



Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill

Atlanta, GA

Shannon Lee

*Director, Strategic Giving Initiative
slee@conservationfund.org*



40+

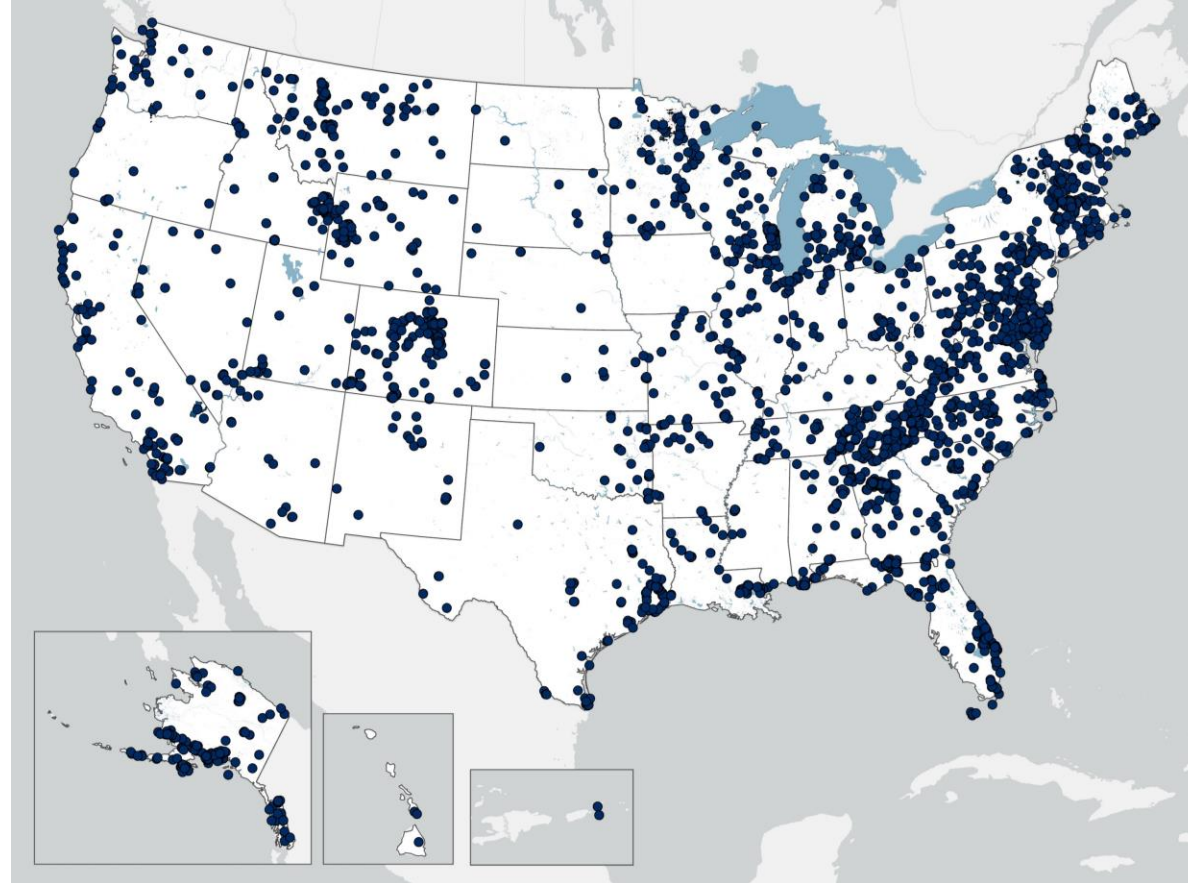
years of
conservation

9M+

acres protected

4K+

projects across
50 states



ATLANTA

The City in a Forest

- Very high development pressure
- 2023: 45.7% tree canopy
- 2008: 47.9% tree canopy
- 3 sq miles of canopy lost in that time
- Losing ½ acres of tree canopy every year
- Only 4.9% of canopy is publicly owned



Decades of Partnership with the City of Atlanta

- Lindsay Street Park
- Blue Heron Nature Preserve
- Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve
- Atlanta BeltLine
- Westside Connector Trail
- Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park
- Red's Farm
- **Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill**
- Chattahoochee Brick
- Memorial Drive Greenway
- And more!

64

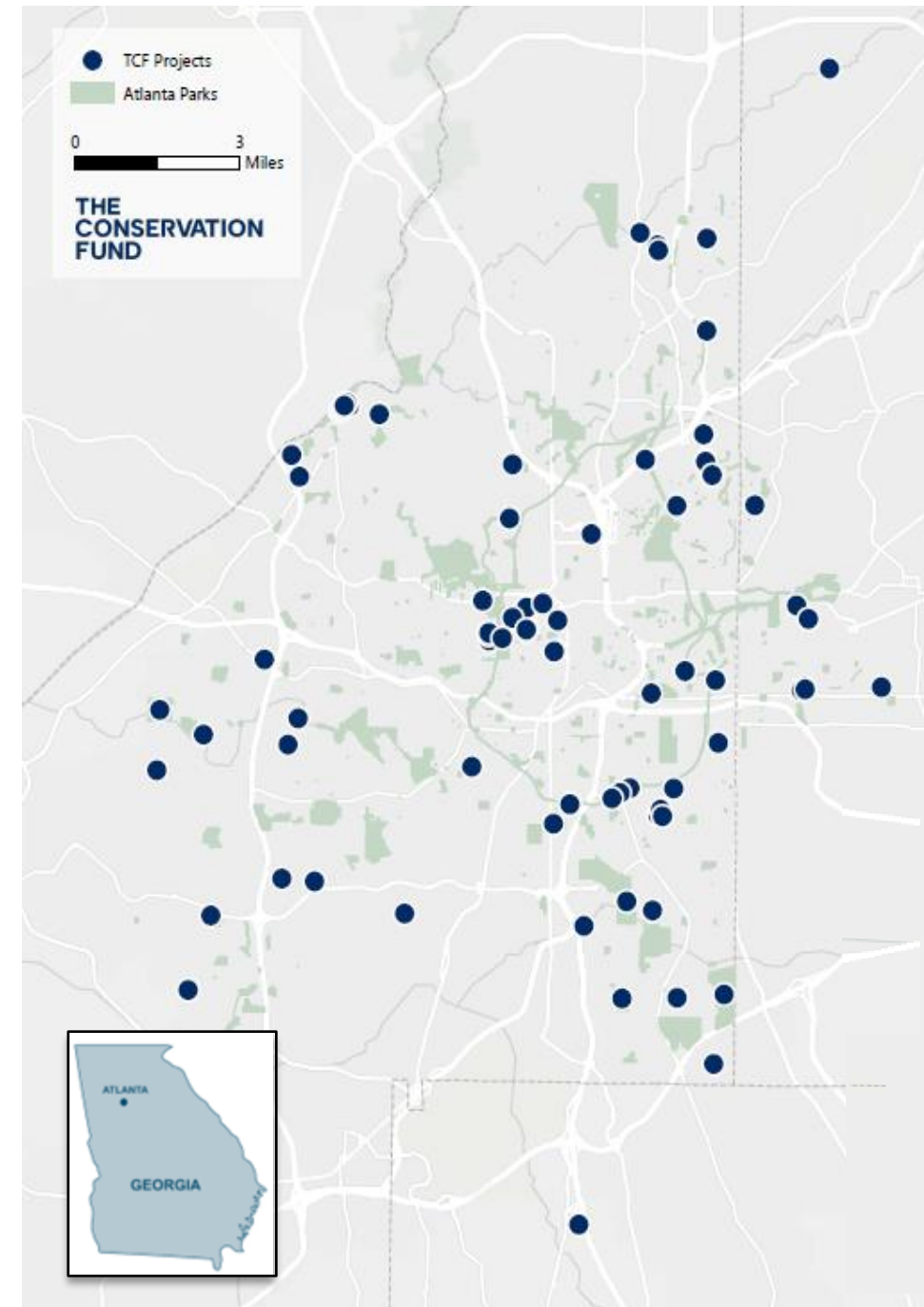
greenspaces
conserved

1000+

acres
protected

\$113M

In land value



**Creating and
Expanding Parks**



Protecting Urban Canopy



Restoring Waterways



Increasing Food Security



Connecting Communities



Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill

7.1 acres in South Atlanta
More than 75% tree canopy

- Former family farm
- Threatened by development
- Limited community access to fresh food
- Opportunity to permanently conserve tree canopy and public greenspace
- Innovative City vision for urban ag



How USFS CFP Funding Made It Possible

Expense	CFP Grant (Federal)	City of Atlanta (Match)	Total Project Cost
Land Acquisition	\$79,250	\$27,250	\$106,500
Due Diligence	\$7,250	\$7,250	\$14,500
Community Forest Plan		\$25,000	\$25,000
City of Atlanta Staff & Legal Fees		\$27,000	\$27,000
TOTAL	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$173,000

From Acquisition to Community Food Forest



Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Innovation requires flexibility
- Collaborative partnerships are essential
- Longterm stewardship must be planned from the beginning

