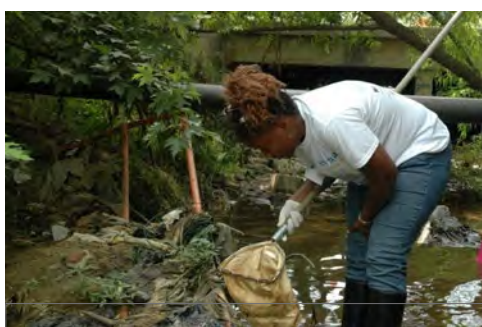
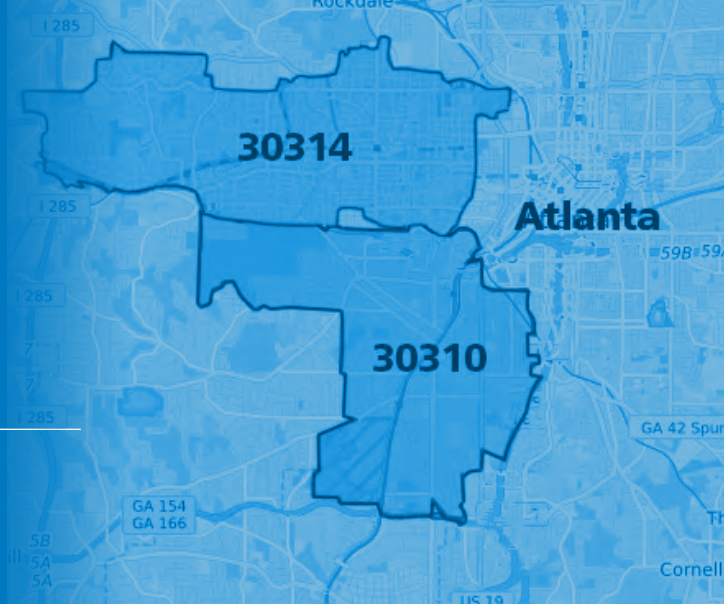


WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Atlanta, Georgia



The Advancing Environmental Justice through Technical Assistance Mini-Grants Program

is hosted by the National Environmental Health Partnership Council with support from CDC National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In Year 3, five organizations, including [West Atlanta Watershed Alliance](#), are supported through \$10,000 mini-grants and technical assistance.

Credit: Photo by Olivia Hodges, courtesy of Unsplash.

MISSION

To improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving and restoring the community's natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

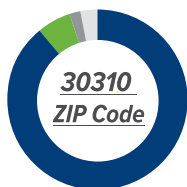
- Illegal dumping
- Inadequate sewage systems
- Lead
- Watershed contamination
- Accessibility of greenspaces

THE WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE (WAWA) was founded in response to illegal dumping and a planned sewer project that could have proven detrimental to the health and well-being of the West Atlanta community. The sewer project would have routed sewage through a community park where children and families gathered daily. After an elected official shared the proposed project and its potential impact with the community, its members mobilized to fight against the project and other environmental injustices.

When the dumping of tires and other illegally dumped waste became a major issue, the community once again mobilized to make calls and send written correspondence to the city, state and the Environmental Protection Agency to address the issue. Initially, the City of Atlanta denied that there was a problem, but the power of data collected by the

Impacted Populations

Atlanta, GA



Racial demographics¹

■ **Black:** 89.8% ■ **White:** 5.9%
■ **Hispanic:** 1.8% ■ **Other:** 2.5%

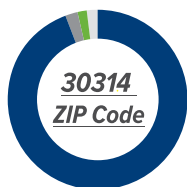
\$35,968¹

The estimated median household income in 2019



96.1%

school-age children are eligible for federal free- and reduced-price lunch programs



Racial demographics²

■ **Black:** 94.4% ■ **White:** 1.6%
■ **Hispanic:** 2.1% ■ **Other:** 1.9%

\$29,433²

The estimated median household income in 2019



97.2%

school-age children are eligible for federal free- and reduced-price lunch programs

community—photographic documentation and GPS locations of waste—compelled them to invest thousands of dollars in tire clean-up. The city also publicly acknowledged that a community investigation prompted their clean-up efforts. Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division also initiated an enforcement action against one of the entities responsible for illegally dumping the construction waste and debris along Proctor Creek in northwest Atlanta. Additionally, the community has had to fight for upgraded and adequate sewage systems and equity in green infrastructure, as well as the cleanup of lead-based paint in the soil surrounding community homes.

Many decision makers dismiss the community and make decisions without regard or respect for them, the community’s history, or the impact of their decisions with the belief that the community will neither understand nor care. Another challenge is the lack of a cohesive action plan to address environmental injustices. There are so many issues that plague the West Atlanta community that environmental justice is not often a priority. WAWA has worked closely with community members to highlight the intersectionality of the most critical issues they face daily, such as health and economic concerns, and environmental injustices. As WAWA makes these connections, offers training and education and sets conditions to empower the community to take action, more community members step into their power and changes take place.

GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Developing an organizational communications strategy through storytelling and social media
- Growing engagement with donors
- Launching a community input survey to assist with organizational improvement regarding programmatic impact and to help influence goals, objectives, and strategies for strategic planning



¹ 30310 Zip Code (Atlanta, GA) Detailed Profile. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.city-data.com/zips/30310.html>

² 30314 Zip Code (Atlanta, GA) Detailed Profile. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.city-data.com/zips/30314.html>

The information and select images included in this profile were provided by the grantee.

This project is supported by cooperative agreement U38OT000294 between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Public Health Association. The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of the National Environmental Partnership Council and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Public Health Association.