



# PROJECT GREENSPACE

## PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

### GREENSPACE VISION

The vision of Project Greenspace is a **world-class greenspace system** in Atlanta that connects people to parks, recreational facilities, natural areas, outdoor gathering places, streetscapes, and greenways. This vision is articulated in the Project Greenspace message:

*You have been clear, Atlanta. You want a world-class greenspace system. You want a community where walking is easy. You want an enjoyable urban lifestyle with access to parks. You want unique greenspaces throughout the City that are diverse, safe, and accessible...*

*Today Atlanta has an opportunity like no other to create a legacy of great public spaces connected to communities through a robust greenspace system. Like the symbol of our great city, the phoenix, Atlanta is experiencing a rebirth. The City's population is projected to dramatically increase...If we are to maintain a healthy lifestyle, we must plan for places to walk and play. We must leverage the City's phenomenal economic growth to create a connected system of nature preserves, parks, plazas, and streetscapes. We must create regulatory incentives that protect and expand the urban tree canopy. We must act now to harness this energy to create a city of thriving and connected greenspaces that serve all our citizens.*

Greenspace is a system of parks, natural areas, open spaces, outdoor gathering places, and streetscape and greenway connections that perform vital environmental, economic, and social functions essential to Atlanta's quality of life and community health. The "building blocks" of this system are being analyzed as part of the ongoing "State of the City's Greenspace" assessment. Mapping and descriptions of key greenspace components (environmental resources, existing greenspaces, linear connections, etc.) are provided in an appendix to this working paper.

### GREENSPACE GOALS

Project Greenspace builds on prior park and greenspace initiatives in the City of Atlanta, including the 1993 Parks, Open Space and Greenways Plan, the 2005 Atlanta Park System Agenda, the Beltline Initiative, and others. Considered together, these initiatives set a clear direction based on public input and have resulted in significant accomplishments, but do not lay out a comprehensive strategy for implementation of a citywide greenspace system. To guide future efforts, the project team has defined ten greenspace goals based on a review of prior plans and initiatives and input received to date from citizens and stakeholders. The Public Forum meetings conducted in January 2007 confirmed the validity of these goals. They are organized into four categories: **Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources, Community, and Economic Development.**



## **Parks and Recreation**

1. Significantly increase the acreage of core parkland and ensure equitable distribution throughout Atlanta.
  - 10.5 acres+ of parkland per 1,000 residents
  - Neighborhood park facilities available within ½ mile of every resident via the street network
2. Develop greenways with multi-use trails to connect parks and greenspaces.
3. Provide recreational facilities and programs to meet citizens' needs, including youth, adult, senior, and special needs populations, throughout Atlanta.
4. Continue to improve park maintenance and security.

## **Natural Resources**

5. Protect and restore environmentally sensitive lands such as floodplains, wetlands, and natural habitat areas and associated values such as water quality.
6. Protect and restore Atlanta's tree canopy, with the target of increasing tree cover to 40%.

## **Community**

7. Increase the function of parks and greenspaces as community gathering places and connections, including:
  - A major venue for special events and festivals
  - Outdoor gathering places in neighborhoods and commercial districts
  - Green streetscapes and pedestrian connections as components of the greenspace system
8. Integrate Atlanta's history, cultural heritage, and the arts into the greenspace system.
9. Educate Atlanta's citizens about the benefits of greenspace and involve the community in developing the greenspace system.

## **Economic Development**

10. Reinforce the importance of greenspace to Atlanta's economy through connections between greenspace and economic development initiatives.



## PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Two overarching themes have emerged from all the detailed input received and analysis conducted to date for Project Greenspace:

- ***Growing the Greenspace System:*** The City of Atlanta needs more greenspace.
- ***Managing the Greenspace System:*** The City of Atlanta needs to better manage its existing greenspace and the greenspace it adds to the system.

Some citizens emphasize the need to increase the acreage of parks and greenspace, while others assert that the City must do a better job at managing what it has before it should consider acquiring significantly more land. The bottom line, however, is that the City **needs to do both** if it is to achieve the vision of a world-class greenspace system. Therefore, these two themes – **Growing Greenspace** and **Managing Greenspace** – are proposed as the organizing elements of a comprehensive framework for action by the City of Atlanta and its partners to realize the vision and goals. This framework is presented below in preliminary, outline form for the purposes of review, discussion, revision, refinement, and more detailed development as the Project Greenspace planning process moves forward.

### Growing the Greenspace System

- **Grow greenspace by acquiring land**
  - Set an overall acreage target and identify priority lands for acquisition using specific criteria, e.g.:
    - Geographic distribution based on greenspace typology (neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, etc.)
    - Accessibility
    - Connectivity
  - Identify and secure funding sources for the acquisition of priority greenspace
  - Pursue methods other than fee simple purchase to acquire land that meets the criteria (e.g., tax delinquent properties)
- **Grow greenspace by establishing physical connections**
  - Establish natural resource corridors as greenspace connections (stream corridors/floodplains, etc.)
  - Establish greenspace connections along man-made corridors (streetscapes, rail and utility rights-of-way, etc.)
  - Establish pedestrian, bicycle and transit connections to parks and greenspaces as alternatives to the automobile, including:
    - Off-road multi-use trails



- Sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes along streets
- Linkages to transit service
- Establish connections to regional greenspace initiatives (e.g., the Chattahoochee River)
- **Grow greenspace by regulating land development**
  - Establish regulations and incentives to promote the establishment and preservation of usable, accessible greenspace
    - Meaningful open space within residential developments (improved open space requirements, conservation subdivisions, etc.)
    - Plazas, play areas, and other outdoor spaces within commercial developments with connections to office and residential uses
    - Open space serving multiple developments using transfer of development rights or similar approach
    - Connections to the citywide greenspace system
    - Green site design and building practices
  - Improve regulations to protect environmentally sensitive resources
  - Proactively address greenspace issues in all stages of the development review and approval process, including post-development monitoring
- **Grow greenspace by working with partners**
  - Identify the economic benefits of parks and greenspace.
  - Work with other governmental and institutional landowners to preserve existing and establish new greenspace (e.g., the State of Georgia, colleges and universities, Atlanta Public Schools, libraries, healthcare institutions, etc.)
  - Work with private, nonprofit partners to preserve greenspace
    - Existing conservation land trusts
    - Private charitable organizations and institutions with an interest in greenspace issues
    - Possible establishment of new citywide private land conservation trust
  - Work with neighborhoods to identify greenspace opportunities and incorporate them into small area studies
  - Work with private landowners to preserve greenspace through mechanisms such as conservation easements and limited development
- **Grow greenspace by building capacity and improving coordination within city government**
  - Identify opportunities to establish greenspace on city-controlled land (e.g., multi-functional stormwater management areas; green streetscapes, roofs, and plazas)



- Integrate greenspace into city-sponsored development initiatives and projects (e.g., brownfield redevelopment)
- Leverage mechanisms such as a stormwater utility and sewer easements to create greenspace and greenspace connections (e.g., floodplain acquisition, regional stormwater detention areas, trails within easements)
- Improve internal processes and procedures to identify, monitor, negotiate, and acquire greenspace properties
- Establish an improved internal organizational structure to evaluate, leverage, and facilitate greenspace opportunities, e.g.:
  - Bridge gaps between greenspace opportunities and available resources
  - Prioritize and implement open space recommendations made in small area studies
  - Manage greenspace regulatory mechanisms such as open space credits and transfer of development rights
  - Review and accept proposed land donations

## Managing the Greenspace System

- **Manage greenspace to provide a world-class parks and recreational system**
  - Identify citizens’ recreational needs and provide facilities and programs to meet those needs
    - Core recreational facilities based on level of service standards
    - Core recreational programs
    - Partnerships with other entities to fill gaps and minimize duplications of service (Atlanta Public Schools, private recreational providers, etc.)
    - Park “audits” to confirm access for populations with special needs
  - Apply consistent standards of quality for the maintenance of parks and recreational facilities
    - Achieve deferred maintenance of existing parks and recreational facilities
    - Ensure sufficient resources (staffing and funding) to maintain existing and new parks and facilities to meet the standards
    - Partner with “park friend” organizations, neighborhood groups, and businesses to contribute to maintenance needs
  - Maintain a safe and secure environment in Atlanta’s parks and greenspaces
    - Work with Atlanta Police to establish a prevalent security presence in the parks (regular patrols, surveillance cameras, etc.)
    - Apply “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” (CPTED) principles to park design and development (visibility, lighting, etc.)
    - Involve neighborhood groups in park safety and security (“eyes on the park,” neighborhood crime watch, etc.)



- Define and apply consistent standards of quality for park design and utilization
  - Improve park accessibility and connections to the surrounding population
  - Define management zones and practices that optimize use for active and passive recreation and greenspace preservation based on analysis of individual park characteristics
  - Define quality design standards for park elements (facilities, landscaping, public art, pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems, etc.)
  - Work with citizens to develop park master plans that apply the standards
- Establish parks and greenspace as defining elements of Atlanta’s community identity
  - Identify signature streets to help define the city’s image
  - Create streetscape classifications and urban design standards to improve the quality of the public realm
  - Develop a “signature” park/major special events venue
  - Establish gathering places (parks, plazas, etc.) at the community and neighborhood levels
  - Integrate public art, culture, and heritage
  - Provide community gardens
- **Manage greenspace to protect and restore sensitive environmental resources**
  - Preserve natural resources, restore natural habitats, and control invasive species
    - Park master plans
    - Park and greenspace management, operations, and maintenance
  - Preserve and interpret historic and cultural resources
  - Use greenspace to promote natural, multi-functional stormwater solutions (flood control, water quality improvement, recreation, etc.)
  - Maintain and increase Atlanta’s tree canopy
    - Tree conservation ordinance
    - Tree planting requirements for new developments
    - Tree planting initiatives and partnerships (parks and streetscapes, Trees Atlanta, neighborhood groups, corporations, etc.)
- **Establish the institutional capacity to manage a world-class greenspace system**
  - Secure sufficient and sustainable sources of funding for greenspace management, e.g.:
    - Dedicated greenspace funding
    - Revenue generation opportunities in parks
    - Public/private partnerships
  - Build capacity within city government to manage greenspace, e.g.:
    - Real estate management capability
    - Coordination among city departments relative to greenspace issues



- Mapping and field verification capabilities (GIS, boundary surveys)
- Greenspace and recreation monitoring system
- Establish partnerships for greenspace management
  - “Park friend” organizations, neighborhood groups, volunteers, etc.
  - Nonprofit organizations, private businesses, etc.
- **Build community support for creation of a world-class greenspace system**
  - Work with partners on public education and outreach initiatives regarding the importance of greenspace to quality of life, community well-being, and economic development
  - Work with neighborhood and citizen groups to build grassroots support for greenspace
  - Build political consensus for an extensive greenspace system
    - Identify park and greenspace “champions” to carry the message to the Atlanta community





## APPENDIX A

### OVERVIEW OF GREENSPACE INVENTORY

#### INTRODUCTION

An inventory of existing and potential greenspace resources has been prepared for Atlanta's Project Greenspace. An overview of this inventory is provided below. As an overview, this document does not provide an in-depth description of these resources. Further detail, including mapping of additional resources, will be developed as part of the full State of the City's Greenspace Report.

The inventory of Atlanta's existing greenspace resources, described in the following sections, has been organized into four categories:

- Existing parks and greenspace
- Atlanta's drainage system
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Greenspace connections

A concluding section illustrates the synthesis of these existing resources into a potential greenspace system for the City of Atlanta. The synthesis is intended as a tool to assist in setting priority actions and decision-making in order to preserve and grow Atlanta's greenspace.

#### EXISTING PARKS AND GREENSPACE

Figure 1 illustrates the extent of the city's existing public parks based on the current city classification system. Also shown are other types of permanent open spaces that contribute to (or potentially contribute to) the sustainability, interconnectedness, and/or recreational facility needs of Atlanta's greenspace system. Atlanta's city parks inventory and other parks and open spaces are described in greater detail below.

##### Atlanta City Parks

The extent of the city's park inventory is shown in Figure 1. This inventory is current as of February 2007. The City categorizes its parks into nine separate classifications based on the types of resources and facilities present within each. Park classifications include:

- **Regional Park:** Regional parks are major park sites that draw a significant portion of users from both within and outside city limits. They generally contain facilities that generate revenue, like the Chastain Arts Center.



- **Community Park:** Community parks support organized programming with staff. They typically contain such facilities as recreation centers, pools, large picnic shelters, or programmed athletic complexes. A small fee for the use of some of these facilities may be charged in order to partially offset operating costs.
- **Neighborhood Park:** Neighborhood Parks serve local informal recreational needs. Typical amenities include picnic shelters (small to medium for family gatherings), open fields for informal sports and recreation activities, play grounds/tot lots, basketball and tennis courts, and wooded natural areas.
- **Block Park:** Block parks are small park sites containing limited amenities such as a play grounds and tot lots.
- **Garden Spot:** Garden spots are very small landscaped areas – typically traffic islands. These areas generally do not have amenities.
- **Nature Preserve:** Nature preserves are primarily natural areas with amenities that facilitate environmental interpretation.
- **Conservation Park:** Conservation parks are areas managed for environmental protection purposes. Conservation parks are publicly accessible.
- **Special Facility:** Special facilities are sites within the park inventory that contain facilities not typically associated with parks. The Historic Oakland Cemetery is one example of a special facility.
- **Community Center:** Community centers are stand-alone facilities leased to a community service organization providing social services.

### Other Parks and Open Spaces

Other types of parks and open spaces not under the city's direct control make significant contributions to the overall viability of Atlanta's greenspace system. These types of parks and open spaces include:

- **National Park Service (NPS) sites:** NPS sites offer recreational and historic value to Atlanta's greenspace system. Several NPS sites are located within or adjacent to the City of Atlanta. These include sites like the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (located just over the northwest boundary of the City).
- **State and DeKalb County Parks:** There are relatively few park resources of this type within the City. Centennial Olympic Park is managed by the State of Georgia and is an example of a significant park resource located adjacent to the downtown.
- **Greenways (consent decree acquisitions):** These include acquisitions along river and stream corridors made per the 1998 Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree. They typically have restricted public access.



- ***Golf Courses (privately owned):*** Private golf courses offer a recreational amenity on large tracts of land maintained in a park-like setting. Therefore, golf courses are important components of Atlanta's existing greenspace system.
- ***Cemeteries:*** Atlanta has several very large cemeteries within its borders, like Lincoln Cemetery. Similar to golf courses, cemeteries maintain large areas of land in a park-like setting.
- ***Atlanta Public Schools:*** The recreational facilities and undeveloped land found at many public school sites make Atlanta's public schools a potentially important component of the city's greenspace system. Furthermore, the many school sites abandoned as part of the school district's consolidation efforts could provide future greenspace opportunities.
- ***K-12 Private Schools:*** Private school sites are similar to public school sites. The City would need to partner individually with these institutions to benefit from the facilities and potential greenspace they provide.
- ***Colleges and Universities:*** Though many of the city's colleges and universities are adjacent to downtown and quite urban in character, they do offer open spaces and facilities within their campuses. Colleges and universities are shown in Figure 1 to illustrate how these resources may connect to the larger greenspace system.
- ***Parks outside Atlanta:*** Parks and other open space resources outside of the city limits are also shown in Figure 1 to highlight potential greenspace connections to these resources.

## ATLANTA'S DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Atlanta's natural drainage system – the dendritic pattern of rivers and streams and the land forms associated with them – is an important feature of the Atlanta's greenspace system. Figure 2 shows the resources that compose this system. These include the 100-year floodplain as delineated by FEMA; additional flat land areas (up to 2% in slope) next to the FEMA 100-year floodplain; 75-foot wide land buffers adjacent to the edges of rivers, streams, and other water bodies; and steep slope areas (20% and greater in slope) adjacent to rivers and streams. As environmentally sensitive areas, these resources are subject to federal, state, and local development regulations. Together, they function as natural corridors for human recreation and wildlife habitat. Protecting and enhancing these resources should be one of the city's primary goals to ensure a sustainable, interconnected greenspace system. Each of the land areas that compose Atlanta's natural drainage system is described in greater detail below.

### The 100-Year Floodplain

The 100-year floodplain, as shown in Figure 2, is delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to define land areas within communities that are eligible to



participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In order to participate in the program, local governments must adopt ordinances and other development regulations that minimize the risk to life and property and prevent increased flooding within the 100-year floodplain during flood events. NFIP makes flood insurance available to affected land owners in participating communities.

FEMA mapping of the 100-year floodplain does not exist for all areas of Atlanta subject to periodic flood inundation. For developments proposed along watercourses for which FEMA mapping does not exist, the city's flood area regulations require engineering studies to be performed to determine the area where inundation is likely to occur during the 100-year base flood.

The floodplain performs very important natural functions within the City of Atlanta, including temporary storage of floodwaters, reduction in soil erosion, and maintenance of water quality. The linear nature of the 100-year floodplain also provides important habitat corridors for the unobstructed movement of wildlife. Because these areas are flat, floodplains can also accommodate types of recreation and sports facilities that are not severely impacted by frequent flooding (e.g. soccer, baseball, etc.).

### **Flat Areas**

Flat land areas up to 2% in slope and contiguous with the FEMA delineated 100-year floodplain are also shown in Figure 2. These flat areas, though un-delineated by FEMA, are likely subject to minor flooding. These areas could also include unmapped wetlands (see Figure 3). Like the FEMA delineated 100-year floodplain described above, flat land areas can contribute to Atlanta's greenspace system by providing important wildlife habitat and accommodating recreation facilities.

### **75-Foot Riparian Buffer**

In an effort to protect and improve the quality of the city's waterways, the City of Atlanta has adopted an ordinance requiring a 75-foot riparian buffer to be maintained on both sides of each river, stream, and natural drainage channel. Unless a variance or exemption is granted, building activity of any kind cannot occur within this area. If properly maintained, buffer areas provide numerous environmental protection and resource management benefits, such as improved water quality and wildlife habitat.

### **Steep Slopes (integral to the drainage network)**

The stability of steep slopes adjacent to rivers and streams has a direct impact on water quality. Land areas greater than or equal to 20% in slope adjacent to the city's rivers and streams are shown in Figure 2. Development activity on or near steeply sloped areas should be controlled in order to limit or prevent the negative impacts of soil erosion on adjacent



waterways. If left in their natural vegetated state, steeply sloped areas can provide important wildlife habitat and contribute to the overall quality of a healthy greenspace system.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

Figure 3 shows other land areas within the City that have a high environmental sensitivity and/or are subject to development regulations. These include undeveloped land with extensive forest cover or located within proximity to water bodies, land areas with steep slopes, and wetlands. Each is described in greater detail below. The permanent protection of these land areas represents a significant opportunity to expand the city's greenspace system.

### Environmentally Sensitive Land

The environmentally sensitive land shown in Figure 3 is based on the "Greenspace Acquisition Support System Report, 2002" funded by Trees Atlanta and the Turner Foundation, and prepared by the Georgia Institute of Technology Center for GIS. The land areas shown are undeveloped areas (excluding existing city parks and including some areas of golf courses and cemeteries) greater than five (5) acres in size that exhibit high environmental and greenspace value in terms of:

- **Water Quality:** based on proximity to water bodies, floodplains, and wetlands; and proximity to "priority" stream segments designated as part of the 1998 Consent Decree.
- **Forest Cover:** based on canopy area percentage and the relative mix of evergreens and hardwoods. Greater canopy area and greater stand purity (either evergreen or hardwood) resulted in higher values.
- **Connectivity:** based on proximity to existing parks, schools, cemeteries and the size of the parcel.

To provide a current inventory of environmentally sensitive land within the City, the Greenspace Acquisition Support System Report was updated by ATS, Inc. (a member of the consultant team) to identify and exclude areas that have been developed or are now protected as parks or greenways since the completion of the report in 2002.

The proximity and/or environmental relationship of these land areas to the land areas that compose the city's drainage system (see Figure 2) represent a significant opportunity to expand Atlanta's greenspace.

### Wetlands

Wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The wetlands delineated in Figure 3 are from the National Wetlands Inventory



(NWI) maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Wetlands offer numerous environmental benefits, such as flood control, groundwater recharge, and provision of important wildlife habitat.

### **Steep Slopes**

Land areas greater than or equal to 20% in slope are shown in Figure 3. The steep slopes shown here are not integral to the drainage system shown in Figure 2. Development activity on or near steeply sloped areas should be controlled in order to limit or prevent the negative impacts of soil erosion. If left in their natural vegetated state, steeply sloped areas can provide important wildlife habitat and contribute to the overall quality of a healthy greenspace system.

## **GREENSPACE CONNECTIONS**

The provision of linear connections facilitates improved access between and among the city's greenspace resources. Greenspace connection opportunities are illustrated in Figure 4. These include Beltline initiative trails, other multi-use trails, the on-street bike lane network, the arterial street network, utility corridors, and undeveloped land. Each is described in greater detail below.

### **Beltline Trails**

The 22-mile loop trail system proposed for the Beltline initiative circles the downtown and mid-town areas of the City, connecting residents to many existing and future parks. Trail alignments both in development and planned are shown in Figure 4.

### **Multi-Use Trails**

In conjunction with the PATH Foundation, the City has prepared a master plan for the development of multi-use trails throughout the City. The network of trails described in this master plan is shown in Figure 4. The PATH Foundation has been very active in recent years managing the design and construction of many these trails – these are shown as existing trails in Figure 4. Also shown are the planned trail alignments.

### **Arterial Streets**

The city's arterial street network is shown in Figure 4 in order to highlight street connections between and among Atlanta's greenspaces by both vehicles and pedestrians. The greenspace connection potential of many of these streets could be emphasized with new streetscape improvements.



## **Bike Lanes**

The existing and proposed on-street bike network is shown in Figure 4. The city's network includes both dedicated bike lanes as well as streets that are shared with vehicles.

## **Utility Corridors**

Utility corridors offer valuable greenspace connection opportunities in the City of Atlanta. Several of the longest utility corridors (high-tension electric lines for example) cross the entire city and contain a significant amount of open space, maximizing their potential as both connections for residents as well as valuable wildlife corridors.

## **Undeveloped Land**

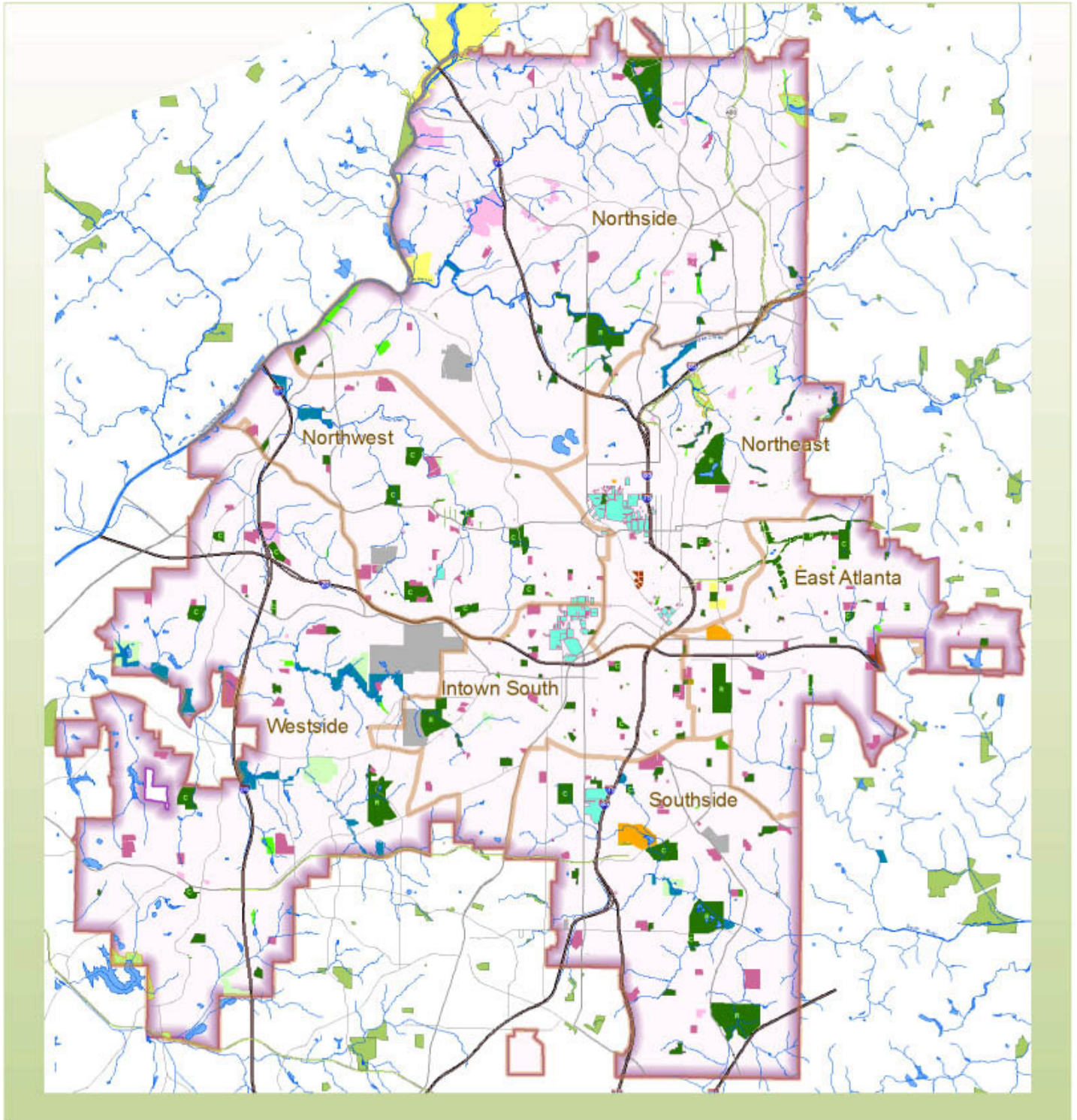
Like the environmentally sensitive land described above, the undeveloped land shown in Figure 4 is based on the "Greenspace Acquisition Support System Report, 2002" funded by Trees Atlanta and the Turner Foundation, and prepared by the Georgia Institute of Technology Center for GIS. The land areas shown are undeveloped areas (excluding existing city parks and including some areas of golf courses and cemeteries) greater than five (5) acres in size that exhibit a comparatively lower value than the environmentally sensitive land described above in terms of water quality, forest cover, and connectivity. Nevertheless, these land areas do represent some value to the potential greenspace system for Atlanta, particularly when land ownership and acquisition opportunities are considered.

## **6.0: GREENSPACE SYNTHESIS**

Figure 5 illustrates the synthesis of the existing greenspace resources described above. The synthesis shows established public and private greenspace resources that should be preserved and enhanced, the potential for future greenspace growth, and a network of connections linking the city's residents to its greenspace resources. The synthesis is a tool for setting priority actions and decision making in order to preserve and grow Atlanta's greenspace.

# FIGURE 1 Existing Parks and Greenspace

March 2007



This map shows existing public parks and consent decree greenway acquisitions. It also shows other important open space land including cemeteries, golf courses, and both public and private schools.

### Legend

#### Atlanta City Parks Classifications

- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Center
- Block Park
- Beauty Spot
- Conservation Park
- Nature Preserve
- Special Facility

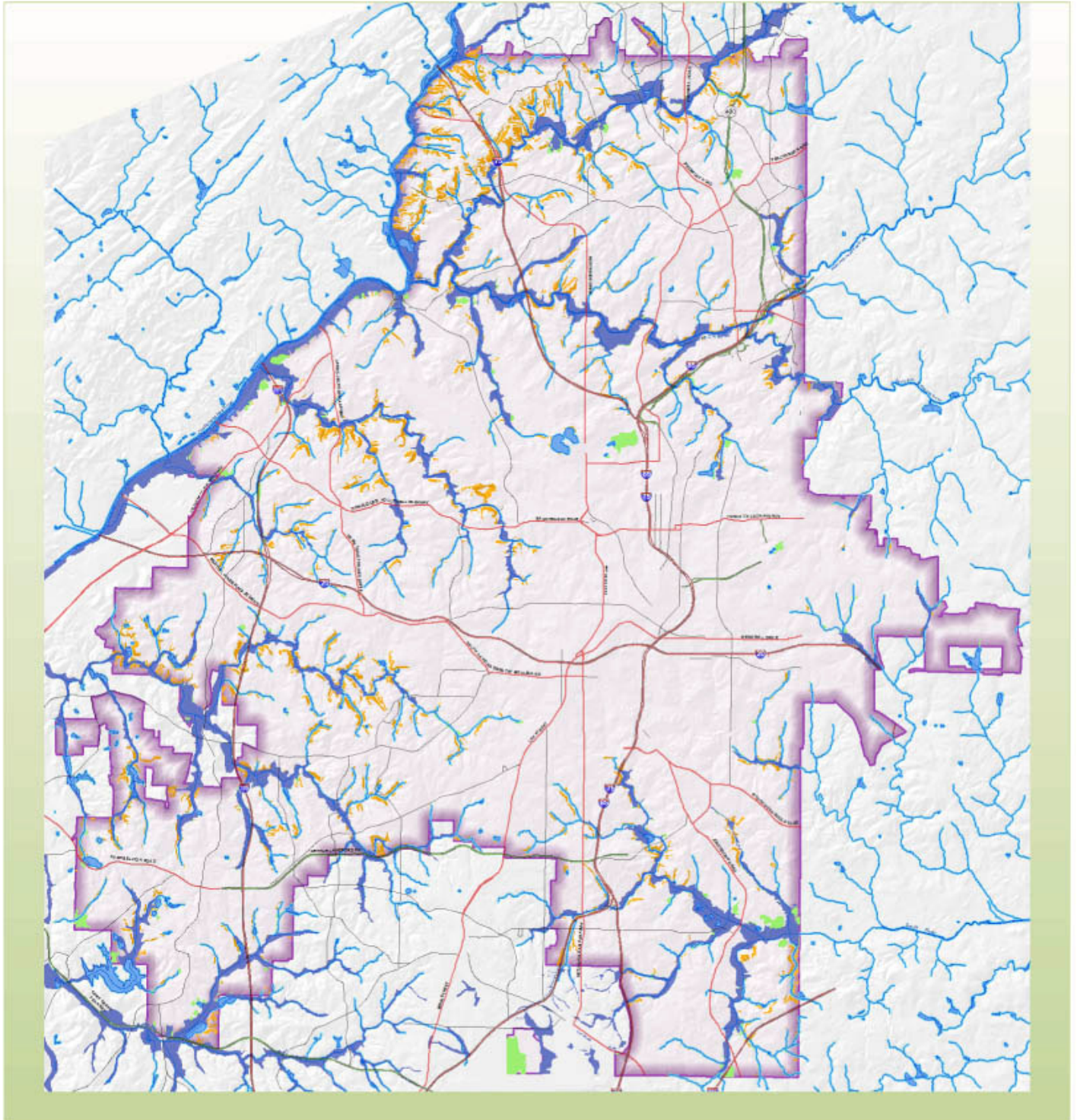
#### Other Parks and Open Space

- National Park Service
- State and DeKalb County Parks
- Greenways (consent decree acquisitions)
- Golf Courses (privately owned)
- Cemeteries
- Parks outside Atlanta
- Atlanta Public Schools
- K-12 Private Schools
- Colleges and Universities

FIGURE 2





# Drainage System Framework

March 2007



This map shows main features in the hydrologic drainage system of Atlanta, including waterways, flood plains, and steep areas where runoff and erosion directly impacts streams.

**Legend**

-  100 year FEMA flood plain
-  Flat, potentially flood prone areas
-  Buffer zone, 75 ft. from streams and shorelines
-  Slopes > 20% draining directly to streams

Atlanta's Project Greenspace

prepared by



with

PRGS Consulting  
Advanced Technology Solutions  
Malvada Consulting Group

ETC Institute / Leisure Vision  
Metro Girl

prepared for

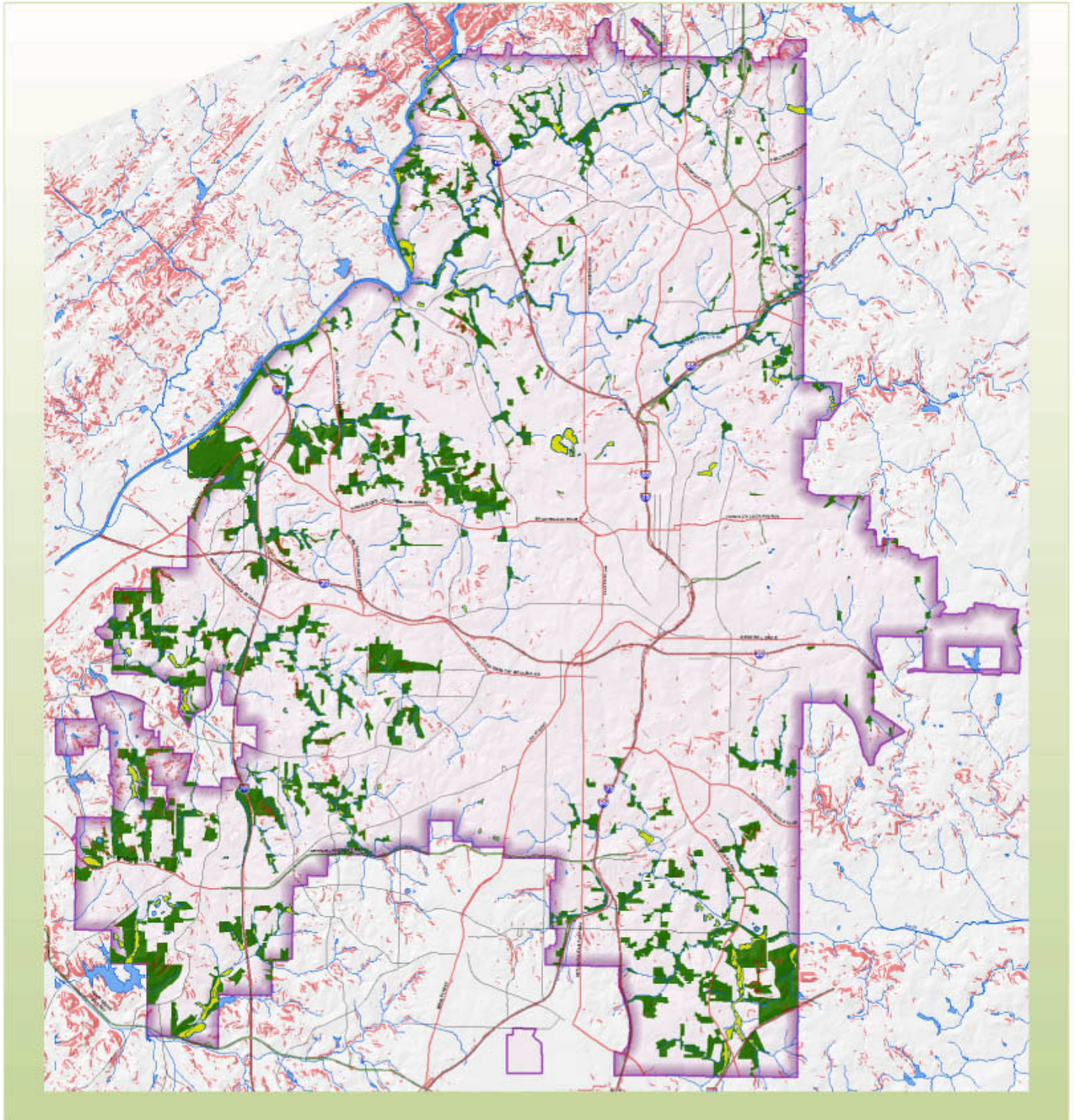
The City of Atlanta, Department of Planning and Community Development and  
the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

Data Source: City of Atlanta



# Environmentally Sensitive Land

March 2007



This map shows areas of high environmental sensitivity, including undeveloped land with important forest or water quality values, designated wetlands, and steep slopes.

Legend




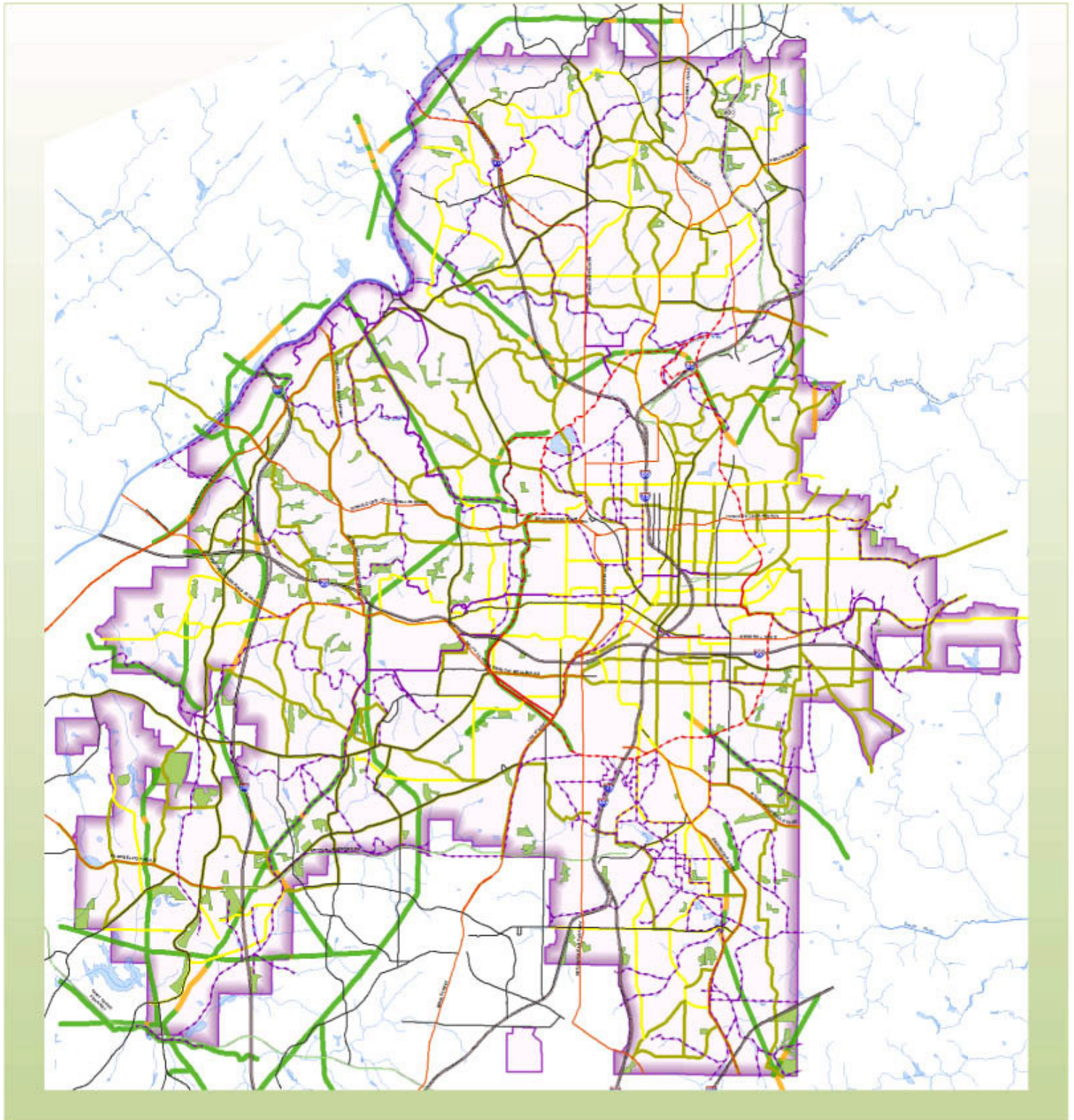
-  Undeveloped land with highest environmental value
-  Wetlands
-  Slopes > 20%

FIGURE 4

# Greenspace Connection Opportunities

March 2007



Greenspace connection opportunities include the BeltLine and Multi-Use off road trail system, arterial routes with potential for enhanced streetscapes, on-street bike lanes, undeveloped land parcels and utility corridors.

### Legend

#### BeltLine Trails

- In Development
- - - Planned alignment

#### Multi-Use Trails

- Existing / In Development
- - - Planned alignment

#### Arterial Streets

- State Routes
- Other Arterials

#### Bike Lanes

- Short term priority
- - - Long term priority

#### Electric Utility Corridors

- Cleared or vegetated
- Urbanized

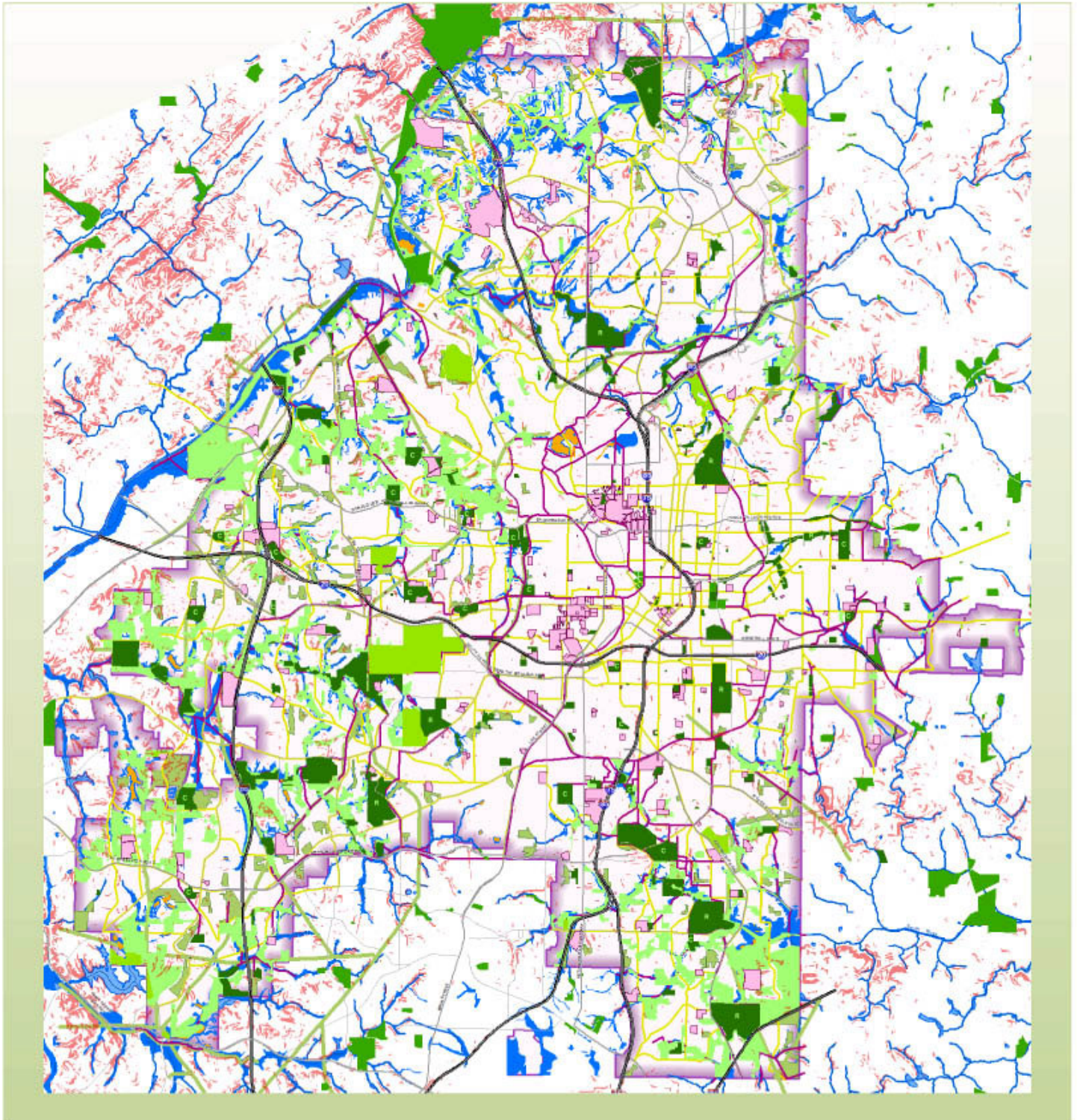
#### Undeveloped Land

- Moderate to Low environmental resource value

FIGURE 5

# Greenspace Synthesis

March 2007



The synthesis map juxtaposes existing protected greenspace resources with highly valued environmental resources and shows planned and potential interconnections within the greenspace system.

**Established Public/Private Greenspace**

- City of Atlanta Parks & Greenways
- Federal, State, & Region Parks
- Cemeteries & Golf Courses
- Public & Private Schools/Colleges

**Future Greenspace Potential**

- Undeveloped land with highest environmental value
- Wetlands
- Steep Slopes (> 20%)
- Hydrologic Framework (flood plains, shoreline buffers, & vulnerable slopes)

**Connecting Elements**

- Existing & Planned Multi-use Trails
- On-street Bike Lanes
- Electric Utility Corridors
- Undeveloped land with lower environmental value