



Building Equity through Community-Based Leadership “Working with Communities Not For Communities”

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SUSTAIN THE NINE RIVER TO BAYOU

Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED)



Lower 9th Ward CSED

The center is a community-based non-profit which accomplishes its work by strategically reinforcing community driven goals throughout its efforts to help create an economically, culturally and environmentally sustainable Lower 9th ward community.

Presentation Objectives

- Identify key elements which may provide a guiding philosophy for success of a community-based non-profit
- Determine whether the activities of a non-profit are couched in a need-based context.
- Determine the effectiveness of the leadership brand projected by a community-based non-profit.

The New Orleans Principles

The New Orleans Principles: Celebrating the Rich History of New Orleans Through Commitment to a Sustainable Future focuses on New Orleans, with much of it describing ten organizing principles to guide reconstruction and redevelopment of the city. These ten principles are as follows:

- **1. Respect the rights of all citizens of New Orleans.**
- **2. Restore natural protections of the greater New Orleans region.**
- **3. Implement an inclusive planning process.**
- **4. Value diversity in New Orleans.**
- **5. Protect the city of New Orleans.**
- **6. Embrace smart redevelopment.**
- **7. Honor the past; build for the future.**
- **8. Provide for passive survivability.**
- **9. Foster locally owned, sustainable businesses.**
- **10. Focus on the long term.**

Sustainable Restoration Holy Cross Historic District & Lower 6th Ward



Restoration, Reinvestment, Revitalization, Rejuvenation, Renewal, Repair
May 2010

A Framework for Sustainable Restoration in the Lower Sixth Ward
A. J. HARRIS, JR. & P. J. HARRIS, JR.
HARRIS CONSULTANTS, LLC



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The Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement & Development (CSED) *Established in 2007*



CSED's Primary Work

- *Food Security*
- *Natural Environment*
- *Built Environment*
- *Volunteers Coordination*

Visit: blog.sustainthenine.org

CSED still works closely with local, state and federal government as well as a myriad of multi-sector partners.







RECREATION | TRANSPORTATION | REVITALIZATION | DESTINATION | SOCIALIZATION | BEAUTIFICATION



GROUNDWORK JACKSONVILLE

- Chartered in 2014
- 21 Groundwork Trusts
- Key Partners
 - City of Jacksonville
 - Groundwork USA
 - National Park Service
 - US Environmental Protection Agency



MISSION & PURPOSE

- Transform Jacksonville's Urban Core
 - Creek Restoration
 - Trail Building
 - Community Building
 - Leadership/Stewardship/Workforce Development

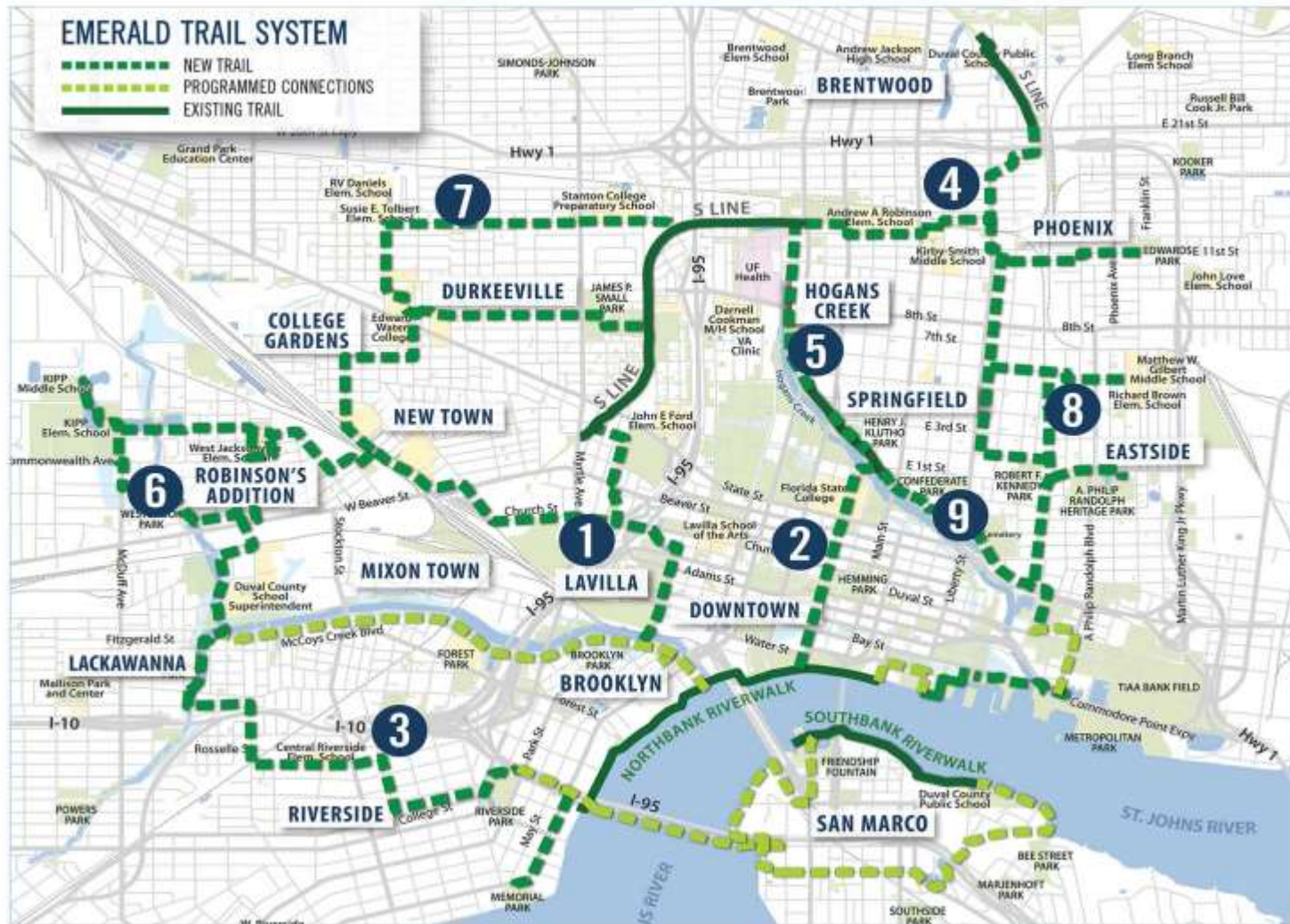


PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Emerald Trail Plan
- Neighborhood Demographics
- Social Justice Issue
- McCoys Creek Restoration Project
- Community Engagement/Partnership



EMERALD TRAIL

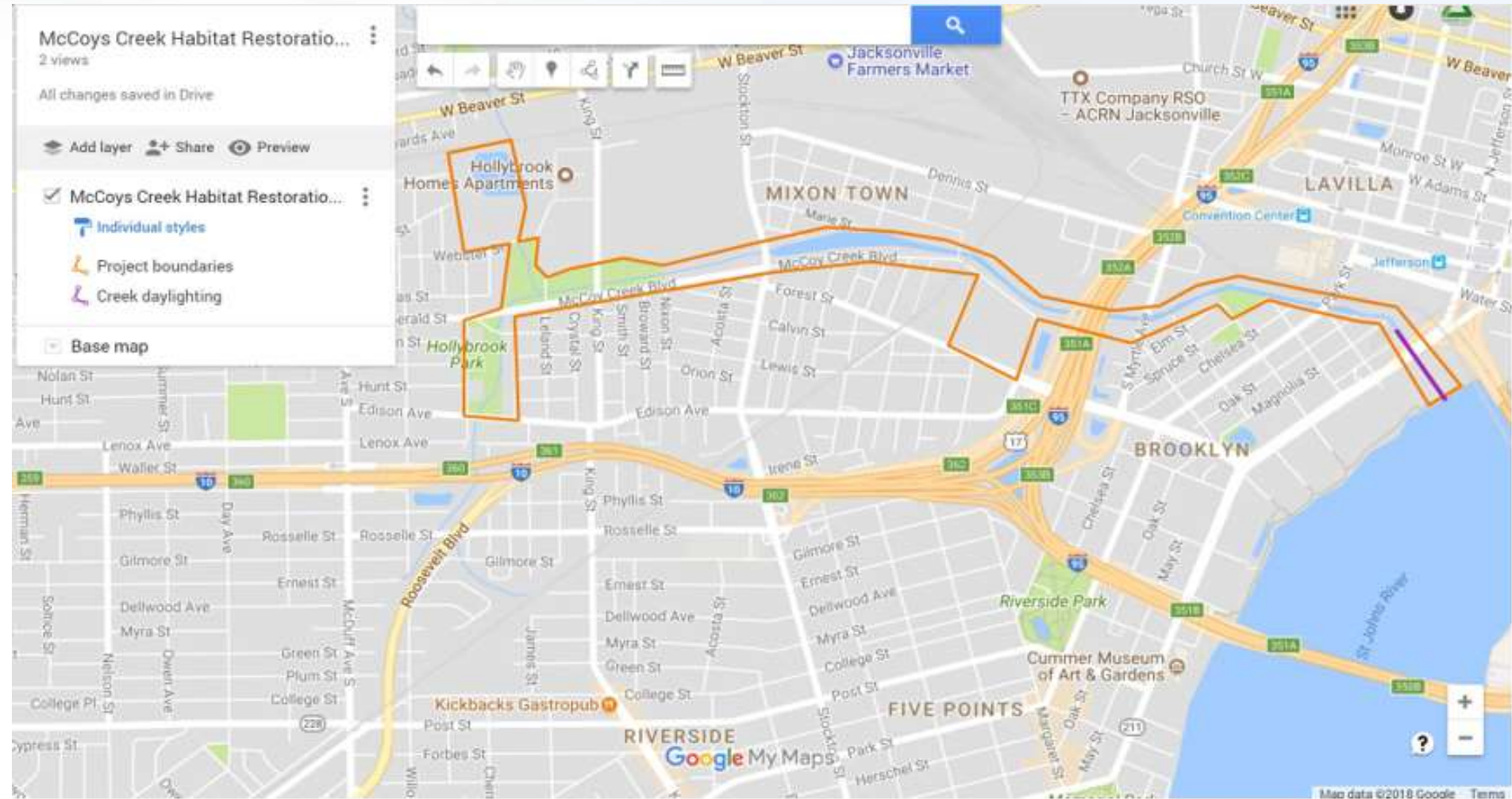


TRAIL BENEFITS

- Recreation
- Health & Wellbeing
- Economic Development
- Mobility
- Neighborhood Revitalization
- Social Connectivity



MCCOYS CREEK



NORTH RIVERSIDE/ MIXON TOWN



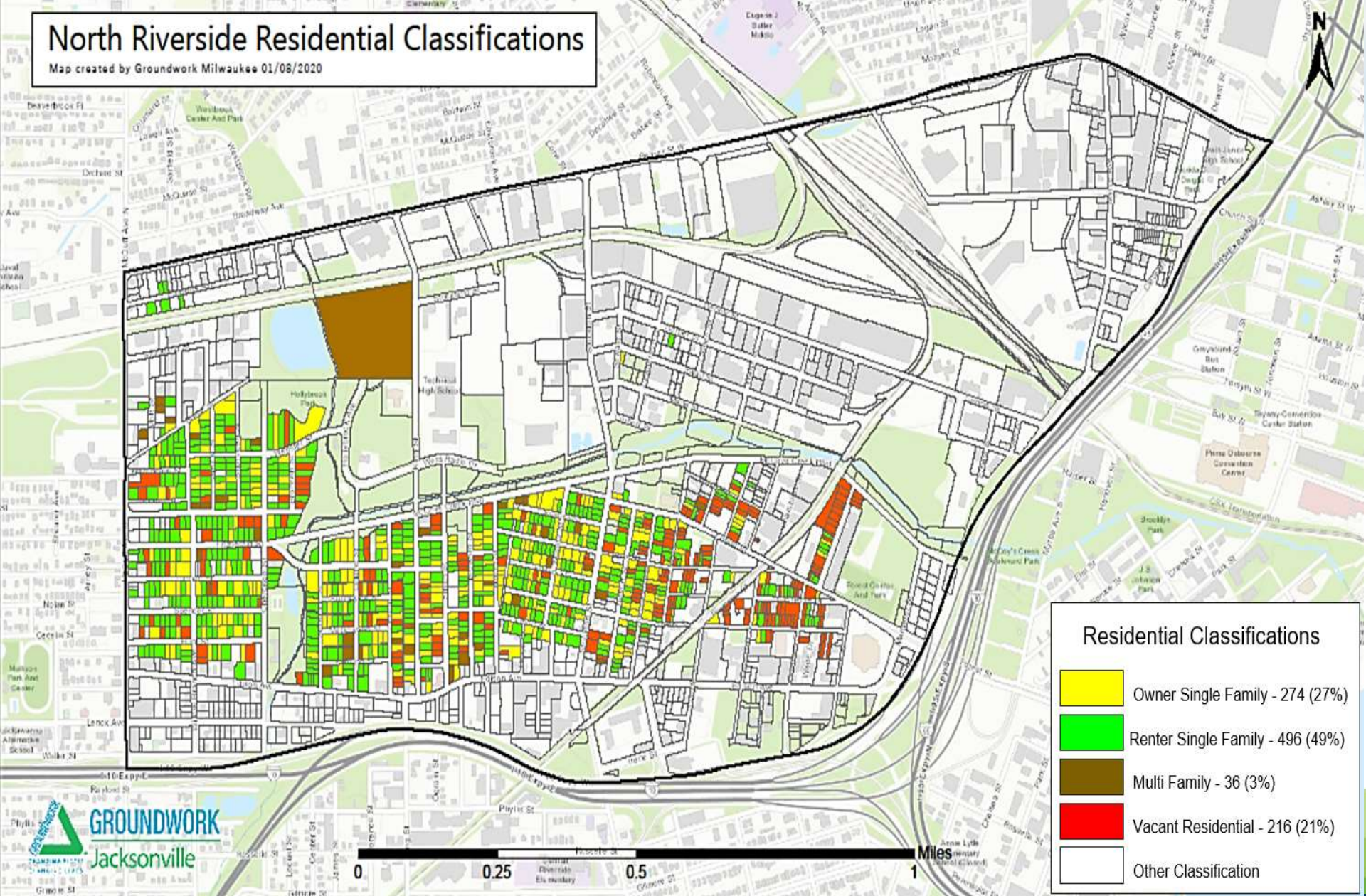
NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

- 78% African American/Black
- \$20,446 median household income
- 48.2% living below the poverty line
- 16.7% unemployment
- 61.9% renter occupied housing units



North Riverside Residential Classifications

Map created by Groundwork Milwaukee 01/08/2020



HOUSING AND POPULATION

North Riverside Housing	1980	1990	2000	2017
Total Housing Units	1,971	1,787	1700	1,692
Homeowners	1,020	777	720	509
Renters	745	722	739	681
Vacant	206	288	241	502

1980

• 5,559

1990

• 4,648

2000

• 4,475

2018

• 3,495

MCCOYS CREEK



AFTER NORMAL STORM



LITTER



40 ACRE PARK – 1 PLAYGROUND



MCCOYS CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

- Reduce Flooding
- Improve Water Quality
- Create Habitat for Fish & Wildlife
- Create Access
- Ecologically-sensitive Recreation

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

- Engagement
- Community Leadership/Stewardship Training
- Equity Plan Development
- Future Workforce
- Partners

Gloria McNair





NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

11. What do you like LEAST about your neighborhood?
Flooding

12. Do you feel safe in your neighborhood? Yes ☒ No ☐
a. If you answered no, please explain why?

13. Do you have access to healthy and affordable food for you and your family?
a. Yes ☒ No ☐
b. If no, please explain.

14. What is your neighborhood's greatest strength?
The community

15. Where do people gather in your community?
The Gym & the park

16. Where do you get information about your neighborhood (i.e. friends, community bulletin board)?
Facebook

17. How do you contribute to the community?
Picking up trash

18. What are your unique skills/talents?
Reading, baking, a decorator

19. What is your age? (check one)
☐ Under 12 years old
☐ 12-17 years old
☒ 18-24 years old
☐ 25-34 years old
☐ 35-44 years old
☐ 45-54 years old
☐ 55-64 years old
☐ 65-74 years old
☐ 75 years or older

20. What outdoor activities do you enjoy in your neighborhood? (i.e. walking, biking) Walking, playing ball

21. What outdoor activities would you like to have in your neighborhood? (i.e. walking routes, tennis) Tennis

22. What activities would you like to have at McCoys Creek?
Parties

23. What activities, if any, do you enjoy at McCoys Creek today?
None

MCCOYS CREEK FEST!



Groundwork Jacksonville invites you to...

MCCOYS CREEK FEST!

FOOD | MUSIC | FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Join us to learn more about our great Jacksonville resource McCoy's Creek. Hear from local experts about the History, Ecology and Restoration of McCoy's Creek. At the Festival, restoration alternatives will be presented by the McCoy's Creek design team. We want to hear feedback from you!

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 10th
11AM - 2PM

McCoy's Creek Blvd between King and
Stockton Streets.

For any question please call: 904-633-8117







WHAT WE HEARD...

- MULTIPLE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT CREEK
- PICNIC / GRILLING
- HABITAT
- SEATING AND SHADE
- PUBLIC RESTROOMS
- OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE
- FITNESS STATIONS
- ACTIVE RECREATION - BASKETBALL, TENNIS
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- PLAYGROUNDS FOR ALL AGES
- POLLINATOR GARDENS

WHAT ELSE WE HEARD

- Leadership
- Mentorship
- Improve Neighborhood
- Soft Skills
- Jobs
- Littering/Environmental Health





Community Restoration Environmental Stewardship Training (CREST)

During community engagement meetings, the residents of the McCoys Creek showed a strong interest in leadership, career and educational opportunities for youth and adults. In response to this feedback CREST was conceived and designed to help residents and other stakeholders of the community achieve some of their goals around personal and community growth. **This is a program for adults and youth who are at least 13 years old.** Think you may be a good candidate. Consider the following questions.

- Are you interested in being a leader in your community?
- Do you love North Riverside/Mixon Town?
- Are you interested in being a mentor?
- Would you like to have a mentor?
- Do you want to advocate for environmental justice?
- Are you interested in learning about environmental science?

If your answer is yes to any one of these questions, CREST is a program for you.

What should you expect from the training?

- CREST members meet two times per month on Saturdays. Sessions last 2 hours.
- There is once monthly **interactive** classroom time that provides information about McCoys Creek water, native plant, fish and animal life, air quality, leadership principles and advocacy.
- There is also once monthly outdoor activities such as bird watching, creek and community clean-ups.
- Three local field trips to areas of environmental conservation interest.
- The opportunity to speak with elected officials about your community concerns.
- Learn to use the shared information to help others in your community

Other information of interest?

- Six adult CREST members will have the opportunity to train and work as **PAID** Water Quality Technicians with the City of Jacksonville (COJ) Environmental Quality Division.
- Teen CREST members can receive volunteer credit needed for school
- **All** CREST members will receive a small stipend for helping with McCoys Creek clean-up and maintenance activities.

CREST FOCUS GROUP



- St. Johns Riverkeeper
- Water Management District
- Zoo
- Audubon Society
- City of Jacksonville
- University of FL

CREST

- Multi-generational
- Classroom
- Field Trips
- Lead
- Training/Job



RESIDENT CONCERNS

- Displacement
- Home Repair
- Unemployment/Underemployment
- Safety-abandoned homes
- Lack of fresh fruits, vegetables and meat



50-year tradition

EQUITY PLANNING

- Residents are not displaced
- Reap benefits of our work
- Shared prosperity
- Resident ownership
- Partnerships



EQUITY PLANNING-THE PROCESS

- Engagement
- Training
- Steering Committee
- Resident/Stakeholder led vision
- Plan
- Partnerships/Ownership



NORTH RIVERSIDE VISION

- **Economic Opportunity**
- **Housing**
- **History & Culture**
- **Environmental Stewardship**
- **Nutrition**
- **Youth**
- **Safety**





EQUITY PLANNING-NEXT STEPS

- Develop the Plan
 - Housing is top concern
 - Home Repair Program
 - Affordable Housing
 - Homeownership
- Find the right Partners
 - LISC
- Implement the Plan
- Emerald Trail Stewards



CONNECT WITH US

- Visit our website groundworkjacksonville.org
- Host an Informational Event for Your Business/Group
- Follow/Share @GroundworkJax   

Contact: Kay Ehas, CEO | 904.401.0453 | Kay@GroundworkJacksonville.org

Gloria McNair | 904.472.7167 | Gloria@GroundworkJacksonville.org

Groundwork Jacksonville, Inc., is the city's nonprofit partner in building the Emerald Trail and restoring McCoys Creek and Hogans Creek. Groundwork was formed in 2014 as a partnership between the City, the US National Park Service, the US Environmental Protection Agency and Groundwork USA. Groundwork is one of only 21 Trusts across the country and the only Trust in Florida.

