

Approved by the Citizen Steering Committee on  
February 18, 2004

Recommended for Adoption by the Gwinnett  
County Recreation Authority on March 23, 2004

Adopted by the Gwinnett County Board of  
Commissioners on April 20, 2004



## **GWINNETT COUNTY**

### **2004 COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

**MARCH 2004**

Prepared by:

The Gwinnett County Department of Community Services

*with the assistance of:*

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants  
The Jaeger Company



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### Board of Commissioners

F Wayne Hill, Commission Chairman  
Marcia L. Neaton, District 1 Commissioner  
Bert Nasuti, District 2 Commissioner  
John Dunn, District 3 Commissioner  
Kevin Kenerly, District 4 Commissioner

### Recreation Authority

Phylecia Wilson, Chair  
Mark Williams, Vice Chair, District 1  
David Kesler, District 1  
Peggy O'Brien, District 2  
Wayne Sutor, District 2  
Jeff Little, District 3  
Alisa Pereira, District 3  
Lois Allen, District 4  
Renee Byrd-Lewis, District 4

### Community Services Department

Phil Hoskins, Director of Community Services  
Sharon Plunkett, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Operations  
Grant Guess, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Project Administration  
Rex Schuder, Principal Community Planner

### Citizen Steering Committee

Cheryl Brantley, Lisa Dougherty, Wayne Escoe, Dave Foltz, Elaine Geiger,  
Dale Higdon, Sonny Hinote, David Hinson, Matt Houser, Larry Jannett, Wanda Kavanagh,  
Tom Kenney, Julie Kim, Gary King, Keith McFadden, Peggy O'Brien, Angela Pringle, Donnie Pugh,  
Elaine Roberts, Cathy Smith, Marti Straub, Ed Straw, Guy Van Ort, Tammie Zeigler

### Consultants

Monteith Brown Planning Consultants  
The Jaeger Company

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>SECTION 1: Introduction/Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose of the Plan	1
1.2 Scope of the Plan	2
1.3 Impetus for the Plan	2
1.4 Summary of the Planning Process	3
1.5 Citizen Steering Committee/Public Input Process	4
1.6 Plan Goals and Priority Recommendations	4
1.7 Recreation Planning Areas / Plan Areas	7
<b>SECTION 2: History of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 The 1970s	10
2.2 The 1980s	10
2.3 The 1990s	11
2.4 The 21 <sup>ST</sup> Century	13
<b>SECTION 3: Demographic and Leisure Trends</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1 Demographic Analysis	15
3.2 Leisure Trends	31
<b>SECTION 4: Public Input Process</b>	<b>51</b>
4.1 Overview	51
4.2 2002 Needs Assessment Survey Data	51
4.3 Public Meetings	54
4.4 Public Meeting & Web-Based Questionnaires	56
4.5 Park System Benchmarking Analysis	62
<b>SECTION 5: Park System Concept</b>	<b>71</b>
5.1 Overview	71
5.2 County and Local Government Parks	71
5.3 County Park Classification System	73
5.4 New Classifications	79
<b>SECTION 6: Facilities and Programming Inventory and Analysis</b>	<b>85</b>
6.1 Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory	85
6.2 Significant Parks and Recreation Facilities in Surrounding Counties	90
6.3 Overview to Park and Facility Needs Assessment	95
6.4 Parkland Analysis	100
6.5 Soccer Complex Analysis	110
6.6 Baseball/Softball Complex Analysis	113
6.7 Community Center, Activity Building, Senior Recreation Center, & Gymnasium Analysis	116
6.8 Indoor and Outdoor Aquatic Facility Analysis	125
6.9 Tennis Complex Analysis	132

**Table of Contents**

Gwinnett County 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

6.10	Outdoor Basketball Court Analysis	134
6.11	Skate Park Analysis	137
6.12	Playground Analysis	139
6.13	Trail & Greenway Analysis	142

**SECTION 7: Delivery System Analysis** **144**

7.1	Existing Operational Structure & Department Organization	144
7.2	Gwinnett County's Role in Recreation Service Delivery	147
7.3	Strengths-Based Delivery System: The County's Role	150
7.4	Defining Gwinnett County's Core Services	150
7.5	Agreements with Other Entities	151
7.6	How Services are Delivered in the Future	152
7.7	Community Development	153
7.8	Customer Service	154
7.9	Performance Measurement	155
7.10	Access and Equity	158
7.11	Special Events, Sport Tourism and the Public Interest	158
7.12	Partners in Recreation	159
7.13	Service & Facility Partnerships	159
7.14	Pricing Strategy	162
7.15	Programming Inventory & Analysis	162
7.16	Monitoring & Updating the Master Plan	164

**SECTION 8: Recommendations** **166**

8.1	Review of Inventory/Analysis Summary	166
8.2	Park System Concept Recommendations	169
8.3	Land Acquisition Recommendations	172
8.4	Greenway Development Recommendations	175
8.5	Facility Development Recommendations	175
8.6	Delivery System Recommendations	181
8.7	Long Range Capital Improvement Plan	188

**LIST OF MAPS**

Map 1-1:	Recreation Planning Areas	9
Map 3-1:	2000 Population Density by Census Tract	17
Map 3-2:	2000 Population Distribution, Persons Aged 0 to 9 Years by Census Tract	20
Map 3-3:	2000 Population Distribution, Persons Aged 10 to 19 Years by Census Tract	21
Map 3-4:	2000 Population Distribution, Persons Aged 20 to 34 Years by Census Tract	22
Map 3-5:	2000 Population Distribution, Persons Aged 35 to 54 Years by Census Tract	23
Map 3-6:	2000 Population Distribution, Persons Aged 55 Years and Up by Census Tract	24
Map 3-7:	2000 Population Distribution, Asian Communities by Census Tract	27
Map 3-8:	2000 Population Distribution, Black or African American Communities by Census Tract	28
Map 3-9:	2000 Population Distribution, Hispanic or Latino Communities by Census Tract	29
Map 3-10:	2000 Population Distribution, White Communities by Census Tract	30
Map 6-1:	Gap Analysis of Publicly Accessible Parkland	105
Map 6-2:	Soccer Field Distribution	111
Map 6-3:	Baseball Diamond Distribution	114
Map 6-4:	Community Center & Activity Building Distribution	117
Map 6-5:	Seniors Center Distribution	121
Map 6-6:	Indoor Aquatic Facility Distribution	126
Map 6-7:	Outdoor Aquatic Facility Distribution	129
Map 6-8:	Tennis Court Distribution	133
Map 6-9:	Basketball and Skateboard Distribution	135
Map 6-10:	Playground Distribution	140
Map 8-1:	Gwinnett County Parks	195

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1-1:	The Planning Process	3
Figure 3-1:	Gwinnett County Total Population (1970-2003)	15
Figure 3-2:	Gwinnett County Population Forecast (2003-2013)	16
Figure 3-3:	Gwinnett County Population Projections by Age Group (2000 to 2030)	19
Figure 3-4:	Age Composition by Recreation Planning Area (2000)	25
Figure 3-5:	Ethnic Communities by Recreation Planning Area (2000)	31
Figure 3-6:	Gwinnett County Youth Sport Participation, 1997-2002	44
Figure 6-1:	Counties Surrounding Gwinnett County	90
Figure 6-2:	How Park and Facility Needs are Determined	98

**Table of Contents**

Gwinnett County 2004 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 3-1:	Historical and Projected Population Growth Rates (Gwinnett County, 1970-2013)	18
Table 3-2:	Gwinnett County Population by Age (1990-2000)	19
Table 3-3:	Projected Growth Rates by Age Groups (Gwinnett County, 2000 to 2010)	25
Table 3-4:	National Participation Levels in Outdoor Activities (1999-2002)	35
Table 3-5:	Ranking of Sports in the US that use Trails and Linkages (2000-2002)	37
Table 3-6:	Participation Levels in "Traditional" Sports	41
Table 3-7:	Most Popular Organized (team) Sports for Youngsters (6-17) in 2000	41
Table 3-8:	Most Popular Sports (individual and team) for Youth (age 6+) in 2002	42
Table 3-9:	Favored Recreation Activities of Gwinnett Children & Teens	42
Table 4-1:	Park & Recreation System Needs Identified Through Public Consultation	58
Table 4-2	Park & Recreation System Needs Identified Through Public Consultation (by Priority)	59
Table 4-3:	Parkland Preferences Identified Through Public Consultation	60
Table 4-4	Park & Recreation System Preferences Identified Through Public Consultation	61
Table 4-5:	Most Frequently Used Park	62
Table 4-6:	Benchmarking Communities	63
Table 4-7:	Benchmarking - Parks Owned, Leased and/or Operated by each Jurisdiction	65
Table 4-8:	Benchmarking - Non-jurisdictional Parkland, not including Schools	66
Table 4-9	Benchmarking - Total Parkland	67
Table 4-10:	Benchmarking - Park Classification Systems	67
Table 4-11:	Benchmarking - Staffing Summary	68
Table 4-12:	Benchmarking - Capital Expenditures	69
Table 4-13:	Benchmarking - Operating Expenditures	69
Table 4-14:	Benchmarking - Revenues	70
Table 5-1:	Gwinnett County Parks by Park Category	75
Table 5-2:	Community Parks	76
Table 5-3:	Passive Community Parks	77
Table 5-4:	Open Space Parks	78
Table 5-5:	Special Purpose Parks	78
Table 5-6:	Special Purpose Neighborhood Parks	82
Table 5-7:	Linear Parks	83
Table 6-1:	Inventory - County Parks in Gwinnett County	86
Table 6-2:	Inventory - City Parks in Gwinnett County	87
Table 6-3:	Inventory - Federal Parks in Gwinnett County	88
Table 6-4:	Inventory - Significant Private Facilities in Gwinnett County	88
Table 6-5:	Inventory - Totals of County, City, Federal and Private Parks and Facilities in Gwinnett County	90

*(continued...)*

**LIST OF TABLES** (...continued)

Table 6-6:	Inventory of Parks and Facilities within 3-miles of Gwinnett County	92
Table 6-7:	Recommended Provision Standards	97
Table 7-1:	Full Time Staffing Breakdown	145
Table 7-2:	Part-Time Staffing Breakdown	146
Table 7-3:	Seasonal Staffing Breakdown	147
Table 7-4:	Performance Measurement - Inputs to Ultimate Outcomes	155
Table 7-5:	Potential Performance Measurements for Trails	157
Table 7-6:	Reasons for Considering a Public-Private Partnership	161
Table 7-7:	Leisure Activities for Various Age Groups	163
Table 8-1:	Inventory of County, City, Federal and Private Parks and Facilities in Gwinnett County by Recreation Planning Area	167
Table 8-2:	Summary of Park and Recreation Facility Adequacies and Deficiencies by Planning Area	168
Table 8-3:	Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects by Priority	190

**APPENDICES (under separate cover)**

- A. Detailed Park-by-Park Inventory
- B. Inventory Summary Report
- C. Park Department Benchmarking Summary & Analysis
- D. Summary of Consultation with Staff
- E. Summary of Public Meeting Questionnaire Results
- F. Summary of Web-Survey Results
- G. Notes from Public Meetings
- H. Key Excerpts from the Gwinnett County Open Space & Greenway Study (2002) and the Pedestrian, Bicycle & Greenways Plan for Gwinnett County (1995)