



parks and recreation division annual report **2007**

• **gwinnett**county georgia



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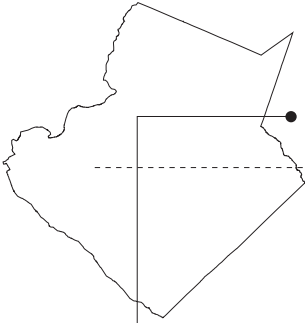
COO/Deputy County Administrator



Susan **Lee**

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Deputy County Administrator



• parks & recreation  
division

parks  
**providing quality parks** and  
leisure activities to the citizens of gwinnett county  
recreation



# parks & recreation annual report • 2007

## parks & recreation staff

Phil **Hoskins**  
Director, Department of Community Services

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Sharon **Plunkett**  
Director, Parks & Recreation Operations

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Grant **Guess**  
Director, Parks & Recreation Project Administration

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David **Clark**  
Deputy Director, Park Operations

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Tina **Fleming**  
Deputy Director, Recreation Operations

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Jim **Cyrus**  
Manager, Aquatics

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Blake **Hawkins**  
Manager, Support Services

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Eric **Horne**  
Manager, Grounds Maintenance

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Bill **Lunceford**  
Manager, Development/Construction

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## gwinnett county recreation authority

Lois **Allen**  
CHAIR

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Charlie **Underwood**  
VICE-CHAIR

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Jack **Bolton**  
Dr. David **Ficco**  
Jeff **Little**  
Glenn **Malool**  
Charlotte **Nash**  
H.S. "Chip" **Randall**  
Wayne **Sutor**



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introduction



The **mission** of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR), in partnership with our citizens, is to provide high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs, and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life. This annual report provides an overview of the operation and development of parks and recreation in Gwinnett County for the fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2007. This report also highlights significant events and accomplishments from 2007.

In 2007 Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation created a new **vision statement** to pledge to sustain the delivery of the highest standard of excellence of parks, facilities, programs and services by:

- Being responsive to the changing recreational needs of a diverse and growing community
- Continue a citizen-driven and professional approach to provide safe, well-designed and -maintained facilities and programs
- Providing responsible stewardship of human, fiscal, natural, and historic resources
- Maximizing community resources

In Gwinnett County, there truly is something for everyone. With 36 parks and facilities opened throughout the county, GCPR strives to provide Gwinnett residents with quality recreation and leisure opportunities, serving all ages, interests, and levels of physical ability. From *Bouncin' Babies* gymnastics to *Yoga for Seniors*, GCPR offers a wide variety of classes, camps, programs, and sports leagues to satisfy nearly every Gwinnett resident.

Gwinnett County's park system is home to 142 multi-purpose sport fields; 14 pools including indoor competition, instructional, lap, and leisure/play pools and outdoor leisure/play pools; community and senior recreation centers; gymnasiums and activity buildings; playgrounds; dog park areas; tennis; sand volleyball and basketball courts; skate parks; miles of multi-purpose trails; and historic and nature sites. In addition, the Board of Commissioners' successful greenspace preservation program, supported by the 1997, 2001, and 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), allows Gwinnett residents the opportunity to enjoy the county's precious natural resources.

The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority** is a legal advisory board comprised of nine members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, including two representatives from each of the four commission districts, plus one chairman-appointed member. The board typically meets on the second Thursday of the month.

The **Gwinnett Parks Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to support GCPR programs and services. Foundation volunteers advocate quality of life through citizenry awareness of the County's park system and recreational opportunities, and assist GCPR in three core program areas: the **Park'nership Program**, the **Commemorative Program**, and the **Gwinnett Corporate Challenge**, which raised \$18,600 in 2007 for youth and senior citizen recreation scholarships.

Parks and Recreation, which falls under the Department of Community Services, is composed of two divisions: Project Administration and Operations.



## project administration division

### 2007 project administration highlights

## parks and recreation operations division

### recreation operations: programming and resources and marketing

### 2007 recreation programming and resources and marketing highlights

Charged with evaluating potential park sites, reviewing boundary surveys, and preparing feasibility studies, the Project Administration staff is responsible for environmental assessment reports, geotechnical analyses, park designs, oversight of renovation and capital improvements to existing parks and facilities, master planning parks, and construction of new parks. Once land is purchased for a park, planning staff works with citizen steering committees to create a master plan. These committees consist of members of neighboring communities and park users.

- Completed master plans or feasibility studies for five parks
- Commenced master planning for four projects
- Held 21 steering committee meetings for parks located throughout Gwinnett County. Meetings ranged in type from formal presentations to park site tours

Charged with maintenance, operations, and public awareness and safety of the County's park system and recreation facilities, the Operations Division staff is responsible for providing quality parks, programs, and services to meet the broad-based needs of the citizenry in Gwinnett.

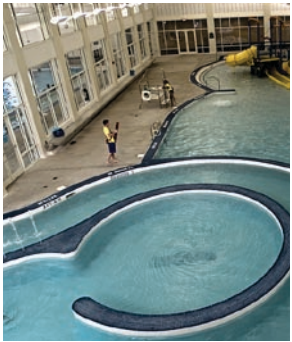
Recreation general programming staff and youth athletic facilitators provide countywide services that are divided into four geographic areas: north, south, east, and west. Other countywide specialized program areas include aquatics, historic/heritage, adult athletics, and tennis. Recreation staff operate and maintain recreation facilities, schedule facility rentals, facilitate citizen meetings, and plan and schedule classes, workshops, summer camps, adult athletic leagues, and special events throughout the county.

The Resources and Marketing unit is responsible for creating awareness of the County's park system and the many recreation opportunities that GCPR provides for the community. This awareness is created through publications, the GCPR website, TVgwinnett (Gwinnett County's government-access cable channel), and media relations. Additionally, Resources and Marketing plans special events; prepares PowerPoint presentations on various aspects of GCPR; makes presentations to groups and other organizations; works closely with non-profit organizations such as the Gwinnett Parks Foundation; prepares local, state, and national award nominations; and creates invitations, flyers, advertisements, news releases, presentations, and brochures.

- Grand openings of the following parks or facilities occurred in 2007: Bethesda Park Aquatic Center (February 3), Sweet Water Park (July 21), and DeShong Park (August 11)
- Trail Mix Celebration, highlighting the opening of Phase II of Little Mulberry Park and in celebration of National Trails Day (June 2)
- Restructuring of existing positions in recreation operations division in 2007 included the creation of a second aquatics coordinator position responsible for overseeing aquatics personnel, recruitment, and training programs and the contracts maintenance manager responsible for overseeing contracts
- The popular *Movies Under the Stars* annual countywide GCPR event was held at Tribble Mill Park where several thousand enjoyed the movie *Happy Feet*, music, activities, and concessions (May 12)
- Two USTA National Open junior tennis tournaments with players from around the country were held in Gwinnett; 21 other junior tennis tournaments, averaging 140 participants per tournament, were held throughout the year



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- Nearly 350 seniors competed in the **Gwinnett Senior Golden Games**, a senior-managed and -run nonprofit organization; events included badminton, horseshoes, swimming, archery, walking, and many other activities to help seniors stay physically fit, make friends, and compete in a healthy and friendly environment (April 16 – May 14)
- In its first year of operation, the new Bethesda Park Aquatic Center served over 8,500 seniors in the Senior Water Exercise Program
- The 20<sup>th</sup> annual *Lighting of the Tree* occurred on Thanksgiving Day and close to 12,000 people crowded the grounds of the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse on the square in downtown Lawrenceville for this traditional event
- GCPR lifeguards won the Georgia Recreational Park Association State Lifeguard Competition for the second year in a row
- Nine art exhibits, both professional and amateur, displaying a variety of media and art forms were hosted by Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center and the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse
- The Lloyd Bennett Corporate Challenge 2007 raised \$18,600 for youth and senior recreation scholarships (September 9 – 21)
- GCPR's 20-year anniversary was commemorated on July 20 at a systemwide celebration for the public; the celebration was in observance of the 1987 creation of the countywide Parks and Recreation department made possible through a 1986 voter referendum approval of a countywide recreation tax
- Ten Senior Recreation Clubs met each month at various GCPR facilities to enhance the recreational, fellowship, and educational experience for Gwinnett's seniors
- The **Hospital Buddies Program** within the Recreational Senior Clubs made and delivered 1,200 dolls and 10 wagons to patients at Egleston Children's Hospital
- GCPR partnered with the Gwinnett Sports Commission to hold the third annual Sportsmanship Banquet (March 6). The 2007 Youth and Adult Sportsmanship Award winners in Gwinnett were Dunny Harrison of the Peachtree Booster Club (youth) and Jimmy Carrion of the Dacula Soccer Club (adult). Former Atlanta Falcons player and *790 The Zone* personality Chuck Smith spoke at the event. FOX5's Buck Lanford served as Master of Ceremonies and the keynote speakers were Coach Harold Jones and Radio SeniorNet (Computer Learning Center) was awarded the 2007 GRPA District 7 Volunteer Award and the NACO 2007 Acts of Caring Award
- The 15<sup>th</sup> annual GCPR and Community Schools Awards and Recognition Reception was held on March 21. Community Schools honored six Teachers of the Year and 16 Supporters of the Year, while GCPR recognized six facility attendants, seven instructors, and 21 volunteers for their dedication
- GCPR hosted the first annual Trail Mix (June 2) at Little Mulberry Park in observance of National Trails Day; 3,000 people enjoyed the daylong festivities
- GCPR teamed up with the Gwinnett Conventions and Visitors Bureau (GCVB) Sports Commission to host the Ironkids Triathlon, which featured biking, running, and swimming and drew more than 300 participants ages 6 – 14
- Resources and Marketing distributed 91 news releases about park happenings to local media
- Both the Gwinnett Senior Center and Prime Timers Pointe hosted Senior Health Fairs that, combined, attracted nearly 1,000 Gwinnett seniors; the fairs offered medical screenings, wellness programs, and demonstrations to help local seniors lead a healthy lifestyle
- GCPR hosted Meteor Madness (August 12) at Little Mulberry Park—one of the highest points in Gwinnett County—in the wee hours of the morning for the Perseia meteor shower; more than 60 citizens showed up to watch the astronomical wonder
- Due to the success of the on-demand mailing request format, the tri-annual *Gwinnett LIFE*® production and distribution costs were reduced in 2007 by discontinuing the





**park operations:  
grounds  
maintenance**

**park operations:  
support services**

**2007 park operations  
highlights: grounds  
maintenance and  
support services**



publication's distribution to GCPS elementary and middle school students. Gwinnett citizens can receive this free publication at their home address by signing up by mail or at [www.gwinnettlife.org](http://www.gwinnettlife.org). It can also be accessed online at [www.gwinnettparks.com](http://www.gwinnettparks.com)

Grounds Maintenance includes four districts—north, south, west, and passive—and is responsible for all the general/basic care and upkeep for all parks in the county's park system. Turf, trail, and pond management, mowing and fertilization of passive and athletic sport fields, sports field game preparation, tree and shrub care, playground inspection and maintenance, grounds and buildings janitorial, and litter/refuse removal all are basic components of the scope of quality service afforded by the grounds maintenance staff.

Support Services includes three units: Skilled Trades (electrical, plumbing, carpentry), Field Support (best locking systems, fleet, special event logistics), and Warehouse Operations. These units are involved in the maintenance of all facilities and equipment including community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, and parks.

- Grounds Maintenance managed:
  - 64-plus miles of multi-purpose trails
  - 136 multi-purpose sports fields
  - 37 playground units
  - Renovation of over 900,000 square feet of sports turf and planting of hundreds of trees (seedling and mature stock)—all part of the more than 8,800 acres that make up Gwinnett's parks
  
- Support Services received 2,713 service requests, with a 99 percent overall completion rate
  - 603 plumbing
  - 478 electrical
  - 529 carpentry
  - 719 field support
  - 384 contract management
  - Managed 32 annual contract services agreements
  - Served as lead administrator for implementation of the RecWare registration system with the Department of Support Services and Information Technology Division
  - Received one new position (contract services associate III) in Support Services help manage the increasing contracts for service delivery in maintaining the parks
  - Played a significant role in the renovations to Lions Club and South Gwinnett parks



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## 2007 award highlights for gwinnett county parks and recreation

- GRPA State Overall Award: Mike Levensgood was named Volunteer of the Year
- GRPA State, Outdoor Section Award: Mark Patterson was named Outdoor Professional of the Year
- GRPA State, Facilities and Grounds Section Award: REI Classroom/Landscape Improvements at Bogan Park
- GRPA State, Programmer Section Award: Trail Mix Celebration observing National Trails Day
- GRPA District 7, Distinguished Professional Award: Kim Shealy was named 2007 Programmer of the Year
- GRPA District 7, Facilities and Grounds: David McGaughey was named 2007 Professional of the Year
- GRPA District 7, Volunteer of the Year: Gwinnett SeniorNet Learning Center was named 2007 Volunteer of the Year
- GCPR Operations Division Distinguished *Be All You Can Be* award winners in 2007: Brian Kumm, Aquatics Program Coordinator, and Chris Shaw, Trades Tech IV

## financial summary

### Parks and Recreation Capital History

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Recreation Tax*	\$ 2,585,243	\$ 2,802,000
Grants	\$ 507,500	\$ 110,000
General Tax/Other	\$ 55,035,095	\$ 34,606,842
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 58,127,838</b>	<b>\$ 37,518,842</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Capital Improvements and Equipment	\$ 55,555,007	\$ 93,360,317

\* Funds receipted in operating fund and transferred to capital to be expensed

### 2007 Parks and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures

<b>Revenues</b>	
General Fund	\$ 826,786
Recreation Tax	\$ 22,378,441
User Fees	\$ 5,660,014
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,865,241</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personal Services	\$ 12,124,312
Supplies	\$ 7,842,062
Other Changes/Services	\$ 3,766,342
Contribution Capital	\$ 2,802,000
Bonded Debt Service	\$ 2,552,691
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,087,407</b>



## 2007 AT A GLANCE

Total park land acreage	9,980
Number of operational parks	36
Number of recreation/community centers	12
Number of senior recreation centers/designated area	2
Number of tennis courts	42
Number of basketball/multi-use courts	18
Number of miles of bike/walking/hiking trails	64
Number of competition, instructional, and leisure/play pools	14
Number of skate parks	4
Number of cultural/historic sites	5
Number of playgrounds	37
Number of dog park areas	4
Number of special needs multi-use sport fields	1
Number of classes, programs, camps, and events offered	5,473
Number of parks under development or renovation	3
Number of parks master plans completed	5
Number of parks and facilities opened	3
Number of parks/facilities renovated	2
Number of participants enrolled in recreation classes	65,891
Number of recreation and athletic summer camps offered	124
Total participation in summer camps	3,214
Number of Youth Athletic Associations (YAA)	23
Enrollment participation of children in YAA programs	49,044
P-nut sports participation	2,176
Number of participants in adult sports leagues	13,443
Aquatics classes/lessons offered	1,802
Number of participants in aquatics classes/lessons	93,862
General attendance at County pools	over 450,000



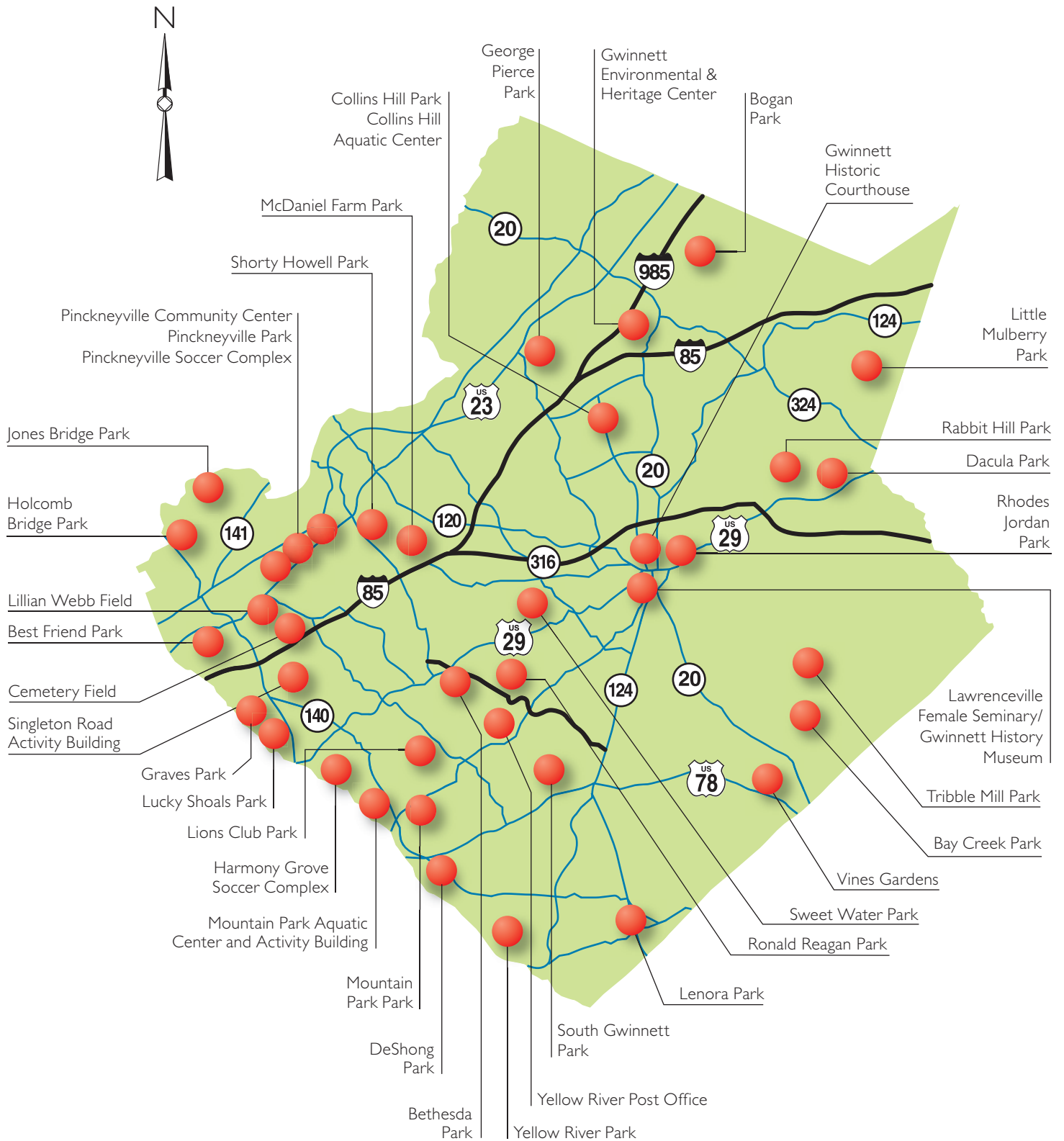
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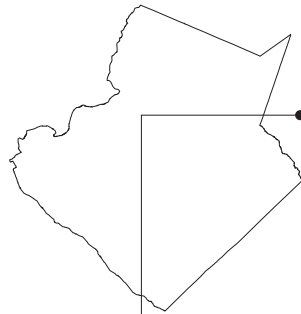
<b>2007 AT A GLANCE</b>	
Tennis classes/camps offered	158
Number of participants in tennis facilities, classes/camps, tournaments	6,743
Tennis youth league participation	80
Tennis tournaments held/participants	15/6,080
Number of facility and specialized facility rentals	7,458
Facility rental participation	1,101,104
Acreage of developed parkland maintained by staff	2,699
Number of multi-purpose sports fields maintained by staff	136
Number of work orders for plumbing, electrical, carpentry, field support	2,680
Number of volunteer hours	199,000
Gwinnett LIFE® annual on-demand mailing circulation	64,337
Gwinnett LIFE® circulation to Gwinnett County elementary/middle schools students	102,125
Gwinnett Corporate Challenge team participation/funds raised	17/\$18,600
Number of park police officers positions filled	11

# 2007 park inventory

With 36 parks that are open and three more under development and two undergoing renovation, residents are just minutes away from enjoying a day at the park and the many activities offered by GCPR.







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*Sweetwater Park Pavilion*

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