

Developing Fort McPherson as a Healthier Place: *A Health in All Policies Approach*



Walkable

SAFE

Live, Work, Play

Parks

Affordable
Housing

COMMUNITY

Nutrition

Active

Base Realignment and Closure of Fort McPherson

Fort McPherson, located in Atlanta, GA, is targeted for closure in 2011 as part of the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program. BRAC provides community stakeholders an opportunity to participate in the redevelopment of the property and to address multiple community needs via Local Redevelopment Authorities (LRAs). The LRAs draft the redevelopment plan for the installation. They try to balance the multiple needs of those in the vicinity of the installation with the needs of vulnerable populations living in the communities. The redevelopment of Fort McPherson presents a unique opportunity to demonstrate the impact on the health and well-being of residents when a community is designed with a Health in all Policies approach.

The "Health in All Policies" Approach

Health in All Policies is a strategy that strengthens the link between health and other policies, creating a supportive environment that enables people to lead healthy lives. Factors outside the traditional realm of health and healthcare—where we live, how we work, and how we spend our leisure time—influence our health and well-being.

Health in All Policies addresses health across policies in all sectors, including:

- housing
- transportation
- education
- employment
- land use
- environment
- agriculture

By incorporating health into the policy development process in all areas, we can begin to address the key determinants of health with a more systematic and holistic approach.

Goals of Developing Fort McPherson as a Healthier Place

The overall goals of developing Fort McPherson as healthier place are to:

- Incorporate health policies into community design and development
- Develop collaborative plans for providing supportive services
- Identify optimal strategies for engagement and partnerships to improve the health of the community, particularly vulnerable populations such as individuals impacted by homelessness

We will facilitate opportunities for community, state, and federal stakeholders to mutually explore health-promoting community design and development policies. Providing these opportunities should enable the community to use a healthy places approach to make informed, strategic decisions and improve access to preventive health services and health care, particularly for low-income populations. It is hoped that what is learned on this project will inform the redevelopment process of other military installations that are part of the BRAC program.

Georgia Health Policy Center and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating with McPherson LRA and other stakeholders to bring a health perspective to redevelopment activities. GHPC has substantial experience working with national and state leaders and community-based groups to provide evidence-based research, program development and policy guidance to improve health status at the community level. CDC has many health promotion and disease prevention programs and partners that together can support a holistic approach to health protection for communities. This project also seeks to connect the many existing programs and partner resources with target populations disproportionately affected by homelessness, strained economic resources and other determinants that contribute to poor health outcomes.

For More Information

To learn more about this project, please visit the following websites:

BRAC	www.defenselink.mil/brac
LRA	www.mcphersonredevelopment.com
CDC	www.cdc.gov
GHPC	http://aysps.gsu.edu/ghpc



Parks, sidewalks, plazas, and mixed-used buildings can promote active living and increase community cohesion.

