

# Annotated Bibliography Draft

Atlanta Police Foundation. (2021). PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER. [PowerPoint slides].

<https://citycouncil.atlantaga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/7151/637616848667907052>

This source is from the Atlanta Police Foundation, which is the biggest sponsor of Cop City. It is a powerpoint intended to inform the public about Cop City, which the Police Foundation calls the Public Safety Training Center. It shows a map of the area slated to become Cop City and gives the APF's perspective on why the PSTC would be a good idea. The Police Foundation proposes turning a piece of the land into a common use park with trails and open greenspace for the community. The presentation is a good representation of the "pros" of the project according to those who designed it, and also gives onlookers an idea of what the project would eventually look like. Some of the statements made in the presentation have been debunked by outside sources, such as the ecological claims about the land the Training Center will be built over.

Atlanta Press Collective. (2022, January 28). *No Permit? "Cop City" Project Doesn't Seem to Care*[Media Advisory].

<https://atlpresscollective.com/2022/01/28/media-advisory-no-permit-cop-city-project-doesnt-seem-to-care/>

This article details the premature start of Cop City construction. At this moment in May 2022, Cop City builders still do not have the permits they need to begin construction on the site. This is partially because the initial construction company withdrew from the project. As of January 2022, construction should not have started on the site, but the then-contracted company broke ground anyway. This act prompted forest defenders to physically occupy the forest in order to prevent any more construction. This article discusses the hypocrisy of law enforcement, who routinely enforce minor laws on people of color but do not follow the letter of the law themselves.

Bacon, J. M. (2020). "Dangerous pipelines, dangerous people: colonial ecological violence and media framing of threat in the Dakota access pipeline conflict." *Environmental Sociology*, 6(2), 143-153.

This paper discusses the ways in which the White settler colonial project disrupts natural ecology as a way to continue the project of the genocide of indigenous peoples in America. Colonial ecological violence is a tool and a mechanism for other types of violences, including erasure, misrepresentation, incarceration, and more. This paper discusses the ways that the colonial state enacts violence of Native peoples and land, and also the way the state criminalizes those who defend themselves, their communities, and their homelands against this violence. This kind of circular violence is a function of state racialized capitalism, and occurs as a case study on the Old Atlanta Prison farm. This

paper's claims are useful to show how violence against Mvskoke Creek people (removal) does not transition into violence against Black people (incarceration), but is simply an extension of the original function of the settler colonial state.

Bridges, W. A. (1982, Oct. 19). *Atlanta City Prison Camp. Detox facilities*. [Photograph].

<https://digitalcollections.library.gsu.edu/digital/collection/ajc/id/14808/rec/9>

Georgia State University's digital photography collection includes over 20 photos of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm. They range in year from 1940, when the incarcerated people photographed seem to be predominantly White, to the 1908s, when it is clear that the incarcerated people are nearly all Black. The creation of mass incarceration as a way to continue exploiting Black labor is very clearly visible in these photos. At the same time, the fallacy of prison "reform" is clear as well. The Prison Farm was ostensibly for rehabilitable people, and so some small freedoms were allowed: reading newspapers and being outside. Conditions for those who messed up were much worse, though, including a particularly cramped solitary confinement cell. Even at carceral institutions that claim to prioritize reform over punishment, the cruelty of the prison industrial complex is inextricable from its existence. These photos document a lineage of violence that has been conducted on the land Cop City is slated to be built on.

Butler, W. (2021, Aug. 9). "A Walk Through the Atlanta Forest." *Mainline Zine*.

<https://www.mainlinezine.com/a-walk-through-the-atlanta-forest/>

This article is a response to the claims made by the Atlanta Police Foundation in the presentation discussed above, through press conferences and townhalls directed towards the community. Butler dismantles some of the common arguments used by this group to ecologically justify the construction of Cop City, including the claim that there are no hardwood trees in the greenspace. A simple "walk through the Atlanta forest" shows the current pollution levels in the creek water, which would increase with Cop City's munitions training space. The creek, designated as not worth saving by the APF, is shown to be housing indicators of good stream health, including the presence of salamanders. This "debunking" project was conducted before the lease for Cop City was codified, and was intended to show the misinformation distributed by government affiliates on the topic of Cop City.

Dorman, S. (2020, Jun. 13) "Atlanta police chief resigns amid backlash over fatal shooting of black man." *Fox News*.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/atlanta-police-chief-resigns-amid-backlash-over-fatal-shooting-of-black-man>

Although referred to as a Black Mecca, Atlanta has not been an unproblematic home for its Black residents. Despite being a majority Black city and having Black mayors, city councilpeople, and even police, Atlanta has the same issues with policing as every city.

Many were deeply disappointed with the city council's decision to approve the Cop City project, but history shows that the Atlanta city government has not always had racial justice at its heart. This article details the fallout over APD killing an unarmed Black man, Rayshard Brooks, as he slept in his car in June 2020. The police chief at the time resigned as a result of public pressure; organizers and citizens in Atlanta took to the streets in peaceful protest, demanding a change to the racially unjust system of policing. This article gives necessary context to ongoing protests for racial equity in the city and helps clarify the complicated role city government plays in that fight.

Fiasco, L. & Soundtrakk. 2006. Kick, Push. On *Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor* [Album]. Atlantic Records.

While centrally a love story, this song alludes to the way policed, concretized environments trap kids of color. In the song, a Black boy learns how to skateboard, meets a girl who can skate as well, and they move from place to place trying to skate in peace. Lack of access to a skatepark (which often come with greenspaces) leads the kids to “trespass” and be policed out of outdoors spaces. They literally have “no place to go.” Fiasco depicts how law enforcement polices who gets to belong in outdoor spaces, and therefore who gets to experience “freedom / ... better than breathing.” This story is important to the case of Cop City because the current ruins of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm serve as a canvas for graffiti, a form of self-expression. If the greenspace is situated next to a police training center, law enforcement will intimidate that self-expression out of existence, further limiting the freedom of those who live around the land.

Hamdy, S & Nye, C. (2017). *Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendship, and Revolution*. University of Toronto Press.

Although this book is not about policing, and instead about East / West relations, *Lissa* discusses the intimate connection between the desires of Western capitalism and the declining ecological and physical health of the Global South. Through detailed artistic visuals, Hamdy and Nye are able to capture the intersecting and complicated ways in which extractive Western powers leave people in the Global South to deal with the consequences of their desires. Dismantling the prison industrial complex is a global effort, and understanding how American law enforcement techniques work on a bigger scale outside America helps activists better understand the way they work on a local scale. Hamdy and Nye's work also provide a new way to depict this relationship artistically, distilling complicated academic ideas into accessible visuals.

Herskind, M. (2022, Feb. 8). “Cop City and the Prison Industrial Complex in Atlanta.” *Mainline Zine*.

<https://www.mainlinezine.com/cop-city-and-the-prison-industrial-complex-in-atlanta/>

In this thorough article, Herskind draws painstaking connections between the prison industrial complex and Atlanta's Cop City project. He uses the work of prominent Black women abolitionists like Ruth Gilmore and Angela Davis to understand the theory and workings of the prison industrial complex (PIC), then shows how those pieces operate in an Atlanta-specific context. This is very useful because it shows how the Cop City project is an extension of the desire of the PIC, and offers the dismantling of the PIC as a vision that would better serve the people of Atlanta. Herskind shows how the media, local government, and law enforcement all make up essential pieces of the PIC, locating the work that each does to "suppress political dissent, subvert democratic engagement, and protect profits." Herskind's work serves to situate Cop City in its geographical and historical context, and posits some concrete steps citizens can take to address the behemoth project.

McDaniel, D. S. et. al. (2014). *No Escape: Exposure to Toxic Coal Waste at State Correctional Institution Fayette*. Abolitionist Law Center and Human Rights Coalition.

<https://abolitionistlawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/no-escape-3-3mb.pdf>

This report is one done by the HRC and ALC on the effects of toxic coal waste on both people incarcerated and the communities surrounding the Fayette Correctional Center in Louisiana. From increased risk of cancer to bloody coughs, the physical effects of living around the toxic coal waste plant were undeniable. This report is important because it shows how the work "hidden" away in incarceration facilities has toxic impacts on the people who are forced to interact with it. Authorities don't seem to care about predominantly low income communities that are impacted by environmental racism, so they definitely do not care about the impacts of the environment on people they've incarcerated. However, most citizens would agree that a prison sentence should not be a death sentence. With medical impacts like those recorded, toxic waste makes prison into a death factory. This is why reports like these are important-- they record and publicize the environmental impact of prisons on a population that is vastly under-studied. My research encompasses several ways that extended policing detrimentally affects the environment of people of color, and this report is a case study of one of those ways.

Muse, N. M. (2020). "An Analysis of Climate Resilience Planning in Atlanta, Georgia." Thesis, Georgia State University. [https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/geosciences\\_theses/141](https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/geosciences_theses/141)

In his thesis, Muse studies the relative protection that Atlanta has been afforded from the ravages of climate change. Unlike other Southern cities of its geographical position, Atlanta has been able to maintain a reputation of being hurricane and tornado proof. Of course, other Southern cities do not have a 300 acre wild greenspace at their south end. Muse posits that the Old Atlanta Prison Farm is crucial to Atlanta's continued survival in the fight against climate change, and that the greenspace has protected the city and its residents in ways largely unpublicized. Unlike the Police Foundation's claim that the

greenspace is only new growth and invasive species, which already harm the land, Muse's thesis argues that the Prison Farm is helpful to the ecology of the city.

Pellow, D. N. (2016). Toward a critical environmental justice studies: Black Lives Matter as an environmental justice challenge. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 13(2), 221-236.

Pellow's work in this paper is to understand environmental racism and police brutality as interlocking oppressive systems that inform each other. The two, although they both stem from rampant anti-Blackness, are not often discussed in theoretical combination. Pellow argues that they both employ the "racial discourse of animality," where an anti-Black view of Black people as "animals" creates systems that force animalistic conditions on Black life. As an extension, Pellow offers that the phrasing that compares Black people's conditions to animal life betrays a societal willingness to accept abuse and violence against animals as well. State-sanctioned violence against people and the land are therefore not two separate phenomena, but actively intertwined. I argue to extend this argument to the case study of Cop City. An intersectional understanding of the environmental damage the project causes cannot ignore the project's racial injustice.

Ruch, J. (2021, Oct. 4). "Lost graveyard of zoo animals at Prison Farm may get a memorial." *Saporta Report*.

<https://saportareport.com/lost-graveyard-of-zoo-animals-at-prison-farm-may-get-a-memorial/sections/reports/johnruch/>

This report tells the story of the zoo animals whose bodies were interred on the Prison Farm in the 1930s, 1950s, and even as recently as 1980. Zoo mistreatment of animals was rampant before a complete overhaul of Zoo Atlanta in the 1980s, and the exposure of mistreatment caused the zoo to dispose of animal bodies discreetly and disrespectfully. The bodies of animals were hastily buried, including that of an elephant that was supposed to have been retired on a farm but was instead sold to a traveling circus. Other bodies include the zoo's rabbits, which were actually eaten by workers. This history shows the complex history in the ground of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm. Different types of violence are baked into the soil, especially considering that one of the jobs of prisoners on the farm was to tend to the visible animal graves.

Thompson, L. (2020, Sept. 14) "The Cop Who Quit Instead of Helping to Gentrify Atlanta." *Mother Jones*.

<https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/09/the-cop-who-quit-instead-of-helping-to-gentrify-atlanta/>

This article tells the story of former cop Tom Gissler, who quit the Atlanta Police Force when he realized that he was participating in intentional gentrification. While working his

beat, he was told by his department to focus on “locking up” residents of a particular set of apartments called Bedford Pines. Gissler noted that the push started after a skyrise apartment building shot up next to Bedford Pines, which was a predominantly Black and low-income area. He was not alone in coming to the conclusion that the police department was being instructed to remove these occupants by incarcerating them, increasing the property value of the skyrise apartments. This story shows how policing in Atlanta is intimately connected to interests in capital and property, which is a connection that shows up again in the Cop City project.

Whyte, K. (2017). The Dakota access pipeline, environmental injustice, and US colonialism. *Red Ink: An International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Arts, & Humanities*, (19.1). In this paper, Whyte explores the way in which the U.S.’s destruction of land across the Americas is a function of settler-colonialism even when that land has already been stripped of Indigenous sovereignty. Whyte points out the common narrative that the genocide of Native Americans and the colonization of their land was a one and done event that occurred hundreds of years ago. Settler-colonialism is shown to be an active process, which continues to deny Native autonomy by extracting from sacred land and Native communities. This theoretical and practical way of seeing ecological devastation shows how projects that raze Atlanta’s greenspace and leach lead into the water are inherently oppressive to the Mvskoke Creek people, whose land it still is, despite removal.