

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

WATERSHED TEAM

PRESENTATION TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 12, 2022



Who we are



Roger Bhandari - Division Chief

- 26+ years of legal experience



Robert Moses - Senior Attorney

- 20+ years of legal experience



Spencer Peck - Assistant Attorney II –

- 2+ years of legal and 6+ years of environmental policy and stormwater management experience

Watershed Matters

- Regulatory compliance – consent decrees, NPDES permits
- Site development, including the Riparian Buffer Technical Panel, floodplain, stormwater, and erosion and sediment control
- Water and sewer billing, including Water and Sewer Appeals Board.
- Account collections
- Meter and main installations
- Industrial Pretreatment & FOG programs
- Care and Conserve
- Legislation drafting
- SOPs and other policy advice
- Access to land and real estate matters
- Water and Sewer Intergovernmental Agreements
- Litigation support

DWM's Flexible Levels, Options, & Affordable Terms (F.L.O.A.T.) Initiative



- DOL's Watershed Team assisted DWM in establishing an amnesty-like program to assist customers with outstanding bills.
- Authorized by City Council approved code amendments in 21-O-0883 & 22-O-1779
- Program runs from July 28, 2022 – January 1, 2023 and provides:
 - Account adjustments, interest-free payment plans, one-time grants and credits, and service requests to correct meter issues.
 - Customers can discuss account at FLOAT events on multiple dates at locations across the city.

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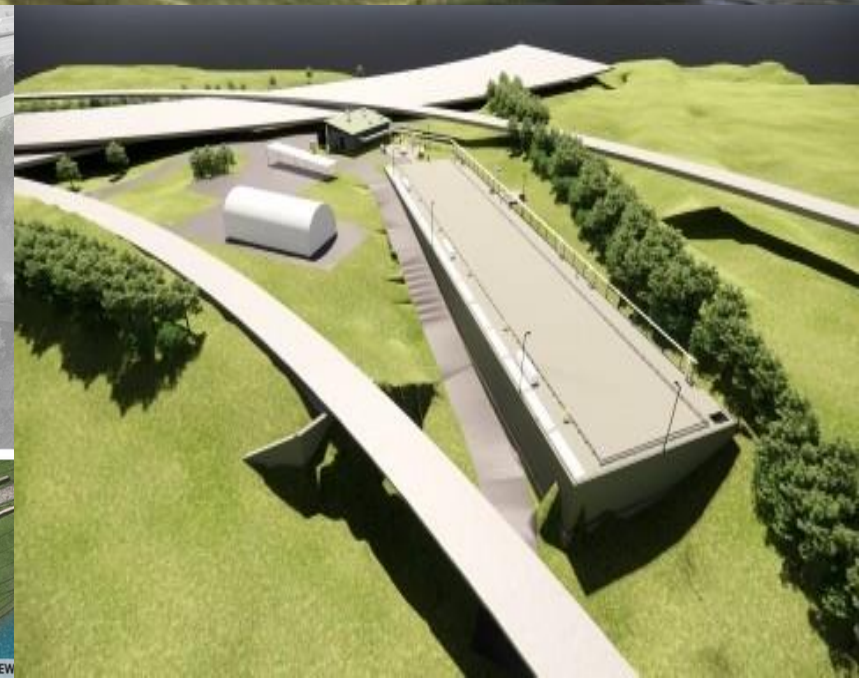
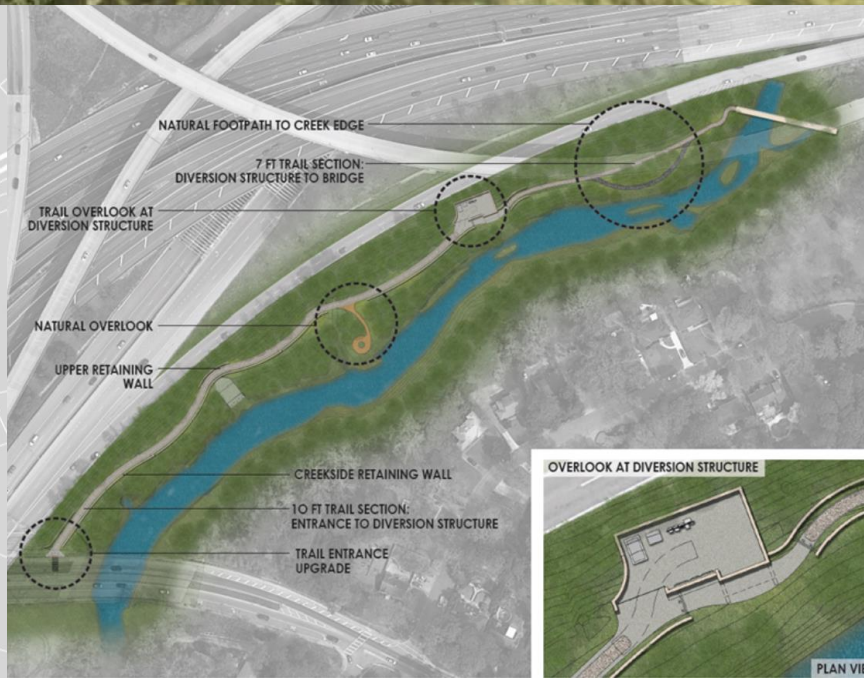
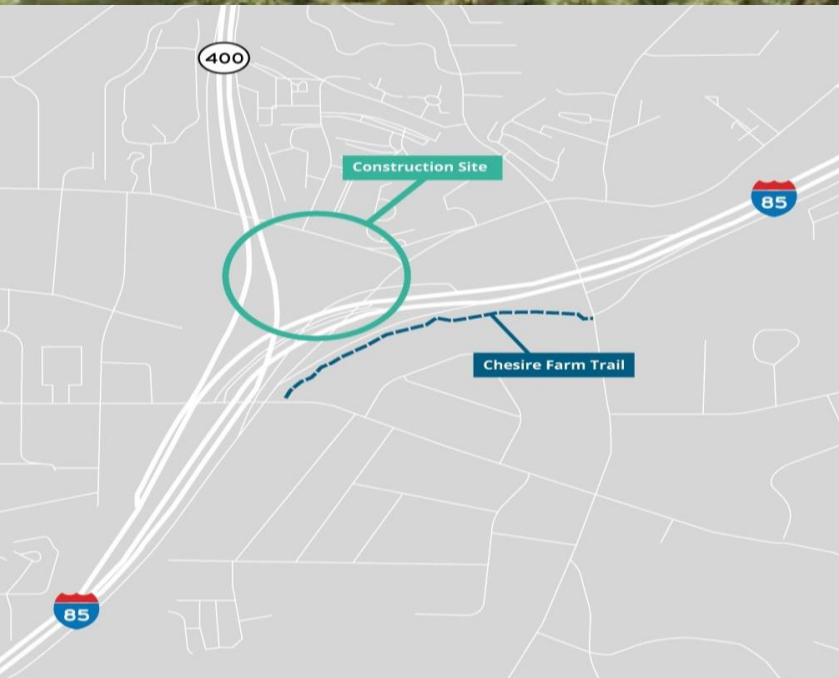


DOL Attorneys provided advice/counsel on:

- Legal authority to create initiative;
- Day-to-day operations, including Standard Operating Procedures;
- Collectability of outstanding accounts;
- Drafting legislation to expand power to adjust accounts; and
- Council communications, and public outreach/engagement.



North Fork Storage Tank and Pump Station



Other Environmental Work

The Watershed Team are environmental attorneys that service other City departments including:

- Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Resilience
- Department of Aviation
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department City Planning
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Enterprise Asset Management

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport



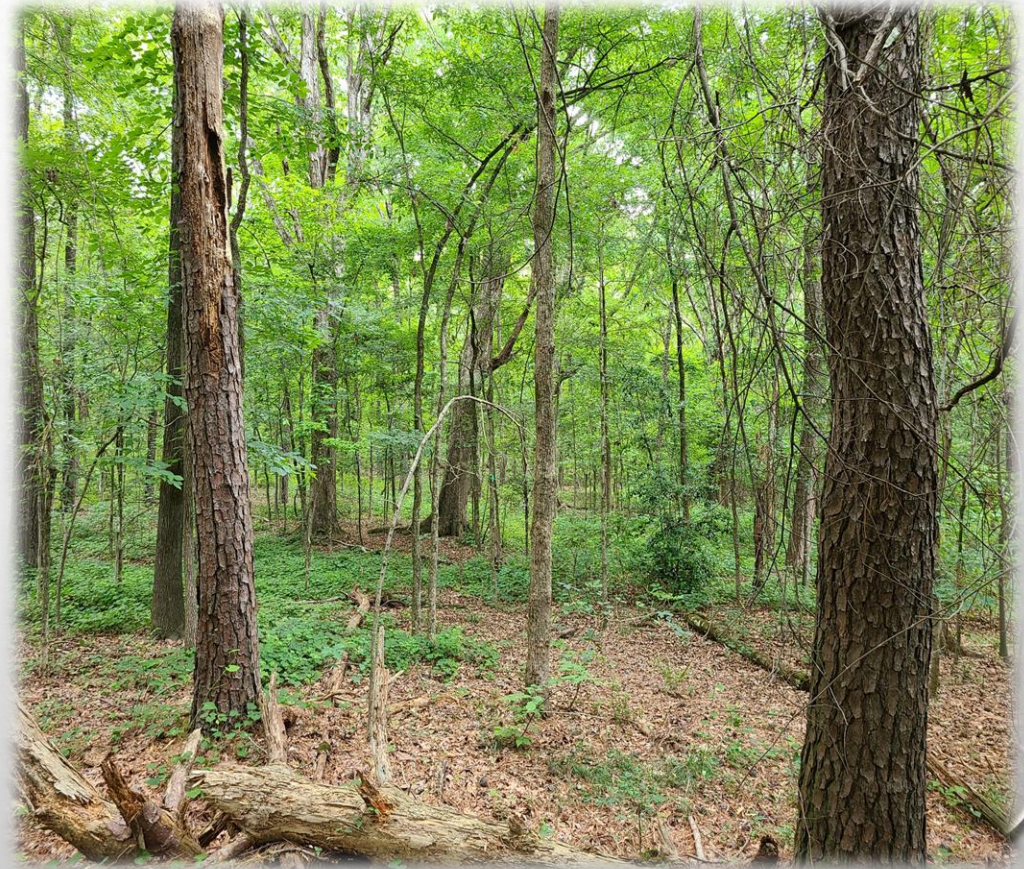
- State stormwater permitting
- Management plans
- Planning with airport tenants

Office of Sustainability and Resilience

Carbon Credit Program



- First of its kind in Georgia and only third known for a municipal urban forest.
- Uses the carbon captured by the Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve to create marketable carbon credits.
- Carbon credits may be sold on the open market to generate income for the City.



Chattahoochee Brick Site

- Advising Watershed Management, Enterprise Asset Management, and Parks and Recreation on environmental site issues, including clean-up requirements.
- Assisted with closing process by negotiating environmental documentation and drafting environmental clauses for the sale contract.
- Ongoing advice on processes for remediation of the site to enable the contemplated end uses.





Questions?