Planning Atlanta
A New City in the Making 1930s – 1990s
Georgia State University Library

A dynamic digital collection that engages students, researchers, and the public with the ever-changing social and built environment of Atlanta and encourages new perspectives on familiar places.
Planning Atlanta: A New City in the Making, 1930s – 1990s will provide access to:

- 3000+ georeferenced maps
- **Demographic data sets** from ARC’s *Population and Housing* (1955 – 2003) with geographic identifiers
- 300+ planning publications
- 1000+ photographs that illustrate planning activities depicted on the maps
- 12 oral histories from 3 Atlanta neighborhoods that experienced urban renewal
- Aerial photograph mosaic (1949) comprised of 124 aerial photographs
- **WPA Tax District Maps** from the 1930s (700 sheets)
Planning Atlanta - A New City in the Making, 1930s - 1990s

About the Planning Atlanta Collection

Crowded, congested cities could be on their way out. In their place we could have a new type of city in the future – wide, green, open, and well-planned. Its people would be on wheels and wings, moving swiftly and surely from suburb to suburb, from rim to core and back again.

...Metropolitan Atlanta, hub of Piedmont America, is a prime example of the New City in the making.

-Up Ahead: A Regional Land Use Plan for Metropolitan Atlanta, Metropolitan Planning Commission, 1952.
How a Densely Populated Neighborhood Became Turner Field: A Map Essay

Posted on November 14, 2013 by Joe

With the unexpected announcement that the Braves will leave the Atlanta neighborhood of Summerhill for suburban Cobb County, many in the city are left to speculate what will become of the Turner Field complex after the Braves make their departure. Shortly after the news broke on November 11th, Mayor Kasim Reed alluded to future redevelopment plans for Turner Field. In a statement quoted by Creative Loafing, Reed noted that “over the next three years, we will be working with our prospective partners to bring residential and business development that is worthy of our city and strengthens our downtown.” As city officials contemplate the future of this large area just south of downtown, it is important to remember that 60 years ago, before Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and Turner Field were built, the entire space was once a neighborhood complete with a mixture of residential and business structures.

This photo essay (in this case more of a map essay) uses a selection of maps from the 1940s to the 1990s to chronicle the redevelopment of almost 50 percent of Summerhill from what was once a densely populated neighborhood — which was seamlessly connected to downtown — to that of a sparsely populated neighborhood, which is now geographically isolated from downtown due to the construction of several highways and an immense parking lot. In each of these maps, the yellow rectangle represents the actual space occupied by the Turner Field complex. Click on each map for a higher resolution image.
Design Philosophy

In partnership with regional history museums, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, community groups, and local arts organizations, a team of historians, documentarians, and digital humanists at Georgia State University proposes to document the history and memory of the events and people who have shaped the neighborhoods in what is now Turner Field and the redevelopment of the area as the Atlanta Braves leave for the suburbs.

Ongoing Work

The idea for the Stadiumville project began during a tour of the 2013 Living Walls, an annual mural conference that invites street artists from around the world to contribute to public art in Atlanta. A representative from Living Walls explained that the large cluster of murals in the Summerhill neighborhood was only possible because the buildings in this area are vacant and city officials and the property owners had no plans for them.

Community & Cultural Partners

The Stadiumville project is excited to announce its partnership with several community and cultural institutions for this project. These partnerships will include a wide variety of support throughout the project from advertising exhibitions to displaying content to assisting with archiving efforts. Below please find the confirmed community and cultural partners as well as a summary of their contribution for the Stadiumville project.

Contact Us

Stadiumville is proud to offer an expert team of historians, documentarians, and digital humanists to document the history and memory of the events and people who have shaped the neighborhoods in what is now Turner Field and the upcoming redevelopment of the area.

Acknowledgements and Support

On behalf of the Stadiumville Project, we would like to thank our supporting organizations, the Georgia State University Cities Initiative, community and cultural partners, and project members for their continued support throughout our submission process.
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