2022 SPRING CONFERENCE PROGRAM

GEORGIA PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Voices Across Georgia
Welcome to our first ever hybrid Spring Conference, **Voices Across Georgia**. GPA’s mission includes providing our members with tools to advance the art and science of planning; our biannual conferences achieve that mission. The spring conference will feature the latest trends in annexation, zoning, sustainable development, and outreach, as well as several student spatial analysis projects. In addition to our virtual technical sessions, I hope you will take advantage of the educational and networking events across the state on Friday.

I would like to thank the Programs Committee for coordinating both virtual and in-person events, including Amanda Hatton, VP Programs. This conference would not happen without member volunteers or our generous annual and conference sponsors. Thank you all.

I am pleased to welcome Charles Hayslett, our Keynote Speaker. Our conversations about the decline of rural Georgia remind me that planners have much to gain from collaborating with passionate people outside of our own profession.
Charles is a retired journalist and public relations executive who has been researching rural Georgia’s problems for the past several years. He blogs about his findings at www.troubleingodscountry.com.

I am looking forward to hearing his insights into our state’s health, economy, and education, as well as how planners can promote growth and achievement across Georgia.

Sincerely,

Whitney  
President
Dear Fellow Planners,

Voices Across Georgia is here! It is with great pleasure that I speak on behalf of the Programs Committee in welcoming you to our hybrid Spring Conference. We are excited to take a different approach this spring and offer a combination of virtual and in-person sessions from our diverse membership. We strove to make this event flexible and innovative just as we all have learned to be in the past two years living through a pandemic. We hope the conference offers something special to meet each person’s conference objectives be they in-person connections, ease of virtual access, or, perhaps most importantly, new ideas and approaches, inspiration, and a break from the day-to-day. Thanks to all of our session speakers for sharing their experience and expertise with us. I also give HUGE thanks to the amazing Programs Committee and Chapter Services Committee for all the help in making this conference happen. And lastly – extra thanks to our conference and annual sponsors for helping support our great organization.

Let’s take this time to take five and celebrate all the great things we are collectively doing across the great state of Georgia to help make our communities prosper. We hope you enjoy these two days and leave refreshed and inspired.

Best,
Amanda
VP for Programs
Technical Difficulties
The Zoom link for the sessions was emailed on Wednesday, April 20. If you have trouble joining the meetings, please email Beth Anne at events@georgiaplanning.org.

SAVE THE DATE!
September 14-16, 2022
Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center
Join us for the GPA 2022 Fall Conference at the Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center, located on the banks of the beautiful Chattahoochee River.
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<th>Service</th>
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Contact Bill Ross at 404-626-7690 or bill@planross.com
211 Colonial Homes Drive, Suite 2307, Atlanta GA 30309
COMMITTEES & DESCRIPTIONS

Professional Development Committee
Chair: Cristina Pastore, AICP
The duties of the Committee are to support members of AICP in their professional development obligations, to assist the Chapter in identifying nominees for FAICP; to prepare regular training on the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, to prepare non-AICP members with AICP Exam preparation, to promote the value of AICP membership and to foster appropriate forms of continuing education and professional development throughout the Chapter.

Chapter Services Committee
Chair: Megha D. Young, AICP
The Chapter Services Committee supports the development of GPA communication tools including gathering articles and information of interest to the Chapter membership. The Committee seeks exciting activities to promote and maintain Chapter membership amongst professional planners, planning commissioners, and others actively involved in the field of planning in Georgia and promote interest in the field of planning and Chapter membership among college students and potential new members to grow the GPA roster.

Policy and Advocacy Committee
Chair: Jim Summerbell, AICP
The Committee will develop and carry out a policy and advocacy program that represents the views of the membership, and that is approved by the Board of Directors. The Committee will work with the Vice President for Programs and the Programs Committee in an effort to hold at least one legislative forum annually as may be appropriate, to which all members are invited, for the purpose of developing Chapter priorities on legislative issues and recommend position statements as necessary for Board approval. The Committee will support the GPA’s communication tools with information on policy issues, proposed legislation, and results of the legislative process in Congress and the Georgia General Assembly.
Programs Committee
Chair: Amanda Hatton, AICP
The Programs Committee, either directly or through sub-committees, shall be responsible for creating and executing all membership meetings and conference as to date, time, place and program content and presenters, means and refreshments, etc. The Committee will encourage and execute special Chapter events such as local ‘Planners Luncheons,” receptions, and other educational events. The Programs Committee along with the Board of Directors will coordinate Chapter awards, including the solicitation and review of nominations and the distribution of awards.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee
Chair: Erin Thoresen, AICP
The Committee supports the implementation of the APA Diversity and Inclusion Vision, Mission, and Strategy. The Diversity Committee shall actively address barriers to and support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented peoples in the profession by developing partnerships with educational institutions such as HBCUs, technical colleges, k-12 schools, and other groups. In order to build the capacity of planners to practice inclusive, culturally competent, and equitable planning practices, the Committee will work with the Programs Committee to incorporate Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training into GPA events and conferences. The Diversity Committee shall actively recruit underrepresented peoples to participate in GPA elected leadership, and will also provide information and educational opportunities on EDI to GPA Board members.

Emerging Planners Group
Chair: Rebecca Keefer, AICP
The Emerging Planners Group provides a forum for networking, learning new skills, and above all, having fun. Our meetings are a combination of social events and technical discussions. The Georgia EPG's mission is to help emerging planners establish social and professional relationships both with their peers and with experienced planning professionals. Through career building programs, social events, and mentoring opportunities, the Georgia EPG will promote the planning profession. The EPG is open to all planning professionals and to students.
Charles Hayslett

Charles Hayslett is an award-winning journalist, speechwriter, and public relations counselor. After officially retiring at the end of 2017, he began devoting most of his time to researching and writing a nonfiction book that he describes as being about the costs and consequences of Georgia’s widening urban-rural divide.

The book is tentatively titled “Trouble in God’s Country” and he maintains a blog by the same name at troubleingodscountry.com. The blog was originally intended as a parking place for working draft material, but over time it has attracted a following and had an impact on the development of public policy to address the challenges confronting Georgia’s rural communities.
Hayslett’s blog has been credited by the original co-chairs of the Georgia House Rural Development Council with triggering the creation of that body in 2017, and Hayslett presented to that group at its opening session in 2017 and again in 2021.

His work has been published or cited in publications from coast to coast – from The Washington Post to the Sacramento Bee. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s daily “Jolt” column regularly references his research and has referred to his blog as an “unrelenting avalanche of facts and figures” and to him as “one of the smartest thinkers around on the growing divide between Metro Atlanta and the rest of the state.”

He began his working life as a newspaper journalist, covering government and politics for The Atlanta Journal in Atlanta and Washington through the 1970s. He moved into public relations in 1980 and established his own firm in 1994, which he maintained and managed for more than 20 years.

He is a native of Columbus, Mississippi, and holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. In 2008, he was named to the inaugural class of the college’s Grady Fellowship and served for several years on the college’s Board of Trust. He is also a former member of the Board of Directors of Georgians for a Healthy Future.
Planning thoughtful infrastructure solutions to improve mobility.

Contact Tim Morgan, PE, SVP
Atlanta Office Leader
404-946-5702 | cmorgan@hntb.com

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Join your fellow planners within your GPA District or a nearby District for a happy hour on Friday, April 22. Many of these are in conjunction with one of the mobile workshops! Drinks and/or food will be available at these locations.

**District 2: Athens**
Happy Hour at Terrapin Brewery from 4:00-6:00 pm, in conjunction with Green Life Hoppy Hour. Contact Aron Hall for more details.

**District 5: Macon**
Social Hour at Fall Line Brewing Company from 4:00-5:00 pm. Contact Mary Huffstetler for more details.

**District 7: Columbus**
Happy Hour at Jarfly from 5:00-7:00 pm. Contact Allison Slocum for more information.

**District 3: Duluth**
Happy Hour on the patio at Good Word Brewing & Public House following the mobile workshop (around 5:00 pm). Contact Bill Aiken for more details.

**District 6: Augusta**
Wine and Cheese Social Hour following the mobile workshop at the Phinizy Center. Contact Ruth Mead for more information.

**District 9: Savannah**
Meet at Starland Yard (Whitaker side) from 5:30-7:00 pm. Contact Ebony Simpson for more information.
EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 21, 2022 - Virtual Sessions

8:30 AM - 8:45 AM  Welcome to Voices Across Georgia with Regional Updates  No CM Credits

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM  Changing Times, Changing Lines: A Review of Current Trends In Annexation and New Cities  1.25 CM Credits

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM  Student Presentations  
1. Using Data Science to Identify and Classify Housing Market Actors  
2. A Spatial Analysis of Atlanta’s Same Sex Households and LGBTQ Institutions  
3. Using Zoning Overlays to Adapt to Sea Level Rise in Chatham County, GA  
4. Sustainable Sidewalk Infrastructure for Atlanta  
No CM Credits
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM - 1:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>GPA President’s Greeting and Remarks</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gauging the Gaps Between Urban and Rural Georgia&lt;br&gt;1 CM Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Coding for Place: New Approaches to Zoning</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 CM Credit or 1 CM Sustainability &amp; Resilience Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>How Education and Outreach Coincide</strong>&lt;br&gt;1.25 CM Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Planning for Equity: Activate ATL: Recreation and Parks for All</strong>&lt;br&gt;1.25 CM Credits or 1 CM Equity Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong>&lt;br&gt;No CM Credits</td>
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### Friday, April 22, 2022 - Mobile Workshops (Various Cities)

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Planners’ Influence on Major Project Delivery</td>
<td>Sandy Springs</td>
<td>1.5 CM Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>From Goats to Deer: Hoofing Through the Sustainable Development Process</td>
<td>Norcross</td>
<td>2 CM Credits or 1 CM Sustainability &amp; Resilience Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Downtown Walking Tour</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>2 CM Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Phinizy - Where Wastewater Treatment, Environmental Education and Recreation Meet</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>3 CM Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Revitalizing Downtown Duluth Using Urban Redevelopment Areas and Tax Allocation Districts</td>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>2 CM Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>TADs, Planned Developments, Breweries: The Future of the Newton Bridge Corridor</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>1.5 CM Credits or 1 CM Sustainability &amp; Resilience Credit</td>
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8:30 AM - 8:45 AM
Welcome to Voices Across Georgia with Regional Updates

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
(1.25 CM Credits)
The State of Georgia has experienced an increasing rate of growth in municipalities over the past 15 years. The panelists have experienced the dynamics at work in changing municipal lines from both a county and city perspective. Planning professionals can learn about both legal and practical issues as our state continues to re-shape local government boundaries. This session will be formatted to include brief presentations followed by a round table discussion of issues. The session will start with a Legislative Update from the GPA Policy and Advocacy Committee.

Speakers
David Webb, AICP
Jessica Guinn, AICP
John McHenry, AICP
Osman Ercin, AICP
10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Student Presentations
(No CM Credits)

1. Using Data Science to Identify and Classify Housing Market Actors
As institutional financial investors (IFIs) enter into local housing markets, a challenge local governments face is identifying these actors amidst a tangle of obfuscating legal entities. This research uses machine learning to identify and link IFIs to facilitate targeted policy approaches.

   Speaker
   Colin Delargy

2. A Spatial Analysis of Atlanta’s Same Sex Households and LGBTQ Institutions
As the LGBTQ capital of the South, Atlanta has a vibrant queer community. This research supplements the existing literature, exploring how same-sex households have shifted in the past 20 years and how these households are distributed in relation to LGBTQ institutions.

   Speakers
   Nathan Davis
   Lauren Beduhn
   Roxanne Raven

3. Using Zoning Overlays to Adapt to Sea Level Rise in Chatham County, GA
An essential step for coastal communities to adapt to sea level rise is to incorporate future expectations into land-use policies. This project proposes how Chatham County, GA can use zoning overlays to prepare for sea level rise by improving resilience in low-lying areas and prioritizing development in upland areas.

   Speaker
   Phillip Jones
4. Sustainable Sidewalk Infrastructure for Atlanta
This presentation summarizes the National Center for Sustainable Transportation report by the presenter on the semiautomated generation of sidewalk network databases, sidewalk infrastructure lifecycle cost estimation, and scenario-based allocation of annual costs to City of Atlanta residents.

Speaker
Vincent Micah Bray

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM
GPA President’s Greeting and Remarks
Keynote Address: Gauging the Gaps Between Urban and Rural Georgia
(1 CM Credit)
Charles Hayslett, an award-winning journalist and public relations consultant, devotes his time to researching the costs and consequences of Georgia’s widening urban-rural divide. His work highlights shifting demographics, educational attainment, public health, and economic output, sounding the alarm for intentional investment in our rural areas.

Speaker
Charles Hayslett
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Coding for Place: New Approaches to Zoning
(1 CM Credit or 1 CM Sustainability & Resilience Credit)
Using local examples from zoning rewrite projects, Caleb Racicot and Christy Dodson will present ideas for context driven zoning tools. Caleb will discuss lessons learned from metro-Atlanta and Christy will present zoning concepts employed in cities across the US.

Speakers
Christy Dodson, AICP, Caleb Racicot, AICP

2:45 PM - 4:00 PM
How Education and Outreach Coincide
(1.25 CM Credits)
Discusses the use of zoning classes as a means of outreach and communication with the development community and the public. Includes why and how the classes began and how they evolved, the content of the sessions, and the results seen including improved outreach during planning efforts.

Speakers
Danielle Montgomery, AICP
Nayna Mistry
Jonathan Crawford
Trey Kennedy
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM
Planning for Equity: Activate ATL: Recreation and Parks for All
(1.25 CM Credits or 1 CM Equity Credit)
Activate ATL: Recreation & Parks for All is the City of Atlanta’s new 10-Year Comprehensive Master Plan. With equity as a driving force, the Department of Parks & Recreation underwent an extensive assessment as well as their most robust and inclusive public engagement effort yet during the pandemic.

Speakers
Tara Buckner, AICP
Sabina Kasumova, LEED Green Associate
John Dargle, CPRE
Nick Stephens

5:30 PM
Closing Remarks
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10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Planners’ Influence on Major Project Delivery
Sandy Springs (1.5 CM Credits)
Overview of the recent history of planning projects within the metro Atlanta interstate corridors with highlights on express lanes and project major delivery from the GDOT P3 Division offices of Express Lanes and Alternative Delivery.

Speakers
Tim Hatton, AICP
Garth Lynch, AICP
Marlo Clowers, P.E., DBIA, PMP
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
From Goats to Deer: Hoofing Through the Sustainable Development Process
Norcross (2 CM Credits or 1 CM Sustainability Credit)
Join the Atlanta Regional Commission and the City of Norcross at Pinnacle Park, a stormwater retention area and community hub in northeast Atlanta. Explore how this Green Community incorporates green infrastructure, sustainable landscaping and multilingual education to connect a diverse community.

Speakers
Tracy Rye, AICP
Kelsey Waidhas
Lily Park

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Downtown Walking Tour
Macon (2 CM Credits)
Join leaders of NewTown Macon and Bike Walk Macon on a walking tour of downtown. The tour will highlight recent revitalization projects with special focus on NewTown’s success empowering underserved entrepreneurs and developers. Bike Walk Macon will discuss recent biking and walking improvements.

Speakers
Mary Huffstetler, AICP
Josh Rogers
Rudy Mendes
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Phinizy - Where Wastewater Treatment, Environmental Education and Recreation Meet

Augusta (3 CM Credits)

Join Phinizy Center educators for a hike through Phinizy Swamp Nature Park and Augusta Utilities’ tertiary wastewater treatment area. The Phinizy Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based out of the beautiful Phinizy Swamp Nature Park near downtown Augusta. It was founded in 1996 in response to a critical need in the community for independent water quality research expertise, K-12 environmental education, and environmental stewardship. The park also provides a unique solution for historic wastewater treatment issues, along with many recreational opportunities for the general public. Today, the center’s award-winning programs have educated over 90,000 students, and its research team studies rivers and watersheds without agenda or bias in order to understand impacts on water quality and quantity.

Participants will be guided on a scenic 2.5 mile hike around the nature park, which will include visits to outdoor classrooms, Butler Creek, and the constructed wetlands used for wastewater treatment. This hike will be at a slow pace over flat trails and include stops for a few hands-on activities and birding. Bring your walking shoes, camera, and binoculars to make the most of your experience! It’s a great way to celebrate Earth Day.

Speakers
Ruth Mead
Camilla Sherman
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Revitalizing Downtown Duluth Using Urban Redevelopment Areas and Tax Allocation Districts
Duluth (2 CM Credits)
This session will include a 1 hr presentation outlining the history of Downtown Duluth, establishment of our URA & TAD, and various other strategies we have used to encourage growth in the Downtown Area and participate in the way that growth is designed. There will then be a 1 hr walking tour detailing specific projects and recent development.

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
TADs, Planned Developments, Breweries: The Future of the Newton Bridge Corridor
Athens (1.5 CM Credits or 1 CM Sustainability Credit)
The mobile session will begin at Terrapin Beer Co. Brewery. There we will talk to Terrapin representatives about their sustainability initiatives for both the environment and community. We will then walk across the street to a proposed Planned Development that is in a newly formed TAD district.
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After Conference Event Open to All
Saturday, April 23 - 2:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Young Leaders Panel and BuHi Food Tour (1 CM)

This session will focus on young men and women leaders. They will share their stories and give advice based on a predetermined list of questions like “What has been most important in getting you to this point in your career?”, “Tell us about any mentors that helped you get where you are?” and “What are some obstacles you have had to overcome whether self-imposed or not?”. This panel will then be followed by a Buford Highway immersive food experience.

Meeting Location
Doraville City Hall - Council Chambers
3725 Park Avenue. Doraville, GA 30340
Please note: City Hall is right near the Doraville MARTA Station

Speakers
Naomi Siodmok
Richard Edwards
Rebecca Keefer, AICP
Tate Davis, AICP Candidate
Aron Hall, AICP

Aron Hall is currently a Senior Planner for Athens-Clarke County, but will be moving over to the Sustainability Office in a newly formed role as the Energy Program and Conservation Coordinator.

Bill Aiken, AICP

Director of Planning & Development at the City of Duluth: 2016-Present; Project Manager at Fuqua Development: 2014-2016; Senior Planner at the City of Duluth: 2009-2014.

Caleb Racicot, AICP

B. Environmental Design, Univ. of Massachusetts; M. City & Regional Planning, Ga Tech; Senior Principal, TSW; AICP and LEED AP certified.
Camilla Sherman

Growing up in Powder Springs, GA as the youngest of 3 sisters, Camilla Sherman developed a love for our natural environment. Her passion led her to complete a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources with an emphasis in wildlife sciences from UGA. During her undergraduate studies, Camilla discovered that she could combine her love of nature and children so she continued on to complete a Master of Natural Resources with an emphasis in environmental education, also from UGA.

During her Master’s studies, Camilla was a lead teaching assistant for dendrology and earned her Advanced Training for Environmental Educators of Georgia (ATEEG) certification through the Environmental Education Alliance (EEA). In addition, she is certified in Project WET and Project Learning Tree.

Chris McGahee

City of Duluth Director of Economic Development: 2008- Present; Economic Development Director at the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center: 1985-2007.

Christy Dodson, AICP

B.S. Architecture, Georgia Tech; M. Architecture, Georgia Tech; M. City & Regional Planning, Georgia Tech; Urban Designer, Code Studio; AICP certified; Chair, Zoning Review Board, Atlanta.
David Webb, AICP

David Webb, AICP, is currently the Principal Planner for Hall County, GA. David has previously served over ten years in planning departments in both North Carolina and Georgia, including Forsyth County and Cobb County. He has a wide range of experiences in both current and long-range planning. David also served as a social studies teacher at an international school in India for seven years. David holds a B.A. in History with a Political Science minor from N. C. State and a Master of Divinity from Campbell University.

He holds membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) along with being a Level II Certified Plan Reviewer and Level 1B Inspector for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Colin Delargy

Colin Delargy is a dual graduate student in City and Regional Planning and Public Policy at Georgia Tech. He previously studied City and Regional Planning in Berlin, Germany, where he conducted research on housing cooperative finance and was active in tenant advocacy networks. In Atlanta, he serves as student board member of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc. (ANDPI).

Danielle Montgomery, AICP

Danielle Montgomery is an AICP Planner with the Columbia County Planning Department with a Masters in Environmental Planning and Design from UGA.

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John Dargle, CPRE

John Dargle serves as the Commissioner for the City of Atlanta’s Department of Parks and Recreation and provided “leadership, administration and fiscal accountability of a 15,325-acre county park system with 158 parks and 11 parkways.” He managed a department with 219 full-time employees and up to 1,000 seasonal staff. The department had a $47 million operating budget and a $20 million capital budget. Dargle also directed the operations of 15 golf courses, Lake Michigan beaches, and marina as well as 55 food and beverage locations, botanical gardens, a horticultural conservatory, a nature center, two community centers, an indoor ice rink and 300 miles of trails and numerous other recreational facilities.

Jessica Guinn, AICP

Jessica Guinn, AICP, is the Director of the Cobb County Community Development Agency. She has previously served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Dunwoody and Director of Community Development for the City of Woodstock.

Jessica also served various communities as the Vice President of The Collaborative Firm. Jessica earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Kennesaw State University.

Garth Lynch, AICP

Garth Lynch, PE, AICP was a key lead for the Atlanta Regional Managed Lane System Plan which set the transportation planning foundation for GDOT’s current Major Mobility Investment Program.

John Dargle, CPRE
Before moving to Wisconsin, Dargle served as director of the Fairfax County, Va. Parks Authority for five years, where he oversaw 621 full-time employees and more than 2,600 seasonal and part-time employees. The operating budget for the Fairfax parts department was about $65 million with an additional $50 million capital budget.

Dargle also has experience in Georgia. From 2003 to 2008, Dargle served as director of the Athens-Clarke County parks department, overseeing 80 full-time staff members and 200 part-time/seasonal employees, and 220 contract employees. The operating budget was $7.2 million with a capital improvement budget of $450,000. Before his job in Athens, Ga., Dargle held positions with the parks department of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and as park district supervisor in Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, N.C.

John McHenry, AICP

John McHenry is currently the Assistant City Manager and Director of Community & Economic Development for the City of Tucker, GA.

John previously served as the Director of Community Development for the City of Flowery Branch, Program Director for Gwinnett Village CID and as the Senior Transportation Planner for the Gainesville-Hall MPO. He holds a Masters in Urban Planning from Colombia University.

John Rogeberg

John Rogeberg has been with the Economic Development Department for nearly a year now. Before moving over to the Economic Development position, he was with ACC’s Public Utilities Department.
Lauren Beduhn

Lauren is pursuing a Master of City and Regional Planning at Georgia Tech with a specialization in Environment and Health to unify her civil engineering background with training in policy tools, strategic planning, and data analysis. She currently works as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Economic Development Research within Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute.

Jonathan Crawford

Jonathan Crawford is a real estate agent with Southeastern Development Associates in Augusta, Georgia and has an MBA from Augusta University. He is actively involved in several community organizations.

Josh Rogers

Josh Rogers leads the non-profit NewTown Macon, where he works to attract, leverage and invest in self-sustaining transformation for downtown Macon, Georgia.

Kelsey Waidhas

As ARC’s Sustainability Coordinator, Kelsey manages the Green Communities Program and helps local governments tell their sustainability stories through action.

Lauren Beduhn

Lauren is pursuing a Master of City and Regional Planning at Georgia Tech with a specialization in Environment and Health to unify her civil engineering background with training in policy tools, strategic planning, and data analysis. She currently works as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Economic Development Research within Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute.
In her work and studies, she is passionate about exploring how the built environment impacts the social, economic, and environmental well-being of urban areas. She enjoys utilizing GIS and data analysis to examine regional and local trends.

**Lily Park**

Equipped with a background in Community Geography and GIS, Lily coordinates green initiatives that advance sustainability and build community in the City of Norcross.

**Marc Beechuk, AICP**

Marc Beechuk has been the Planning and Development Manager with the City of Covington for over a year now. Previously, he was with Athens-Clarke County as the Arborist and Planner II.

**Marlo Clowers, P.E., DBIA, PMP**

Marlo is Design-Build Program Manager for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in the Office of Alternative Delivery. She has over 20 years of experience with GDOT and over 10 years of experience with alternative delivery projects, including Design-Build, Design-Build-Finance, and Public-Private Partnerships. Marlo currently serves as Principal-in-Charge for the Transform 285/400 project. Marlo has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is a Georgia registered Professional Engineer, a certified Design-Build Professional, and a Project Management Professional.
Naomi Siodmok

Naomi Siodmok has been with the City of Doraville since January 2020. Since this time, she has been promoted from City Planning Manager to the Director of Planning and Community Development. Her team has worked hard to make progress in realizing the many planning documents the City has such as LCIs, the Comprehensive Plan, and the mobility study. Her team has progressed in rezoning a majority of the City, as designated by the Comprehensive Plan, to mixed-use zoning districts. Further, the team has moved forward progressive text amendments on solar, food trucks, and density bonuses. Doraville is now attracting housing developers and the former GM Plant is quickly underway to be a mixed-use development with studios.

Naomi Siodmok has two Masters degrees. One in urban design from Georgia Tech and another from Virginia Commonwealth University in urban planning. Before working for Doraville, she has worked in San Diego and Roanoke County, Virginia.

Mary Huffstetler, AICP

Mary Huffstetler, AICP, is the President of MPH and Associates, Inc. Mary has 25 years of experience in transportation planning and stakeholder and public involvement.
Nathan Davis

Nathan Davis is a first-year Master of City and Regional Planning candidate at Georgia Tech, with a concentration in urban design. His planning interests lie in the intersection of transportation, land use, and urban design, particularly with how the built environment can facilitate non-auto trips.

Through his academic and professional careers, Nathan aims to advance racial and LGBTQ equity, reduce car dependency, and retrofitting existing sprawled development. Beyond planning, Nathan enjoys traveling, cycling, hiking, visiting historic sites, and experiencing new cultures.

Nayna Mistry

Nayna Mistry is a Planner with the Columbia County Planning Department. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from University of Manchester in UK.

Nick Stephens

Nick Stephens is an urban planner who is passionate about improving parks and recreation systems and increasing active transportation. Nick is an Atlanta native who was thrilled to contribute to Activate ATL and is looking forward to seeing the recommendations brought to reality.
Phillip Jones

Phillip Jones is currently a second-year Master of Urban Planning and Design student at the University of Georgia. Throughout his graduate studies, he has focused on learning more about how GIS can be used to analyze data and inform people about the places that they live. He has become invested in learning more about adaptation strategies that local and regional governments can implement to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Prior to his graduate studies, he earned a degree in economics and statistics from the University of Georgia.

Osman Ercin, AICP

Mr. Ercin is a certified planner and GIS professional with 19 years of experience as a planning consultant. Mr. Ercin has worked on a wide range of planning projects, including comprehensive plans, military installation plans, NEPA documents, airport planning, park and recreation master plans, LCI studies, and zoning updates. Mr. Ercin currently works for Jacobs as the on-site installation planner for Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

Rebecca Keefer, AICP

Rebecca Keefer is a certified planner with over 12 years of experience in zoning code development and administration, community planning, master planning, and project management. She diligently works with communities and citizens to solve problems and develop a best plan for their current and future needs. Rebecca earned a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2013 and a B.S., in Architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2008. She began her career with CPL as a planner in Dunwoody, GA, where she served in the role of Senior Planner and Director of Sustainability.
Richard Edwards

Richard is a Planning Manager with CPL. He has a passion for improving, shaping, and enhancing communities to create a more inclusive, diverse, and livable environment. His areas of expertise include Developments of Regional Impacts (DRIs), zoning administration, GIS, and placemaking. Richard is instrumental in the process and plan development for long-range community visioning documents. He brings a unique perspective for working in multiple jurisdictions, levels of government, and in the private sector for all parties involved.

Roxanne Raven

Roxanne Raven is a first-year Masters in City and Regional Planning Student at Georgia Tech. She also serves as a graduate research assistant at Georgia Tech’s Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD) working with Dr. Catherine Ross.

She graduated from Mississippi State University in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a Pre-law concentration and minors in French and History. Before joining Georgia Tech’s Master’s program in 2021, Roxanne worked for four years at an international development non-profit organization called the ONE Campaign, which works to alleviate poverty and preventable disease with an emphasis on Africa.
Ruth Mead

Ruth Mead has been instrumental in developing and implementing environmental programs at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park since she started as a volunteer in the fall of 2000 and was hired as an Environmental Educator in January 2001.

She has been a Georgia Adopt-a-Stream (AAS) trainer since 2004 and currently serves on the GA AAS Advisory Board. Ruth is a Georgia Master Naturalist Coordinator and facilitates Phinizy’s annual Georgia Master Naturalist Certification course. She also facilitates other lifelong learning courses including Field Ornithology and Forest Communities.

Ruth is a curriculum facilitator for Project WET, WOW! The Wonders of Wetlands, and Healthy Water Healthy People. Prior to discovering Phinizy Swamp, Ruth received her Bachelor of Science in Forestry from North Carolina State University and worked in forest management for 10 years.

Rudy Mendes

Rudy Mendes serves as the education program coordinator for Bike Walk Macon. He instructs an array of educational classes about bicycle and pedestrian safety, traffic laws, and more.
Tara Buckner, AICP

Tara L. Buckner is the urban planner for the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). She is charged with developing plans and programs that foster community, accommodate growth, and revitalize parks and facilities. Tara currently serves as the project manager for the Activate ATL: Recreation & Parks for All 10-Year Comprehensive Master Plan process and implementation that involves working with DPR staff and consultants to address the need for exceptional green spaces for all those that live, work, and play in Atlanta, designed with an equity lens, in order to support the City’s anticipated population growth over the next ten years and beyond. Tara’s experience in urban planning, economic development, and organizational management spans major projects in Detroit, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Atlanta.

She has been recognized for outstanding leadership, as the former executive director of the Greater St. Louis Regional Empowerment Zone. She is the past chair of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District Civil Service Commission, where she addressed personnel issues of 1,000+ employees and the revision of the agency’s Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Tara is also the past president of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman.

Sabina Kasumova, LEED Green Associate

Sabina Kasumova is a Management Analyst, Senior for the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation. Previously, she served as the Public Engagement Specialist as a part of the project team developing the Activate ATL: Recreation & Parks for All 10-Year Comprehensive Master Plan. With Sabina’s support, community outreach for Activate ATL was successfully enriched with more than 10,000 engagements using multiple approaches. Sabina is a LEED Green Associate and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Policy and Education from the University at Buffalo.
College (NAASC), where she led 54 chapters, nationwide and served as the Alumna Representative of the Spelman College Board of Trustees.

Tara is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) of the American Planning Association (APA), as well as an activate member of the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA), the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC), the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated Associates.

Tara holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Tate Davis, AICP Candidate

Tate grew up in Atlanta earning her undergraduate degree in Biology and Urban Ecology from Oglethorpe University. With a keen interest and appreciation for the built environment, she went on to earn her Masters in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech. Having public, private, and non-profit experience, Tate now works as the Real Estate and Urban Planning Director with KB Advisory Group, an Atlanta consulting firm.

Tim Hatton, AICP

Tim Hatton, AICP, provides Program Management leadership for Engineering and Environmental Services to deliver GDOT projects through the GDOT P3 Division.
Vincent Micah Bray

Vincent Micah Bray is a third-year dual Master’s student in City & Regional Planning and Civil & Environmental Engineering. Micah grew up in Savannah, GA and developed a keen appreciation for walkable built environments that motivates him to pursue a career focused on the provision of transportation infrastructure that supports active transportation and active recreation.

Micah has worked with Dr. Randall Guensler on research into sustainable sidewalk infrastructure and has assisted in the development of sidewalk network databases for cities and counties in the Atlanta region. Micah will graduate in May 2022 and will begin working as the Traffic Engineer for the City of Bristol, TN shortly thereafter.

Tracy Rye, AICP

A native Atlantan with 20 years of planning experience, Tracy works to advance sustainability, preserve historic charm in Norcross and expand opportunities for all visitors and residents.

Trey Kennedy

Trey Kennedy is a Commercial Lender with SRP Federal Credit Union. He graduated from The University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and later completed his Masters of Business Administration at Augusta State University.
The Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association is comprised of over 1,000 professional, student, and citizen planners. Our members include public and private sector professionals, students, and both elected and nominated officials who strive to enhance Georgia’s communities and quality of life.

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