

chance of not being able to obtain spare parts. The new playgrounds also provide fun, new equipment for children in Gwinnett. Currently the program is slated to replace one playground at Bethesda Park, another at Rhodes Jordan Park, and two at Bogan Park.

Library

The new **Hamilton Mill Branch Library** now under construction is located on Braselton Highway adjacent to the new Duncan Creek Park. Located on a five-acre site, it will be the county's 15th branch library. The 20,000-square-foot building has been designed to meet Silver LEED® energy efficiency and sustainability standards, making it the first green library in the county and third in the state. The library will house up to 75,000 books and other items for checkout. Construction is scheduled to be completed by first quarter 2010.



Hamilton Mill Library

Public Safety

A new Police Headquarters Annex and E-911 Center scheduled to open in December 2009 is located on a nine-acre site at 872 Hi-Hope Road in Lawrenceville, immediately north of the existing Police Headquarters. The 45,000-square-foot one-story building will accommodate 180 employees along with a new, fully-equipped, state-of-the-art E-911 Communications Center, Emergency Operations Center, and backup data center to serve the County for at least the next 20 years. The building design meets Federal Emergency Management Agency standards for har-

dened first responder facilities. The new facility, which is funded by sales tax and E-911 fees, will also be home to the police professional standards unit and the Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management.

The relocation of **Fire Station 7** in Duluth is typical of the public safety improvements funded by SPLOST programs. This new station has three truck bays to house a fire engine, ladder truck, and ambulance. In addition, the station has offices, living quarters, storage, and a community classroom. Other fire stations built in 2009 are **Station 29** in Braselton and relocated Station 18 in Hamilton Mill. Construction of Station 30—in the Grayson/Loganville area—is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. SPLOST funds also purchased an advanced life support Medic Unit for Station 28, which serves the Snellville/Grayson/Loganville area.

SPLOST Revenues

Revenues from the SPLOST program 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	\$351,795,811
Parks and Recreation	\$149,611,765
Public Safety	\$ 61,253,088
Libraries	\$ 12,005,882
Courts Facilities	\$ 87,735,294
Cities Share	\$ 122,598,160
TOTAL	\$785,000,000

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SPLOST

sales tax program update

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Police Headquarters Annex and E-911 Center opening December 2009



Settles Bridge Park opened September 2009

About SPLOST

Gwinnett voters have approved a one-penny special purpose local option sales tax, or SPLOST, seven times since 1985 to pay for specified capital improvements throughout the county. In that time, \$2 billion has been collected to fund parks, transportation infrastructure, public safety facilities, court buildings, and libraries.

The 2009 SPLOST program started on April 1, 2009. This five-year program is expected to raise about \$785 million to be shared between County and city governments. By using sales tax to fund these projects, the County has been able to minimize long-term debt and keep property taxes low.

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.

Previous SPLOST programs funded hundreds of projects that have helped make Gwinnett County a great place to live. Some past projects include Alexander Park in Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Center in Duluth, Sugarloaf Parkway that connects Duluth and Lawrenceville, East Police Precinct in Dacula, Grayson Branch Library, and Fire Station 1 in Norcross.

This brochure highlights just a few of the County's SPLOST-funded projects that are currently under construction and will also have a positive impact on the quality of life in Gwinnett County.

Transportation

Sales tax dollars have provided funding for engineering and land acquisition on two major road crossings of I-85. Use of these funds on the four-lane **Gravel Springs Road** (State Route 324) bridge over I-85 and the McGinnis Ferry Road extension over I-85 has allowed Gwinnett County and the State of Georgia to obtain federal

stimulus dollars to construct the projects. Work will begin in fall 2009.

Other projects that used sales tax dollars for pre-construction tasks in order to obtain federal stimulus construction funds include improvements to **US 29** in the Lilburn area and traffic management and signal improvements on **Buford Highway and Sugarloaf Parkway**. Construction on these projects is also starting this fall.

Planning and construction on several sections of the **Sugarloaf Parkway Extension** from State Route 20/Grayson Highway to State Route 316 east of Lawrenceville is ongoing. Construction on section one (Grayson Highway to New Hope Road) continues and is expected to be complete by early next year. Construction on section two (New Hope Road to Martin Chapel Road/Bramlett Shoals Road) began early this year and will continue through 2010. Section three will take the extension to Campbell Road and gets underway by the end of the year.

Arcado Road will be rebuilt 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. A construction contract has been awarded and work will begin this fall.

The widening of **State Route 124/Braselton Highway** from Hamilton Mill Road to Pine Road was recently opened to traffic. The project added a through lane in each direction and a center turn lane.

Parks and Recreation

Located in northern Gwinnett County, **Settles Bridge Park** opened to the public in September 2009. The park's 268 acres include such amenities as a playground, large pavilion with grills, a 2.4-acre area designated just for dogs and their owners, and two trails, one soft-surface and the other paved multi-purpose. In addition, a teen area includes a 10,000-square-foot skate com-

plex, two half court basketball courts, teen playground, and a shade structure.

Crews lifted a circa 1850s grist mill located at **Freeman's Mill Park** east of Lawrenceville a full five feet in order to raise the building above the 100-year flood elevation at the Alcovy River. Gwinnett County purchased the mill in 2002 using Georgia Greenspace Program and SPLOST funding. The mill, which operated from around 1870 until 1986, was added to the National Historic Registry in 1998. While the mill will not be open to the public until future additional renovations take place, the total seven-acre passive park site will open in late 2009 with a large playground, comfort station, shelter, and 0.5-mile paved trail.



1850 Freeman's Mill

Construction of improvements to **Rabbit Hill Park** west of Dacula began in September 2009. The open areas on the east side of the entrance road will get a 3.5-acre fenced dog park, 60-foot rental pavilion, comfort station, large playground, sand volleyball court, 1.2-mile extension to the existing paved trails, and more parking. Construction on these passive amenities, which will not add a great deal of expense to the County's operating budget, is expected to be completed in early summer 2010.

Gwinnett County manages a successful **playground replacement program**, funded by SPLOST, to update older equipment. This replacement cycle reduces maintenance costs and lowers the