



State of the County

TWO-THOUSAND SEVENTEEN



- Voters approved the one-cent SPLOST sales tax for six years (starts April 1, 2017)
- 2017 SPLOST program estimated to raise \$950 million for capital projects, with \$201.8 million to be shared with cities
- County's portion (\$748.2 million): 65 percent dedicated to transportation (\$486.3 million) and remainder for recreational facilities (\$108.5 million), civic center expansion (\$67.3 million), public safety (\$52.4 million), library relocation/renovation (\$22.5 million), and senior facilities (\$11.2 million)
- Progress made on projects from previous SPLOST programs: relocated Lilburn Branch of the Gwinnett Public Library opened to public; Fire Training Academy apparatus building and pavilion completed; construction began on new Medical Examiner's Office and new Centerville Senior Center
- Since 1985, more than \$3 billion has been collected from SPLOST to fund Gwinnett's capital programs
- As a result, Gwinnett has saved more than \$1 billion in financing costs by using pay-as-you-go SPLOST revenues for infrastructure projects

Find out more at www.gwinnettsplost.com

Planning & Economic Development

- Created new Venture Drive Redevelopment Overlay District
- Acquired 24.36-acre former Olympic tennis site at Gwinnett's southern gateway at U.S. 78 for future redevelopment by a private sector partner to be selected through a competitive process
- Updated 2030 Unified Plan, future development map to align with post-recession environment
- Gwinnett named a Plan First Community by Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- Conducted 80,361 building inspections, issued 155 development permits, 2,783 residential construction permits (new construction), 104 non-residential permits (new construction), 16,601 business licenses, and 675 alcoholic beverage licenses
- Expanded electronic document storage and automated building inspection results notification
- Launched new licensing and revenue payment system

Transportation

- Maintained 2,568 miles of roads, 713 traffic signals, and 266 closed-circuit cameras
- Briscoe Field had 85,314 takeoffs and landings and 286 aircraft based there
- Upgraded school zone flashing beacon system to give Traffic Control Center two-way monitoring capability
- Initiated construction on 29 projects including intersections, major roads, safety and alignment, school safety, and sidewalk/pedestrian safety improvements and completed 29 others
- Began construction: SR 324 widening (Jim Moore Road to Dacula Road) and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard widening (McGinnis Ferry Road to Moore Road)
- Completed initial public outreach and short-range plan for Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Resurfaced 130 miles of roadways and added 486 street lights
- Gwinnett Transit carried nearly 1.5 million riders on 81 vehicles
- Replaced 28 local transit buses and added new express service to Emory/CDC
- Added Google Transit feed for trip planning on Google Maps

Award Winning Government

The following list is a sample of the many awards Gwinnett County programs and services won in 2016. A complete list can be found at www.gwinnettcountry.com.

- National Association of Counties Achievement Awards: Firefighter/Paramedic Trainee Program; Walk the Talk; Wildlife Management Program; Employee Wellness Center; Lunch and Learn for Family Caregivers; Wireless Emergency Alerts; Emergency Operations Center Management Team
- Environmental & Heritage Center named Georgia Project WET Organization of the Year
- Parks & Recreation won Georgia Recreation and Park Association Agency of the Year
- Water Science with Wade won national video awards from National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors and National Association of County Information Officers
- Water Resources won National Association of Clean Water Agencies Platinum Peak Performance awards for two plants
- Fire & Emergency Services won American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Award
- Gwinnett Police won two team events at 2016 Georgia Police and Fire Games
- Water Resources' Ostara Nutrient Recovery program at F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center won the Metro Atlanta Chamber's E3 Award in the Liquid Assets category
- Financial Services won Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association and Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from National Purchasing Institute (18th consecutive year)
- Live Healthy Gwinnett won Gwinnett Chamber's 2016 Healthcare Awards Community Wellness Award and President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Community Leadership Award
- UGA Extension won National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Communicator and Youth Specialty Awards
- WorldatWork Work-Life Seal of Distinction
- Transportation won ITS Georgia Outside the Box Award for school zone flashing beacons program

Green Government

- Collected 32.5 tons of paper, 31.9 tons of electronics, 10 tons of tires, 6,264 gallons of paint, 324 pairs of sneakers, 1,700 pounds of textiles, and 452 toner cartridges at two recycling events
- Toilet recycling program replaced 2,450 inefficient toilets, saving 28 million gallons of water annually and diverting 100 tons of porcelain away from landfills for use as road base, pipe bed, and landscaping
- Water on Wheels taught water conservation to 11,000 elementary school students
- 450 volunteers cleaned up 5,000 pounds of trash from streambeds with Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful

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Gwinnett Animal Shelter

Local Economy & Finances

- 2017 population: 939,205 (*Woods and Poole, Spring 2016 estimate*)
- Gwinnett had 473,204 labor force participants and unemployment was 4.6 percent in December 2016 (*Georgia Department of Labor*)
- Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investor Services, and S&P Global affirmed Gwinnett's AAA credit ratings, marking 20 years of Triple-AAA bond ratings
- Mauldin & Jenkins' external audit showed zero findings
- In 2016, refinanced water and sewer bonds to save \$21.5 million in future interest payments
- In January 2017, refinanced Development Authority bonds used to fund Coolray Field construction to save \$14.2 million in future interest payments
- Conducted 10th annual supplier symposium
- Negotiated cost savings of approximately \$2.5 million on contracts
- Property assessment audit found Gwinnett properties valued at 97.3 percent of market value overall
- Implemented new online appeal option for personal property assessments
- Documented 209 business processes in Financial Services, identified 36 improvement opportunities, and completed 28 improvement projects
- Issued 300,188 property assessments and recorded 49,681 property transactions, up 42 percent from previous year
- Completed 17,000 residential property assessment reviews and 670 motor vehicle appeals
- Gwinnett received grants of \$24.5 million
- 2017 budget: \$1.56 billion
- \$1.18 billion operating budget retains employees, supports public safety, expands judiciary to meet higher demands, and enhances community needs
- \$384 million capital budget includes Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center expansion (courtrooms and parking), mobile field communications equipment replacement, police body cameras, and significant improvements to water, sewer and storm-water infrastructure

20 years of **triple AAA** achievement

General Government

- Posted 404 positions, received 50,090 applications, and processed 2,109 new hires, including poll workers
- Added new master officer position to law enforcement retention
- Implemented paperless property tax billing (Tax Commissioner's office)
- Designed new auditorium lighting, AV upgrades for courtrooms, and improvements to entry and walkways at Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center
- Purchased 487 vehicles and pieces of equipment and dispensed 5.7 million gallons of fuel from 11 fuel sites with a value of \$9.3 million
- Completed 5,745 work orders for preventive maintenance for vehicles/heavy equipment and 7,900 work orders for facility maintenance
- Added Quick Bill Pay option on website for water/sewer bills
- Launched interactive web map that lets residents search for parks based on amenities
- Supported 6,600 end-user devices, 7,000+ email boxes, 1,111 TB of data storage, 540 databases, 691 physical and virtual servers, 3,500 wireless devices, 8,000 public safety radios, 5,800 VoIP phones, and 110 remote locations
- Community Outreach Program reached more than 15,000 residents through programs such as Gwinnett 101 citizens academy, outreach events, exhibit fairs, and digital communications
- Launched three new community outreach activities: Building Bridges, Language Access Summit, and Cultural Heritage Nights
- Will expand citizens academy programming to youth and launch Gwinnett 101 alumni association in 2017



Community Services



- Worked with 1,608 partners to provide services and received \$5,000 in grant funds
- Live Healthy Gwinnett offered 163 programs and events with 1,619 participants
- Environmental and Heritage Center offered 1,158 programs and 210,880 hours serving 350 school groups totaling 36,042 students and hosted 282 rental events/meetings
- Parks and Recreation hosted 2,628 pavilion rentals with 745,236 participants; counted 63,638 participants in recreation activities, 147,691 in aquatic activities, 40,856 in youth sports, and 13,605 adults on 324 teams in adult sport leagues; and maintained 179 sports fields, 72 playgrounds, and 128 miles of trails on 9,829 acres
- Under construction: E. E. Robinson Park, South Gwinnett Park, McDaniel Farm Park Phase II, and Rock Springs Park Phase II
- Complete: Best Friend Park gym renovation, Peachtree Ridge Park field to synthetic turf conversion, and Simpsonwood Park master plan
- Elections logged a record-breaking 169,646 advance votes cast through Absentee by Mail and Advance Voting
- UGA Extension analyzed 1,330 water and soil samples, presented 1,563 programs, distributed 44,014 newsletters, and received 65,599 web contacts
- Master Gardener and 4-H volunteers donated 14,000+ hours
- Health and Human Services served 500,000 residents through services, programs, classes, events, and visits
- Senior Services opened the renovated Lawrenceville Senior Center and cleared two waiting lists briefly, one for the first time in 10 years
- Gwinnett Public Library had 461,855 library cardholders, 2.7 million branch visits, and 5 million item checkouts and implemented expanded and uniform operating hours in all 15 branches

Water Resources

- Operates two water production facilities (248 million gallons per day capacity), three water reclamation facilities (98 MGD capacity), 10 water booster pump stations, 10 water storage tanks, 220 raw sewage pump stations, 276 miles of pressurized sewer pipe, 2,750 miles of gravity sewer pipe, 1,454 miles of stormwater drain pipe, and 3,744 miles of water main
- Produced 27.11 billion gallons of drinking water and 19.35 billion gallons of reclaimed water (36 percent returned to Lake Lanier)
- Replaced 63,281 feet of water lines, 18,406 feet of sewer lines, and 32,099 feet of stormwater drain pipe (and lined an additional 112,661 feet)
- Flushed 1.1 million feet of sewer (up 150 percent) and had fewest spills in metro Atlanta area
- Identified clogged sewer pipes sooner with new acoustic technology
- Final phase of upgrades at Crooked Creek Water Reclamation plant to be finished in 2021
- Increased predictive and proactive maintenance at F. Wayne Hill plant by 12 percent
- Extended life of membrane filters with new, patent-pending cleaning process
- New software helps manage 20 percent more projects without increasing staff
- 40 facility safety audits and eight customer care policy updates completed
- Future plans: smart water meters, leak detection by satellite, Lake Lanier water quality study, and new research and education center



Public Safety

Police

- Save rate at Gwinnett Animal Shelter up for fourth straight year
- 89 percent homicide solve rate beat national average of 64 percent
- Delivered 1,028 crime prevention and safety programs to 47,581 residents
- Police responded to 558,600 incidents
- Public safety and multicultural festivals drew 5,500 visitors
- Hired and trained 84 new police officers
- Started a Youth Police Academy (one-week summer camp)
- Reaccredited through CALEA with Excellence Award
- New Bay Creek Precinct and alternate 911 Center to break ground this year (SPLOST)
- Body camera equipment arrives this year plus 10 new part-time officers
- Increased staffing in Emergency Management and Crime Scene Investigations
- New evidence management solution includes bar code scanning



Fire & Emergency Services

- Began process to be accredited by Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International
- Opened relocated station 10 and new station 31 (SPLOST)
- Gwinnett Fire responded to 78,661 incidents (75 percent medical)
- New med units operating at stations 29 and 31
- Bought one new and two remounted aerial ladders, eight new pumpers, three new ambulances, eight ambulance remounts, and 22 sets of extrication equipment
- Conducted tourniquet, Narcan, active shooter, pre-hospital trauma life support, advanced medical life support, and emergency pediatric care training for 500+
- Performed 16,903 fire and life safety inspections, up 15 percent, plus 3,202 fire and life safety education programs for 256,262 residents, including 1,561 trained in CPR/AED
- Conducted 966 home surveys and installed 6,328 smoke alarms
- Fire Academy graduated 99 firefighter/paramedics

Corrections

- Inmates provided 145,342 hours of labor worth \$1.3 million to County departments, cities, and community improvement districts

Sheriff

- Recertified through the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program, meeting 120 standards of professional law enforcement policies
- Gwinnett Re-entry Intervention Program, known as GRIP, has referred 465 homeless persons released from jail for services through United Way partnership

Courts & Justice

- Clerk of Superior Court is converting historical court documents, court cases, deeds, and liens to electronic files; plats are filed electronically now
- DUI Court: 59 new participants and 57 graduates
- First participant graduated from Veterans Treatment Court and new State Court Veterans Intervention Program has two graduates and 11 current participants
- Joined Metro Atlanta Business Court, offered advanced co-parenting class, and launched summer youth mentor program
- Expanded video conferencing between jail and courthouse to save time and lower costs
- Began ejuror text notification service for residents summoned for jury duty
- Magistrate Court process brochures now available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean
- Four new Magistrate Court judges include County's first full-time African American female judge and first Indian-American judge
- Solicitor's Office disposed of 80,041 citations in Recorder's Court and 8,879 cases in State Court; fast-tracked 1,697 State Court cases and 1,467 probation revocation hearings through jail court; and served approximately 3,000 victims of crime

Learn more about outreach programs at
www.gwinnettcommunityoutreach.com