South River Forest and Public Safety Training Center
Community Task Force

Previous Plans and Studies Summary
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
- 2022 Cultural Resource Assessment
- 2023 CSAC Vision and Mission
- 2023 Explore South River Forest
- 2022 Sustainability Annual Report
- 2023 An Overview of Public Engagement on ‘Cop City’
- 2021 Activate ATL
- 2020 Police Executive Research Forum
- 2017 Vision Safe ATL
- 2015 COA Climate Action Plan
- 2023 CSAC Vision and Mission

Starting from 1999, there has been a series of plans and initiatives that have been developed and implemented by the city of Atlanta, each aiming to address different aspects of city planning and development. These include historical analyses, environmental assessments, and sustainability initiatives, among others. The timeline highlights the evolution of the city's planning strategies, from the historical analysis of the Atlanta Prison Farm to the more recent initiatives like the Vision Safe ATL and the CPD Executive Research Forum.
Curriculum Plans

- APD 2023 Academy Curriculum
- Atlanta Fire Rescue Department
- EMS Programs Course Descriptions
- Transforming Recruit Training: 40 Guiding Principles
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
- APD Standard Operating Procedures
- APD Basic Mandate Training Curriculum
- APD Training Academy Summary
Overall Studies
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
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment – 2021

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
An Overview of Public Engagement on ‘Cop City’ - 2023

Study Goal: Presents a history on the land acquisition and development of the PSTC, chronicling the rise of some advocacy groups and task forces.

Findings:

• Mayor Shirley Franklin and the task force had prioritized as green space; discussions at the time had considered making the site into a 500-acre park
• At the time of this discussion, there was discontent about the site being used for police training
• Site was once a burial ground for zoo animals.
• Atlanta Police Foundation privately pursued the use of the land for the development of the PSTC
**Study Goal:** Public Safety Action plan that focus on action items within areas of interest, including the development of infrastructure for police-related activities.

**Findings:**
- Suggests the development of police training facility following the deterioration of existing training facility
- Describes need for new police department station houses, air units, and an E911 disaster recovery site
CSAC Summary

Study Goal: Compiled several recommendations that have been implemented to improve the presence of the PSTC pertaining to facilities, community uses and programming, appearance, security, and infrastructure.

Recommendations:
• Relocation of firing range to the most southern portion of the site
• Revision of EVOC course grading to allow natural terrain to buffer sound
• Addition of pavilion and parade field for community use
• Meeting space for community groups
• Move main entrance to Constitution Road
• Sidewalks around the facility to provide residential access
• Addition of public parking at the site
Parks and Green Space
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: provides recommendations for the provision of facilities, programs, and services; parkland acquisition and development; maintenance and operations; and administration and management over the next ten years.

Findings:
• 89% supported developing new trails, facilities, lighting, sidewalks, benching, and shelters.

Recommendations:
• I.7 - Invest in natural areas in parks for the dual purpose of preserving and protecting Atlanta’s abundant tree canopy and wildlife habitat, while encouraging visitation for human respite and refuge.
• C.1 - Foster a system-wide, sustainable trail network that guides user access to parks and enables connections across the city. Improve wayfinding and connectivity between and within neighborhood parks and the regional parks and recreation system.
Visioning, Memorializing, and Repurposing the former Atlanta Prison Farm Site
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
Sustainability and Resilience
**Atlanta Climate Action Plan – 2015**

**Study Goal:** a comprehensive document that prioritizes strategic methods to reduce the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

**Findings:**
- Contributors to emissions are in commercial activity (40%), transportation (31%), and residential (19%).
- City of Atlanta operations contributed to 65% of emissions from buildings.

**Recommendations:**
- Ensure new commercial and industrial construction is built to maximize energy efficiency. Establish new code for existing buildings
- LEED compliance
- Transit Oriented Development
- Pedestrian Facilities
- Promote materials reuse for building materials
Clean Energy Atlanta Plan – 2019

Study Goal: Transition the energy sector to be 100% reliant on clean energy.

Findings:
• 60% of the electricity used within city limits comes from commercial buildings
• The City of Atlanta lies largely within the jurisdiction of Georgia Power Company, so their Integrated Resource Plan influences the approach

Recommendations:
• Support EV Integration
• Solar-Ready Building Code
• Commercial Buildings Water Audit Requirement
• Continue Deep Energy retrofits for municipal buildings
• Energy Savings Performance Contract
• Sustainable Building Ordinance
• Net-Zero energy code
Study Goal: 85% of Atlanta residents will be within a half-mile of fresh, affordable food by 2022

Findings:
From 2015 to 2020, the change in low-income low access (LILA) decreased from 59% to 43% of the city area and 52% to 30% of the population, respectively. This leaves the city of Atlanta to reach an additional 15% of people living in LILA in order to reach the goal.

Recommendations:
• Remove barriers and incentivize fresh food access for residents from 2020-2022
• Update the 2014 Urban Ag Ordinance to allow for on-site sales for urban farms.
• Enable Special Use Permit (SUP)
City of Atlanta Tree Canopy Resolution – 2023

Considerations:

• Achieve and maintain 50% average tree canopy cover within the City of Atlanta
• The Department of city planning uses this goal to guide future updates to the tree protection ordinance and other land development-related ordinances
• The Department of city planning conducts a study every five (5) years to measure the tree canopy cover within the city,
Police, Fire and E911 Curriculum
Atlanta E911 Training – 2023

Study Goal: Complete required certifications during first 6 months of Employment

Findings:

- P.O.S.T Certification - Communications Officer EFD Certification
- EPD Certification- (new for 2023)
- G.C.I.C Certification - Terminal Operators Security and Integrity
- FEMA Online Training (Series 100, 144, 200, 700, 800)

Recommendations

- Call Taking: 5 weeks/200 hours; OJT: 6 weeks/240 hours
- Police Dispatch: 5 weeks/2000 hours; OJT 16 weeks/640 hours
- Fire Dispatch: 5 weeks/200 hours; OJT: 10 weeks/400 hours
- In Service: 20 hours-combination of skill development, work rules and ethics
Atlanta Fire Curriculum – 2023

Study Goal: To ensure the program meets the National Standard Curriculum for EMT programs, the following guidelines were used in the development of the AFRD EMT Basic Program Curriculum: The National EMS Scope of Practice, National EMS Education Standards, the Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma, and local protocols.

Findings:
- EMT – Basic (18 wks)/Advanced EMT (20 wks)/Paramedic (11 mnths); These courses include skills to provide emergency medical care and traumatic injuries.
- Community Education: Heart saver CPR/First Aid (8 hrs); These courses designed for anyone with little or no medical training.
- CERT(ACERT) - Atlanta Community Emergency Response Team (8 hrs); These courses cover basic skills to know in a disaster.

Recommendations
Additional course work recommended for mandatory components to master necessary skills for advancement
Study Goal: APA 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.

Findings:
- APA was modeled after the FBI training curriculum
- Original curriculum consisted of 320 hours; current curriculum is 902 hours
- Since 1947, the academy has trained over 280 recruit classes
- APA moved to the campus of Atlanta Metropolitan State College in August 2021

Recommendations:
APD Recruit Training Curriculum- 902 Hours vs State of Georgia Mandate Curriculum- 408 Hours
PERF Review of Atlanta Police Department

Study Goal: Conduct organizational review and assessment of Atlanta Police Department, including community input on police reform efforts in partnership with APD Urban Planning and Management

Findings:
• Violence primarily related to interpersonal disputes or connected to nightclubs/bars
• Use of force policies met minimum legal standards
• Training can be improved
• Joint overarching public safety and reform messaging strategy needed

Recommendations:
• 29 of 49 Use of Force Recommendations adopted
• Strengthen and lengthen field training for new recruits
• Critical Decision-Making Model should become part of agency culture
• Coordinated communications strategy to promote dissemination of consistent and accurate recommendations
City of Atlanta Police Reform Community Engagement

Study Goal: Citywide community engagement effort to examine policing in Atlanta; in conjunction with PERF Review of policing reform

Findings:
• Feedback from over 5,000 citizens through surveys, focus groups and stakeholder interviews including Atlanta Police Officers
• Outreach across all mediums to touch all populations
• 69% of respondents felt APD addressed problems/concerns important to them
• 65% felt APD officers practiced community policing
• 55% believed APD uses appropriate amount of force required by the situation

Recommendations:
• Data and feedback used to help inform recommendations in PERF report
Study Goal: Identify best practices and recommendations that improve public trust and promote crime reduction

Findings:
• More than 135 unarmed Black people have died during police stops between 2015-2021
• Kerner Commission suggested a framework to end anti-Black institutional racism, but was largely rejected

Recommendations:
• Acknowledge the history of policing with law enforcement agencies
• Reflect the values of the community within the culture and practice of policing
• Increase transparency through open data portals and providing data, policies, and procedures in multiple languages
• Examine hiring practices and involve the community in recruiting and screening recruits
• Ask communities to participate in problem-solving efforts
• Observe and record current organizational structures and seek technical assistance that encourages collaborative community safety
Task Force on 21st Century Policing: A Renewed Call to Action, 2023

Study Goal: Expand upon original recommendations made during Pres. Obama’s original task force, particularly on the role of specialized units and use of force.

Findings:
- More than 135 unarmed Black people have died during police stops between 2015-2021
- Kerner Commission suggested a framework to end anti-Black institutional racism, but was largely rejected

Recommendations:
- Address the messaging and false dichotomy used to describe the act of policing as good vs evil
- Improve conditions for officers that protect from 21st century challenges
- Interagency collaboration to improve public safety
- Create opportunities for community partners to receive resources and exist as co-partners in neighborhood safety
- Opt for alternative response and call management as a public safety strategy, limiting the presence of armed forces in situations that do not require them
- Observe and record current organizational structures and seek technical assistance that encourages collaborative community safety
REPAIR Program, 2021

Study Goal: Training program developed by the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, in collaboration with the The Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities for law enforcement personnel to promote and protect civil and human rights

Findings:

• Over 1,000 officers have completed the course work
• Comprised of three components: REPAIR course, Training of Trainers and Subscription to Support Ongoing Training of Rank-and-File Officers, and Trauma-Informed Policing Course

Curriculum:

• Covers topics such as social identity, challenges in community policing, police reform, and impact of policing-on-policing behaviors
• Promotes cultural exchanges and innovation through multimedia tools and participant engagement
• Additional coursework for rank-and-file officers
• Address trauma, implicit bias, and psychology, and identifies response tools to protect the civil and human rights