

THE
CONSERVATION FUND



Parks with
PURPOSE

A Program of The Conservation Fund

2021
HIGHLIGHTS

Building Parks, Community & Connections



Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park | Atlanta, GA Photo Courtesy of Kelsi Eccles

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PROGRESS THROUGH PICTURES

The Conservation Fund believes successful conservation should provide long-term community benefits. That's why the Fund's Parks with Purpose program works alongside residents in some of our most challenged urban neighborhoods to plan and develop new and improved parks and greenspaces. We are pleased to share results of the past year's success.



ATLANTA: MATTIE FREELAND PARK



Photos Courtesy of Kelsi Eccles



Rendering Courtesy of Playworld



BALTIMORE: GARRETT PARK

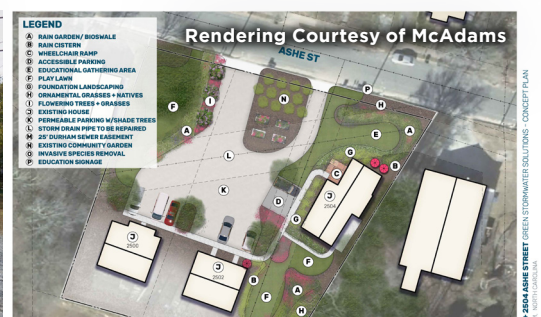


Photos Courtesy of Sarah Hope



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

DURHAM: ASHE STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN



Rendering Courtesy of McAdams

- LEGEND**
- A RAIN GARDEN/BIOSWALE
 - B RAIN CISTERN
 - C WHEELCHAIR RAMP
 - D ACCESSIBLE PARKING
 - E EDUCATIONAL GATHERING AREA
 - F PLAY LAWN
 - G FOUNDATION LANDSCAPING
 - H ORNAMENTAL GRASSES + NATIVES
 - I FLOWERING TREES + GRASSES
 - J EXISTING HOUSE
 - K PERMEABLE PARKING W/ SHADE TREES
 - L STORM DRAIN PIPE TO BE REPAIRED
 - M EXISTING COMMUNITY GARDEN
 - N WALKWAY SPECIES REMOVAL
 - P EDUCATION SIGNAGE



Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne

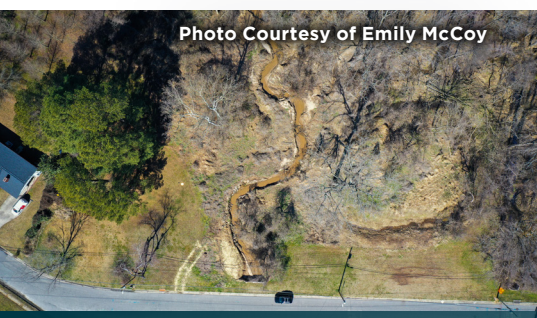
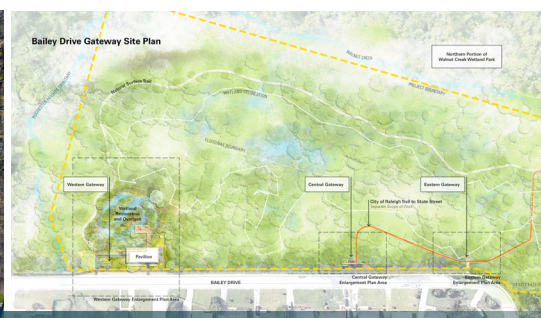


Photo Courtesy of Emily McCoy

RALEIGH: BAILEY DRIVE GATEWAY



Bailey Drive Gateway Site Plan



Renderings Courtesy of Design Workshop

BUILDING PARKS & GREENSPACE

Reflecting on our progress with capital projects during 2021



Future site of Mattie Freeland Park | Atlanta, GA
Photo Courtesy of Kelsi Eccles

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



Photo Courtesy of Kelsi Eccles

ATLANTA: The Friends of Mattie Freeland Park, including Mattie Freeland's granddaughter, have been integral to the design of this new park. Pictured left, Libby Hovey and Dr. Mironda Williams (Mattie Freeland's granddaughter) review construction plans with Patrick Hand of Integrated Land Design. The park's official opening is tentatively set for Spring 2022.



Rendering Courtesy of EnviroCollab

BALTIMORE: At Garrett Park, Greater Baybrook Alliance completed phase I and II improvements, including installation of a new walking path, exercise equipment, and pavilion. Phase II improvements began, which will include new basketball and futsal courts, stormwater management features, tree plantings and exercise equipment.



Photo Courtesy of Aniya Bourne

DURHAM: The Ashe Street Community Garden area was built in spring 2021 during a community workday. Residents joined forces with Durham Community Land Trustees, Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association, Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN), and SEEDS to build five garden beds. This new community amenity will serve as an educational space and tool to address food access concerns, as well as provide a home to pollinators. SEEDS and UCAN trained local youth on this day as well.



Rendering Courtesy of Design Workshop

RALEIGH: Design Workshop worked with the Fund and Rochester Heights residents in a community task force to design the future Bailey Gateway greenspace. In 2022, we anticipate beginning phase I of construction to create this community-serving park entry.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Highlighting the achievements of community leaders and our team

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



In, 2021 the Parks with Purpose team grew by two! Carmera Thomas joined as the Director of Urban Conservation Initiatives and brings a wealth of knowledge about community building and program management.

Margarita Carey, Operations Manager, Conservation Solutions, has been with the Fund for 18 years and is now working to help streamline our program operations with a wealth of financial management and administrative experience.

Despite challenges with COVID-19, we safely maintained park activation programming and workforce development opportunities in the cities where we work. **Highlights included the following:**

- The Friends of Anacostia Park held a soft launch celebration, a result of the Fund's support for the new Friends group.
- Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative (APACC) relied on backbone support from the Fund to build capacity and serve residents of Wards 7 and 8 in Washington D.C. APACC efforts expanded the park's stewards and "friends."
- Thanks to funding from U-Haul, we supported five \$5,000 [mini-grants](#) to support capital improvements around Durham.
- Local watershed learning networks provided environmental education in Atlanta, Durham and Raleigh throughout the year.
- We worked with artists Tiffany Baker, Muhammad Suber, and Sydney Washington on art projects in Atlanta and Raleigh. These art projects highlighted culturally significant local figures.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: English Avenue Green Team



Community engagement is one of the Parks with Purpose pillars that allows us to maintain relationships and ensure that greenspaces foster safe spaces for the families and grassroots organizations that we work with.

The English Avenue Green Team in Atlanta pressed on with park and green infrastructure maintenance. The team also worked with Park Ambassadors Annie Moore and Billie Walker on youth engagement programs in the park.

Corey Dodd of Design Workshop grabs a selfie with legacy resident Willie Taylor Hicks at the Reflective History Art Reveal | Raleigh, NC
Photo Courtesy of Emily McCoy



BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Read about our Parks with Purpose highlights and peer learning opportunities

Our commitment to raising awareness about Parks with Purpose and creating peer learning opportunities for our partners continued in 2021. We partnered with Aniya Bourne of Bourne to Film to create videos highlighting our partner's accomplishments and also hosted a webinar focused on the art in parks work that we supported in Atlanta, Durham and Raleigh. All of this content can be found on our [Parks with Purpose YouTube channel](#). Articles featuring our programmatic achievements can be found on [our Parks with Purpose blog](#).

**CLICK HERE
TO JOIN US ON
YouTube**

The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Interior celebrated the [10th anniversary of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#). Erik Meyers and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance partner Darryl Haddock were invited to speak at a celebratory program about how our work contributes to improved watershed health and community involvement in the Urban Water locations of Anacostia (DC), Atlanta, Baltimore, Kansas City (MO), and hopefully Raleigh in the near future.

Rochester Heights and Biltmore Hills | Raleigh, NC Photo Courtesy of Emily McCoy



Our 2021 Collaborative Partners

Atlanta

- Artist InUs
- Eco-Action
- City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation
- City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
- Friends of Lindsay Street Park
- Friends of Mattie Freeland Park
- Integrated Land Design
- Jacobs Engineering
- Osaze Stigler
- Park Pride
- Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
- SydPeace Art
- UGA- State Botanical Garden
- West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Baltimore

- Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition
- Greater Baybrook Alliance
- National Aquarium

Durham

- Bourne to Film — Aniya Bourne
- Durham Community Land Trustees
- Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association
- Jackie Turner Consulting, LLC
- McAdams
- Merrick Moore Community Development Corporation
- SEEDS
- Trees Durham
- Urban Community AgriNomics

Raleigh

- American Conservation Experience
- Design Workshop
- North Carolina Central University
- Partners for Environmental Justice
- StepUp Ministries
- Tiffany Baker
- Walnut Creek Wetland Community Partnership
- Water Resources Research Institute
- Washington, DC
- Anacostia Park & Community Collaborative
- Clean Water Fund
- Friends of Anacostia Park
- National Park Foundation

In 2022, we are looking to secure additional funding to support fellow positions in each of the Parks with Purpose locations in order to expand our impact and serve our collaborative partners.



LOOKING AHEAD

Read about our goals and expansion opportunities for Parks with Purpose in 2022

We look forward to continuing this work and increasing our impact in communities facing environmental challenges by initiating a fellows program, expanding into new geographies, and creating additional peer learning opportunities.

ATLANTA: We will begin community engagement around the new Proctor Creek restoration project with the Historic Hunter Hills Neighborhood Association and Department of Watershed Management in 2022.

DURHAM: We plan to support the Merrick Moore Community with the implementation of renderings for a future food forest area. They developed the renderings with Professor Kofi Boone and NCSU landscape architect students. Many of these students also worked with Raleigh residents on the Bailey Drive Gateway concepts.

BALTIMORE: We expect to complete a full planning document for the Baybrook Connector, a bicycle/ pedestrian path that will extend an existing trail and connect the Brooklyn and Brooklyn Park neighborhoods.

RALEIGH: We anticipate phase I construction of the Bailey Drive Gateway will begin, including sidewalk development and site grading preparation.

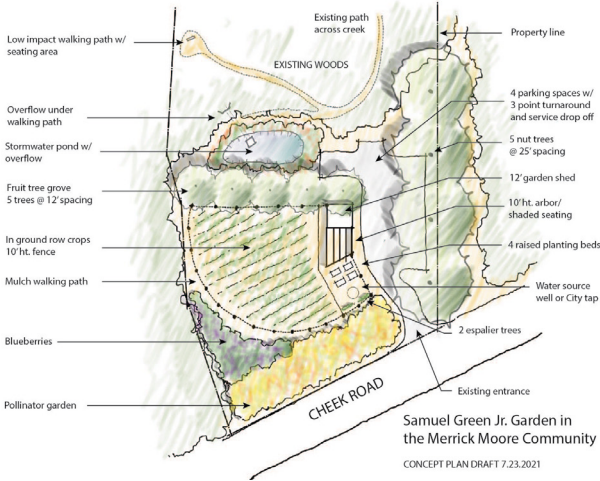


Photo Courtesy of Emily McCoy

The work featured in this end of year review would not be possible without all of our partners and supporters. We greatly appreciate your continued partnership and the positive impact that your organization has on the communities where we work.

Thank You.

Erik

Carmena

Kelsi

Shannon

Margarita