

Atlanta, Georgia



TINA ARNOLD *team lead*
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SEED

Tina Arnold is an Atlanta native and a community activist. Tina has been a resident of Lakewood for 11 years and has grown to love her neighborhood, respect her neighbors, and treasure the environment. As an Interior Designer, Tina is trained to make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting decorative items. In her role as Executive Director of SEED (Sustainable Lakewood), Tina listens to her neighbors and incorporates their ideas and needs into the creation of a neighborhood that meets the needs of its residents while caring for the environment in which it was built.



NURI ICGOREN
FARMER, URBAN SPROUTS FARM

Urban Biodynamics was founded in 2010 by Nuri Icgoren to meet the local food needs of his friends and family. Frustrated by the big box retailers who seemed to focus more on quantity than quality, Nuri set out to create a system that would enable his friends and family to enjoy the health and cost benefits of eating local biodynamic products. Urban Biodynamics began in the Grant Park and East Atlanta neighborhoods, where urban farmers would transform barren yard spaces into edible gardens. Urban Biodynamics secured a lease with a local investor that pledged a 5-acre, former mixed-use development site as the flagship for Urban Sprout Farms was borne.



JESSICA LAVANDIER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING, OFFICE OF PLANNING, CITY OF ATLANTA

As the Assistant Director for Strategic Planning, Jessica is responsible for the development of the Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan and quarterly land use map amendments. Her team coordinates the Capital Improvements Program and Community Work Program. She also manages Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Program and the LCI funded plans, such as the Lakewood LCI. She also manages two EPA Brownfield grants. Prior to working with the City of Atlanta, Jessica was a planner at Fulton County Environment and Community Development Department. She received a Masters of City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



TERRY SUTTON
FOREST MANAGER, CASCADE SPRINGS FORESTRY

Terry Sutton has been practicing urban agriculture (forest restoration) in Atlanta since October, 2002. A native of SW Atlanta and a graduate of UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Terry has studied with some of the Bay Area's most noteworthy craftspeople, cooks, farmers and gardeners during his 18 years with the San Francisco Zen Center. Valuing collaboration, Terry works with Trees Atlanta, metro-Atlanta municipalities, Southfork and Piedmont Park Conservancies, Atlanta Botanical Garden and many Friends of Parks groups. Recognizing cities as ecosystems creates great potential for urban forests, green infrastructure and income-generating stewardship to improve life in urban areas.



MELONIE THARPE
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING, CENTER FOR CIVIC INNOVATION

As a born and raised Atlantan, Melonie is committed to improving the metro region. She serves as the Director of Programming for the Center for Civic Innovation, an organization dedicated to uplifting innovative ideas to tackle challenges faced by public organizations. Prior to joining CCI she served EcoDistricts Coordinator for Sustainable Atlanta, leading efforts to broaden the implementation of EcoDistricts principles in the city. She is an active volunteer with several local food and art initiatives. Melonie holds a MA in Public Administration and a SEED Certification.



TSHAKA WARREN
SENIOR URBAN PLANNER, OFFICE OF PLANNING, CITY OF ATLANTA

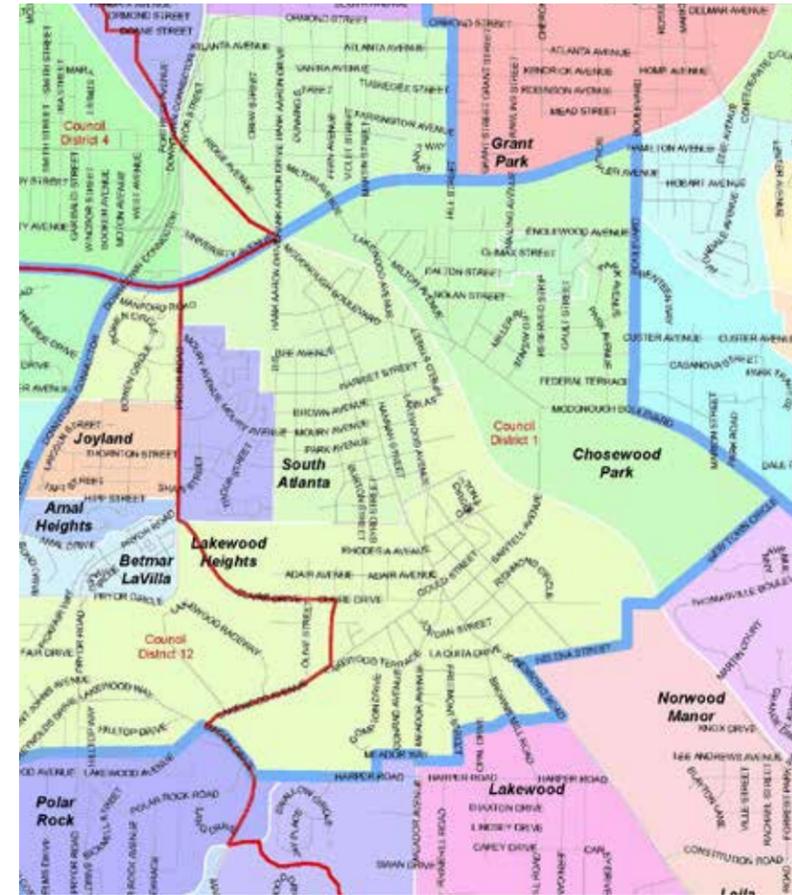
Originally from Columbia, Maryland, Tshaka Warren moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 1993 to attend Morehouse College where he graduated with a B.A. in Urban Studies. He began a GIS internship with the City of Atlanta's Office of Planning in 1998, and returned two years later after being hired as an Urban Planner. Tshaka has been involved in several reviews of mixed-use projects and re-zonings that have helped to re-shape the face of Atlanta through recent years, and he also helped to establish legislation for the city's first Urban and Market Garden zoning ordinance.



AYANNA WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BUILDING, PARK PRIDE

Ayanna is the Director of Community Building with Park Pride, a nonprofit working for more and better parks in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. Park Pride partners with the Atlanta BeltLine to manage the Adopt a BeltLine program. Ayanna engages citizens in neighborhood parks and green space improvements. She facilitates relationships between residents and civic leaders, volunteer opportunities and positive activities in parks. Previously, she worked with United Way of Central Indiana's Volunteer Center, the University of Michigan's Ginsberg Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement and Hands On Atlanta AmeriCorps. She has a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan.

Neighborhood Planning Unit Y & Polar Rock



initiative also has broad political support and financial incentives.

Community members and stakeholders believe that restoring their community sustainably makes sense, and that planning efforts will benefit from the EcoDistricts approach and process. The Lakewood LCI presents an opportunity for diverse communities and stakeholders to unify and accomplish common planning and regeneration goals to make an inclusive, innovative, and forward thinking community that is vibrant and thriving.

top 3 Neighborhood PRIORITIES:

1. Restoration of four parks to include eradication of invasive plants, reforestation with native plantings, walking/biking trails, and programming for all age groups
2. Complete Streets including bike lanes, curb cuts, sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping
3. Creating access for residents to local fresh food markets/grocery stores and community gardens within a safe walking distance

top 3 Neighborhood CHALLENGES:

1. Individual homeowner engagement
2. Funding
3. Attracting economic development that meets the needs of the residents

NPU-Y is a collection of 11 under-served neighborhoods, close to Downtown, with a large, mature tree canopy, well-connected streets, long-term residents of varying socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, bus service, and undeveloped natural green-spaces, including a 78-acre park. However, the area also has a large number of vacant and abandoned houses and commercial storefronts, no grocery stores or banking institutions, and high under-employment.

The rebuilding of the economy, as well as the Lakewood LCI, a comprehensive traffic, transportation, and economic redevelopment plan that was adopted by the City of Atlanta, has resulted in interest and investment pouring into the NPU-Y. New homes and subdivisions that were abandoned during the economic crisis are now being built, and stakeholders hope to restore and reforest the area's natural spaces through preservation and permaculture techniques.

Why this Neighborhood?

The NPU-Y has a long history of community collaboration to achieve mutually beneficial results. The area was one of three communities chosen to become a beta ecodistrict by Sustainable Atlanta in 2014. The community regeneration