South River Forest and Public Safety Training Center
Community Task Force

SUBGROUP MEETING 1 – MAY 2&3, 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Vision, Goals, and Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Previous Plans and Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Visioning Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Next Steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introductions
Group 4: Visioning, Memorializing, and Repurposing the former Atlanta Prison Farm Site

Bishop Kevin Strickland, Clergy
Blake Fortune, Community Member
Cicely Garrett, Community Member
Donna Stephens, Chattahoochee Brick Company
Douglas Blackmon, Author, Slavery By Another Name
Leo Smith, Interfaith Public Policy
Linda Adams, Community Member
Lisa Tuttle, Arts Exchange
Sabir Khan, Artist
Sheffield Hale, Atlanta History Center

Facilitators:
Tia Maxwell, APD-Urban

City Staff:
Jahnee Prince, Commissioner of Planning
Janide Sidifall, Deputy Commissioner of Planning
Doug Young, Director of Design
Anthony Knight, African American Heritage Coordinator
Vision, Goals, and Expectations
**Task Force Vision and Goals**

**Vision**

The vision for the South River Forest and Public Safety Training Center Community Task Force is to contribute to the policymaking for a safe, equitable, and inclusive environment that provides comprehensive training for all public safety professionals and encourages public interaction with the site.

**Goals**

The goals for engagement are to:

- Create inclusive and community-driven recommendations for the surrounding green space (300 acres) and the public safety training curriculum.
- Facilitate an inclusive engagement process that incorporates the aspirations and expertise of the Atlantan community.
- Provide opportunities for fact-based education and awareness of the public safety training center and surrounding green space.
Expectations

Engagement activities are centered around the planned development of the site

Recommendations will be delivered to the Mayor and reviewed by the Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Task force members are representatives of their community of influence

The Task Force is focused on the 300 acres surrounding the Public Safety Training Facility site

Only selected Task Force members are to participate in the activities
Context
Rules for Engagement

Be Respectful of Others

Be Present; No Substitutions

Silence Cellphones

One Conversation at a Time

In Absence, Review Materials & Provide Comments
Subgroup Meetings

Meeting 1: Inform and Early Visioning

Meeting 2: Final Vision and Early Recommendations

Meeting 3: Recommendations

Meeting 4: Priorities

Meeting 5: Review & Vetting of Final Recommendations for all groups
03

Previous Plans and Studies
Previous Plan Timeline

1999 Historical Analysis of the Atlanta Prison Farm
2017 City Design
2019 Clean Energy Atlanta
2020 Fresh Food Access Report
2021 Phase I Environmental Assessment
2021 Activate ATL
2022 Sustainability Annual Report
2023 An Overview of Public Engagement on ‘Cop City’
2023 Explore South River Forest
Study Goal: “Propose ways to improve and accentuate Atlanta’s authentic character in a form that could accommodate a much larger population”.

Findings:
• Map that illustrates the connectivity of the site in relation to other municipal and neighborhood boundaries
• Photos of areas of interest with geographical, physical, and historical assets

Recommendations:
• Plans for the redevelopment of the acreage
• Demonstrate intergovernmental efforts to create a connected urban park to surrounding community uses
Study Goal: Standard assessment conducted on environmentally significant land, with findings and opinions based on conditions and impediments on the site

Findings:
• Several notable site features, waste storage, surface water bodies, and equipment remain on the site
• Some hazards presented from decay and burned buildings
• Environmentally viable for development if impairments are corrected

Recommendations:
• Soil and groundwater impairment, debris removal, and leaching mitigation need to occur
• Potential need for excavation
Explore South River Forest–2023

Study Goal: Provide recommendations for the activation and preservation of the South River Forest

Findings:
• Purpose to operate the SRF at its highest and best use, while prioritizing the resiliency of the forest and its surrounding community
• Extensive community engagement was conducted surrounding several topic areas

Recommendations:
• Intergovernmental and community to determine best practices & align with recommendations
• Trail connections and defined greenspaces within the site
• Master plan and planning & zoning tools for land management
Historical Analysis of the Atlanta Prison Farm - 1999

Study Goal: Describe the history of the site and discuss the viability of the site as an adaptive reuse project or focus on restoration and preservation

Findings:
• Jurisdictional limitations contribute to decay
• Site has storied history as a plantation, cemetery, and more recently a Prison Farm
• There are articles remaining of historical value

Recommendations:
• Review 1995 Environmental Assessment for the Farm buildings
• Hold the site to serve for City function
• Consider the historic preservation of artifacts and elements of the site
Study Goal: Assess the viability of the site as being listed in the National Register for Historic Places

Findings:
- Stones and bricks of early 20th-century origin were found, including Carnegie Library stone
- Structures are viable for future use
- No housing or structures in the surrounding areas are considered historically significant

Recommendations:
- Project site is connected to areas of historical interest, but itself is not historic or eligible for NRHP activities
04 Visioning Exercise
**Vision**

**What**
... is a Vision?

It is a written statement that reflects the goals and objectives of the group, lists future opportunities, and includes a description of what the project/site should look and feel like in the future.

The vision statement guides government, business, and community entities, among others, in decision-making according to the stated goals and objectives of the project/site.

**Why**
... do we need a Vision?

- It serves to frame recommendations toward a shared vision of the future
- It provides a source of inspiration and motivation for implementing plans and keeping the effort on track
- It generates consensus about the direction of the project

**How**
... do we create a Vision?

Through a visioning session in which we can:
- Create a draft vision or update a pre-existing vision for the project/site
- Obtain feedback on specific topics
- Create a framework that will guide future efforts

…”do we need a Vision?”

…”do we create a Vision?”
**Process**

**Vision**
Describes the long-term outcomes and aspirations for the future of a project

**Goals and Objectives**
- specific, measured, and time bound targets, road map to achieve vision
- objectives are achievable, relevant and time-bound

**Recommendations**
Specific actions an organization can take based on the analysis of the current situation and the objectives set
"The South River Forest, a proposal for an expansive, 3,500 acre network of connected greenspaces inside I-285 in SE Atlanta and SW DeKalb County, would be protected, connected, and activated as **publicly accessible greenspace providing significant environmental, social, and economic benefits for metro Atlanta's communities.**" - Explore South River Forest Plan (2023)

"Our mission is simple, **to make Atlanta the safest large city in the nation**, but we can’t do this without unified support from community, business and civic leaders." - Vision Safe ATL (2017)

"The Atlanta Police Academy will provide or make available to employees, training which is required by Georgia POST, the City of Atlanta (COA) and the Department, as well as any other training necessary to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Department. **The Academy will seek to provide training to allow employees to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide a safe and secure environment for the City of Atlanta.**" - APD Academy Curriculum (2023)
Task Group Areas

Group 1: Parks & Greenspace
Develop programming for passive and active uses of the land, while preserving its natural ecology

Group 2: Police, Fire, and E911 Curriculum
Provide input on the collaborative potential and direction of the public safety curriculum

Group 3: Sustainability & Resilience
Introduce and encourage the use of best practices with regards to infrastructure and development

Group 4: Visioning, Memorializing, and Repurposing the former Atlanta Prison Farm Site
Contextualize the future best use of the Atlanta Prison Farm Site given its history
Warm up Exercise

On Mentimeter, please respond to the following prompts:

• What are your desired outcomes for this subgroups?
• What do you hope to contribute to this project?
On Mentimeter, please respond to the following prompt:

Which words are most relevant to your vision for the South River Forest pertaining to the Former Atlanta Prison Farm?

- Multigenerational
- Diversity
- Sustainability
- Vibrancy
- Equity
- Safety
- Healthy
- Economic
- Opportunity
- Education
- Greenspace
- Revitalization
- Community
- Development
- Resiliency
- Entrepreneurship
- Growth
- Civic
- Recreational
- Modern
- Traditional
- Respectful
- Historic Preservation
- Affordability
- Walkable
- Heritage
- Transit
- Family
- Culture
- Responsibility
- Parks
- Bikes
- Goods & Services
- Gateway
Visioning, Memorializing, and Repurposing the former Atlanta Prison Farm Site

The Future Places Project has information and ideas that can improve the City’s ability to keep Atlanta for all of us, even as we continue to shape our City into the place we want it to be. Our history and our culture do not have to be lost in this effort. Our historic places and spaces are our future – they are what will continue to make Atlanta a truly great and unique city.

The Atlanta History Center connects people, history, and culture.

The mission of The Atlanta Preservation Center is to promote the preservation of Atlanta's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings, neighborhoods and landscapes through education and advocacy.
05

Next Steps
Next Steps

• Week 2 – Final Vision/Early Recommendations
• City staff presentations of best practices/current initiatives
## Task Group Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parks and Greenspace</th>
<th>Police, Fire, &amp; E-911 Training Curriculum</th>
<th>Sustainability &amp; Resilience</th>
<th>Visioning, Memorializing, &amp; Repurposing Former Atlanta Prison Farm Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Wednesdays 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Tuesdays 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Large Group Final Recommendations
Wednesday, August 2, 2023 • 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Communications

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For questions about media correspondence and press releases, please reach out to the City of Atlanta for assistance.

**Website**
www.atltrainingcenter.com