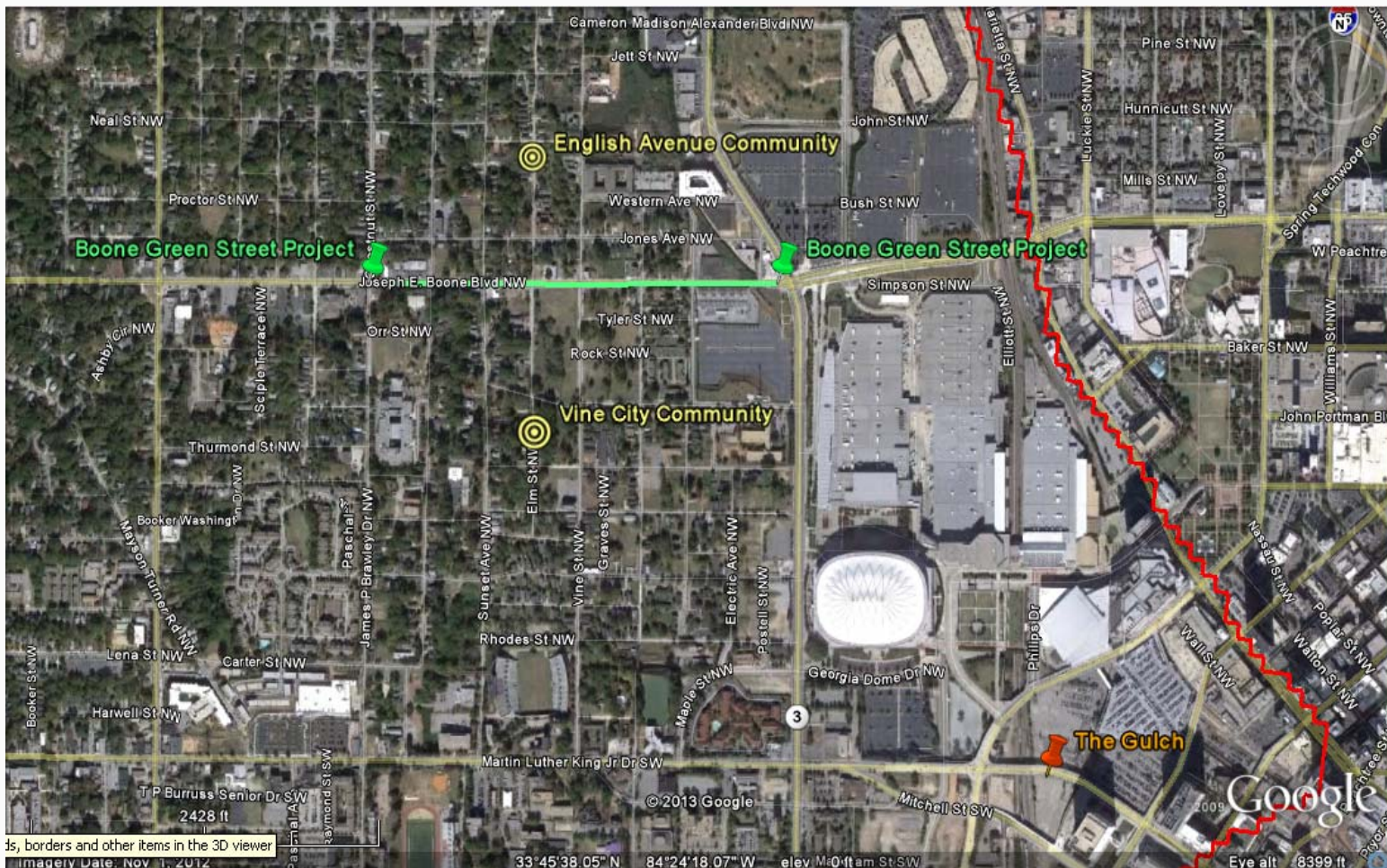 ❖ Shading   ❖ Stormwater Management

Urban Tree Canopy

Location of the Green Street Project

Defining the Community of Concern

This Community: Predominantly low income, minority population

Environmental Problems Facing This Community:

- Pervasive Flooding
- Impaired Water Quality
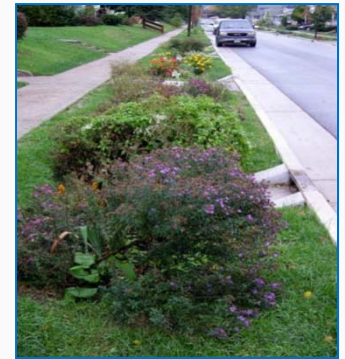- Poverty
- Derelict Properties
- Aging Infrastructure

Why HIA in EPA?

Bioretention

Vision of EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program: *To inform and empower communities to include human health, economic, and environmental factors into decision-making processes.*

- Provide a model of interagency collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels

- Gain experience in the application of HIAs in other environmental decision-making processes

- Create better understanding of direct and indirect public health benefits from implementing green infrastructure

Permeable Pavement

Developing Partnerships and Engaging Stakeholders

- Leveraged the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Healthy Communities

- Participation from multiple levels and agencies:
  - Federal (8)
  - University (7)
  - NGOs (3)
  - Community Orgs (10)
  - County (1)
  - City (1)

- Participation from multiple sectors:
  - Environmental Protection
  - Housing and Urban Development
  - Forest Service
  - Emergency Planning
  - Public Health
  - Transportation
  - Education