

Public Safety

North of Dacula off Old Fountain Road, Fire Station 27 is typical of the public safety improvements funded by SPLOST programs. The new station has two truck bays in addition to offices, living quarters, and storage. Other new stations underway include Fire Station 28 on Rosebud Road near Loganville, a relocated Fire Station 7 with three bays and a new ladder company, and a replacement for Fire Station 1, the County's first fire station in Norcross.



Police Training Complex

Our new 50-acre **Police Training Complex**, open in June 2007, includes a classroom building, fitness area, firing ranges, and a 21-acre driver-training course. Located on Winder Highway, the state-of-the-art complex is Gwinnett County's second project built to energy-efficient LEED certification standards.

A much-needed new **Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center**, opening in September 2007, is under construction on Highway 29 near Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville. With 33,000 square feet, the new facility is more than double the size of the old shelter. It will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the latest in animal care.

SPLOST and the 2007 Budget

Gwinnett County's capital and operating budgets for 2007 show the dramatic impact that SPLOST programs have had. Especially in the areas of

transportation and parks, the additional SPLOST funds have allowed traditional tax revenues to expand other basic services and keep up with a rapidly growing population. For example, the County added 211 new jobs in this year's operating budget, with 172 of them going to public safety, the sheriff's department, and the courts.

Operating Budget	\$ 799,163,195
Capital Budget	\$ 875,885,922
TOTAL	\$1,675,049,117

The 15 cities in Gwinnett will receive an estimated \$88.6 million from the current SPLOST program. Revenues are monitored monthly. To allow for unexpected shortfalls, the County budgets only 90 percent of expected SPLOST revenue. Any additional income will be allocated later to the same voter-approved categories listed below.

Transportation	\$162,000,000
Parks and Recreation	\$162,000,000
Public Safety	\$ 78,821,640
Libraries	\$ 12,420,000
Cities Share	\$ 88,620,400
TOTAL	\$503,862,040

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About SPLOST

One penny of every dollar spent in Gwinnett County pays for specified capital improvements throughout the county. The current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program went into effect in April 2005.

The four-year program is expected to raise about \$500 million, to be shared between County and city governments and used for transportation, parks and recreation, public safety, and libraries. By using sales tax funds for these improvements, the County has been able to minimize long-term debt and hold property taxes steady.

Citizen committees studied and prioritized many proposed transportation and parks projects and made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The County's long-range planning and master plan documents also help guide this process.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of previous SPLOST programs since the mid-1980s that have paid for such projects as the **Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center**, the **Gwinnett Center**, many acres of greenspace, new parks and recreation facilities, **Sugarloaf Parkway**, **Satellite Boulevard** and hundreds of other road improvements, new police and fire stations, and libraries around the county.

This brochure highlights just a few of the County's SPLOST-funded projects that are currently underway. These and many other improvements will continue to have a dramatic impact on the quality of life in Gwinnett County.

Transportation

Among many other road improvement projects, sales tax dollars are helping widen two major roads in the Mall of Georgia and Gwinnett Place areas. **Gravel Springs Road** from State Route 20/Buford Drive to I-85 and from I-85 to State 124/Braselton Highway is currently under construction. Rights-of-way are being purchased for wid-

ening **Pleasant Hill Road** from Old Norcross Road to Buford Highway.

Engineering and land acquisition are underway to extend **Sugarloaf Parkway** from State Route 20/Grayson Highway to State Route 316 east of Lawrenceville. Construction of Phase One (Grayson Highway to New Hope Road) will begin by the end of 2007.

Arcado Road will be improved from Luxomni Road to Lilburn Industrial Way including improving both intersections with traffic signals, turn lanes, and sidewalks. The bridge over Jackson Creek will be replaced. This project is currently being designed.

Construction is underway on **Rockbridge Road** from east of Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Dickens Road. Improvements include a center turn lane and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.



Future Lucky Shoals Park Community Center

Parks and Recreation

Money from the 2005 SPLOST program is building a new \$5.9 million Community Center building at **Lucky Shoals Park** on Britt Road southwest of Lilburn. The 28,450-square-foot building will feature a double gymnasium with a walking track around the top level, a dance room, meeting rooms, and game room. Parks and Recreation will provide many traditional and new classes for the community. Located in the Meadowcreek school cluster, youth sports programs will also be offered at the facility. It will also be available

to rent for a variety of events such as meetings and reunions.

Peachtree Ridge Park, at Wildwood/Suwanee Creek Roads, is under phase one construction for \$17.9 million from the 2005 SPLOST. Opening in first quarter of 2008, it will serve the Peachtree Ridge School Cluster. With 156 acres, this active community park will feature a youth baseball/softball complex with a special-needs ballfield, a youth football complex, a playground/picnic pavilion, and a multi-purpose trail. The County's second special-needs playground is being constructed with financial assistance from the local community.

DeShong Park, open in July 2007, is a \$4.1 million construction project from the 2001 SPLOST program. Located on North DeShong Road in the southern end of Gwinnett County, the park covers 208 acres. Amenities include a two-acre open play area, 1.5 mile multi-purpose trail, a lawn court area with a pavilion and benches, playground, and a teen area with two half-court basketball courts and skate complex. Area residents strongly supported preserving this land as a passive community park.

Sweet Water Park, also open in July 2007, is located on Bethesda School Road near two elementary schools. Phase One includes a pavilion/plaza area, playground, two tennis courts, two half-court basketball courts, volleyball and horse-shoe courts, restrooms, and a multi-purpose trail. This 25-acre park is a \$3.9 million construction project from the 2001 SPLOST program.

Library

Three new branch libraries have opened recently thanks to the 2001 and 2005 SPLOST programs. The long-awaited **Grayson Branch Library** opened in September 2006, the **Dacula Branch Library** opened in April 2006, and the **Suwanee Branch Library** opened in 2005.