

# GWINNETT COUNTY Connection

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Gwinnett County Government

SEPTEMBER 2019



## County updates parks study to shape recreation

Starting this fall, Gwinnett County is taking a fresh look at its park and recreation system with a 2020 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

With a 10-year master plan—the first A to Z review of the system since 2004—the County will update the Parks and Recreation capital improvement plan and its maintenance and asset management plan. The plan will also include a blueprint for recreational programs and for natural and cultural resources for the first time. The idea is to learn what programs the public wants, what kind of facilities the County should build, and where they should go.

Beginning in October, parks staff and the consultant Perez Planning + Design will launch significant outreach efforts to solicit public input, including open house sessions, focus group sessions, intercept interviews, and surveys at events and online.

The \$411,500 master plan contract will be funded by the 2017 SPLOST program. The master plan is expected to be ready to present to the Board of Commissioners in late summer 2020.

## AROUND GWINNETT

### Your personal census data will be kept private

The U.S. Census Bureau is legally prohibited from sharing personal information with any organization, agency (including law enforcement), or person, so residents can answer census questions without fear of having their personal answers being used without their permission.

The Census Bureau is also forbidden from releasing or publishing any identifiable information about you, your household, or your business. Your answers are only used for statistical purposes.

April 1, 2020, is National Census Day so be sure and do your duty and take the census. Census results can shape important and long-lasting decisions by government, business, and individuals. For more information, visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov).

### Upcoming County fall festivals

The County is hosting two free family-friendly fall festivals in October with food, fun, games, and more.

Police and Fire and Emergency Services are partnering for an exciting day at the Public Safety Fall Festival on **Saturday, October 12** at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville from **10:00am to 2:00pm**. First responders will show off their emergency vehicles, including a helicopter, ambulance, SWAT personnel carrier, and ladder truck.

On **October 26** from **11:00am to 3:00pm**, residents can discover the fascinating process of how water is treated and returned to the environment during the Trick or Treatment Fall Festival at the Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility, 858 Tom Smith Road in Lilburn. The event will also feature a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility.

### Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

Gwinnett County will celebrate contributions by the Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs **September 15 to October 15**. The festivities will include a special recognition and reception at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center with guest speakers, entertainment, and cultural cuisine. A Latino and Hispanic cultural exhibit will be on display at GJAC. Did you know that Hispanic refers to descendants of people from countries where Spanish is the primary language? Latino refers to people from Latin America. They often overlap but not always. People from Brazil, where Portuguese is the primary language, are Latino but not Hispanic, and people from Spain are Hispanic but not Latino.

### Pay your water bill on the go!

Visit [www.GwinnettH2O.com](http://www.GwinnettH2O.com) on your smartphone to easily pay your water bill on the go. Have your username or water account number and password to use this service for nonrecurring, one-time payments.

Gwinnett County Government hosts many events, classes, and workshops for its residents. See these and more at [www.gwinnettcountyevents.com](http://www.gwinnettcountyevents.com).

#### Avian Adventures

October 12 from 8:00am to 9:30am  
Tribble Mill Park  
2125 Tribble Mill Parkway, Lawrenceville

#### Pumpkin Painting

October 19 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm  
OneStop Norcross  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

#### Walk Among the Stars

October 24 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Collins Hill Park  
2225 Collins Hill Road, Lawrenceville

#### Escape the Room Teen Edition

October 25 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm  
Rhodes Jordan Park Community Recreation Center  
100 East Crogan Street, Lawrenceville

#### An Evening with Edgar Allen Poe

October 26 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm  
Lawrenceville Female Seminary  
455 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville

#### Trunk or Treat

October 26 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
OneStop Norcross  
5030 Georgia Belle Court, Norcross

## GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

Send questions or comments to  
[Shaunieka.Taylor@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Shaunieka.Taylor@gwinnettcounty.com)  
Gwinnett County Communications Division  
75 Langley Drive • Lawrenceville, GA 30046  
770.822.7180 • [www.GwinnettCounty.com](http://www.GwinnettCounty.com)

Questions about your water bill?  
Call 678.376.6700.



Ahora pueden leer Gwinnett  
County Connection en español en  
[www.GwinnettCounty.com](http://www.GwinnettCounty.com).



## Trails program gaining steam

A year after the Board of Commissioners approved the Countywide Trails Master Plan, about 10 trails are being designed and two are under construction. When the multi-year plan is finally completed, Gwinnett will have grown from about 130 miles of trails to about 350 and connect cities, schools, parks, retail areas, and other activity centers for pedestrians, joggers, hikers, and other users.

The Camp Creek Greenway in Lilburn and the Sugar Hill Greenway in Sugar Hill are complete, while the Western Gwinnett Bikeway from Duluth to Suwanee is underway. Trails in Norcross, Duluth, Suwanee, Peachtree Corners, and Centerville are being designed. The trail system is funded through several SPLOST programs and represents a partnership with multiple County departments, cities, community improvement districts, the state, and the federal government.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Keep kids safe this Halloween

Children are twice as likely to be killed walking on Halloween than any other day of the year. Parents should prepare kids to be safe while trick-or-treating, and drivers need to be particularly alert during the evening hours of Halloween.

Police officers encourage motorists to slow down and watch for children in the roadway. Children should be careful not to dart out from houses or between cars, and children younger than age 12 should not cross streets without an adult. Youngsters should stay in groups, carry flashlights, visit familiar houses, and avoid dark or unlit areas. Children should avoid authentic-looking guns and swords, and they should never accept rides or candy from strangers. Older kids trick-or-treating without adult supervision should travel in a group and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting.

Firefighters suggest using flameless candles for jack-o'-lanterns and choosing decorations and costumes made of flame-retardant materials. Costumes should fit properly; billowing capes and baggy sleeves pose a tripping hazard as well as a fire hazard. For more safety Halloween tips, visit Gwinnett Safety 411 at [www.GwinnettSafety411.com](http://www.GwinnettSafety411.com).

## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES



### Adopt a stream to clean and protect

The Gwinnett Adopt-a-Stream program gives volunteers the opportunity to be stewards of our watersheds and help protect our rivers and streams, many of which help provide habitat for local wildlife. Fortunately, there are ways that you can get involved to help ensure that our streams meet established water quality standards.

The program, a partnership between Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and the Department of Water Resources, provides the training and tools to monitor chemical, bacterial, or macroinvertebrate activity in local waterways to ensure they remain healthy. Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful offers certification courses throughout the year at various locations around the county. These free courses are the first step toward adopting a waterway and protecting the environment in your community.

The Gwinnett Adopt-a-Stream program also provides free assistance for stream cleanups by providing bags, gloves, and safety vests. Litter can have a huge impact on the health of nearby streams and creeks and it is important to keep the areas surrounding these waterways as clean as possible. Through this program you encourage your friends and family to get involved. In addition, this is a great opportunity for students to earn volunteer hours.

It's quick and easy to join the program and adopt a waterway near you:

1. Select a waterway that offers easy access
2. Scout your waterway
3. If needed, schedule a cleanup to get rid of litter
4. Attend training workshops on monitoring water quality if you choose
5. Take action!

To submit your form and adopt your stream, lake, pond, or wetland, visit the Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful website at [www.GwinnettCB.org/Adopt-a-Stream](http://www.GwinnettCB.org/Adopt-a-Stream).

## TAX COMMISSIONER

### Property tax bills due October 15

The 2019 Gwinnett County property tax bills were mailed in August with a single due date of **October 15**. If you have an escrow account, your property tax information is made available to your mortgage company; however, it is your responsibility to ensure taxes are paid. To learn about payment options, visit [www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com).

## CHECK IT OUT



### Learn new things with online Gale Courses!

What's on your list to learn? Maybe you'd like to build up your business know-how, master a second language, or conquer code. Whatever it is, the Gwinnett County Public Library offers online classes, called Gale Courses, that give you access to learning courses anytime, anywhere and best of all, it's free with your library card.

Select from hundreds of personal and professional development courses covering a variety of topics such as business, computer technology, continuing education, parenting, languages, hobbies, health and wellness, and more.

The sessions are six weeks long and taught by college instructors. They can be accessed from your home, and you can engage with fellow students and the instructor through weekly discussion boards. A new round of courses starts every month. To see the schedule, please visit [www.GwinnettPL.org](http://www.GwinnettPL.org).

### Department of Water Resources

2019 October Water Workshop

#### Homeowner H2O

October 17 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Lucky Shoals Park

4651 Britt Road, Norcross

Attendees will receive a low-flow home retrofit kit, learn why water conservation is important, and receive tips to conserve water at home

Three ways to register:

Visit the Events page at [www.gwinnettH2O.com](http://www.gwinnettH2O.com)  
Send an email with your name, address, and phone number to [dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrworkshops@gwinnettcountry.com)

Call 678.376.7193