

Clarkesville Green Infrastructure Implementation Strategy

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Reference: McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

Abstract. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) encourages using green infrastructure to help manage stormwater runoff. In October 2013, USEPA renewed its commitment to green infrastructure with a new release of the Strategic Agenda to Protect Waters and Build More Livable Communities through Green Infrastructure. The agenda identifies technical assistance as a key activity and Clarkesville, GA was one of the communities selected for the program in 2014. The Clarkesville Green Infrastructure Implementation Strategy provides the basic building blocks for the City to strengthen its efforts to improve stormwater management while benefiting from the environmental, economic, and social benefits of green infrastructure. Goals and objectives, based on the City's current and future needs, form the basis of the strategy. These goals and objectives led to a comprehensive prioritization of parcels throughout the City to identify opportunities for green infrastructure. The community and project team evaluated the highest priority parcels and identified the most promising and feasible opportunities from that list. Site-specific design recommendations, including illustrations and descriptions of potential green infrastructure practices, were created to aid the City in further evaluation and discussion among city staff, officials, local partners, and the public. A range of green infrastructure practices are recommended, including rain water harvesting, a green alley, bioretention, permeable pavement, a green roof, stormwater wetlands, and stormwater detention.