

GWINNETT  
COUNTY

DECEMBER  
2021

# Connection

**A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
GWINNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## Budget proposed for 2022

Gwinnett Commission Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson's proposed budget for 2022 totals \$2.06 billion, up 7.8 percent from 2021.

The proposed 2022 budget consists of \$1.61 billion in operating funds and \$454 million for capital improvements.

Two-thirds of the operating budget, which funds everyday expenses such as employee salaries, benefits, equipment, and repairs, is dedicated to the areas of public safety and public works. New initiatives to be funded by the operating budget include the expansion of mental health response teams in the Gwinnett Police Department in partnership with View Point Health and additional training staff in the Sheriff's Office. The capital budget will pay for new libraries, roads, and parks.

The proposed 2022 budget resolution is available at [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com). Residents can also share comments on the County's website through December 31. Commissioners will consider the budget January 4.



## AROUND GWINNETT

### Interactive nature-focused exhibit to open at Environmental and Heritage Center

The Board of Commissioners recently approved a project to bring the great outdoors inside.

Called Pathways Through the Piedmont, the interactive and immersive exhibit will showcase Gwinnett's award-winning parks and beautiful landscape to help students and visitors develop a greater appreciation of the natural world in Gwinnett and entice them to visit our local parks in person.

The exhibit will feature various ecosystems and showcase landscapes, such as meadows and farmland, granite outcrops, the rock mounds of Little Mulberry Park, and the ecosystems of the Yellow River.

Pathways Through the Piedmont will be housed at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center. The \$1.97 million exhibit is funded by the 2017 SPLOST program, including a \$346,000 legacy gift from the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Foundation.

### Assessor's Office to conduct onsite property field visits

The Gwinnett Board of Assessors appraisal staff will be conducting routine field visits to maintain accurate appraisal data as part of an annual review process. The appraisers — Gwinnett employees or contractors with Tyler Technologies or LMC — will be verifying existing or new construction, measuring exteriors, and taking photographs. Appraisers will carry identification and will announce their presence at the property before beginning a review. If no one is available, information will be left to advise you of the visit. Call 770.822.7200 or email [Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Taxpayer.Services@GwinnettCounty.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

### Drop off your Christmas tree for recycling

Between December 26 and January 24, drop off your live Christmas tree at designated fire stations as part of the annual Bring One for the Chipper event. On January 29, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful will chip the trees into mulch for use at County parks. For a list of all 24/7 drop-off sites or to register online to volunteer for the January 29 chipping event at Bethesda Park, visit [GwinnettCB.org/Events](http://GwinnettCB.org/Events).



## PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

### Go paperless and start paying your water bill online

Water Resources offers an online bill pay option for those who want a more convenient method to make payments. You can begin making online payments regularly by registering for an account on the webpage [Gwinnetth2o.com/PayMyBill](http://Gwinnetth2o.com/PayMyBill). This online service is free and secure. All you need to do is create an account and select a payment method.

Monthly bills will be sent directly to your inbox and can be paid using a smartphone or a computer. You can also set up automatic payments to ensure you never miss a payment. If you ever need to stop or transfer a service, update information, or just view your billing history, you can do so with the same account. Paperless customers can still pay their bill in person at the Water Resources Central Facility located at 684 Winder Highway in Lawrenceville, or by calling our 24-hour automated phone system at 678.376.6800.

### Detention pond maintenance workshop set for January 13

Learn how detention ponds work to protect our water resources and get tips on the best methods for maintenance! A Detention Pond Care and Maintenance Workshop is being held January 13 at 6:00pm. Please register at [Gwinnetth2o.com](http://Gwinnetth2o.com), by sending an email with your name, address, and phone number to [DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:DWRworkshops@GwinnettCounty.com), or by calling 678.376.7193.

### TAX COMMISSIONER

#### Emissions required for 1998 to 2019 model years

For 2022, all gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks 8,500 pounds or less with the model years 1998 through 2019 require an emissions test to register and renew. For testing locations, senior exemptions, and other information, visit [CleanAirForce.com](http://CleanAirForce.com). Once your vehicle has been tested, renew online at [GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew](http://GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com/Renew).

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Stay safe with holiday shopping tips

Holiday shoppers can reduce their risk of becoming a robbery victim by taking certain precautions. Robbery is a dangerous crime and can affect any person or business. Robbery can be done through intimidation, threats, coercion, or placing a person in fear of immediate serious bodily injury. Robbery can also happen by snatching. Please observe the following tips as you and your family shop for gifts this holiday season:

- Do not leave valuables or gifts in your vehicle unless they're hidden in a closed compartment like a trunk
- Park in well-lit areas and be aware of your surroundings
- Do not carry unnecessary credit cards or your social security card in your wallet
- If you carry a purse, cross the strap over your opposite shoulder to keep it secure
- There is safety in numbers; use the buddy system
- If your credit card is stolen or misplaced, contact your credit card issuer immediately
- Try to get a good description of your assailant; compare them with someone you know or have seen who looks like them
- Call 911 immediately if you notice suspicious activity or persons



### SPLOST

#### New passive park underway in Gwinnett Place Mall area

Gwinnett County is constructing a 68.5-acre park, called Beaver Ruin Wetlands Park, near Satellite Boulevard and Beaver Ruin Road.

The park will feature trails, boardwalks, small shelters, a playground, parking, and a restroom building. Water Resources is performing the stream and wetland restoration work and associated boardwalks, while Community Services will build the park amenities and upland trails.

The wetlands restoration should be complete in 2022. Construction of park amenities will start in early 2023 and take about a year.

The parks project is being funded with the 2017 SPLOST program and the Water Resources capital improvement budget.

### CHECK IT OUT

#### Some libraries offering extended hours

Open Access is a Gwinnett County Public Library service that allows customers to have access to the library outside of normal operating hours. The service is provided at select branches: Suwanee, Duluth, Norcross, and Lawrenceville. Customers must have a library card and be 18 years of age or older. With this service, customers have self-service access that includes use of computers, printing, materials selection, check out, and basic account resolution. With Open Access, the library becomes accessible from 8:00am to 10:00pm daily, except for holidays or on days when the library is closed. For more information, visit [GwinnettPL.org](http://GwinnettPL.org).



### SERVING GWINNETT

#### Gwinnett strengthens disaster response

Gwinnett County is strengthening its disaster response and recovery efforts with the installation of a new generator at the Parks Operation Center. The project was initiated in 2017 due to Hurricane Irma. A majority of the funds came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program at a cost of about \$127,000. The Parks Operation Center houses equipment necessary for responding to disasters that can impact the county. For more information, contact [EMA@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:EMA@GwinnettCounty.com) or visit [GwinnettCounty.com](http://GwinnettCounty.com).

#### Have a COVID-free holiday season

As people gather for holidays during the pandemic, it's important to take some precautions to avoid spreading COVID-19 to friends and loved ones. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers several tips to have a safe holiday season.

- Get vaccinated
- Wear a mask in public indoor settings
- Remember, outdoor settings are safer than indoors; avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces
- If you are sick, don't host or attend a gathering
- Get tested if you have symptoms or have close contact with someone who has COVID-19

For more information and useful tips, visit [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov).

#### County offices closed for holidays

All Gwinnett County government offices, with the exception of those operations required for the comfort and safety of residents, will be closed December 23 and 24 for Christmas and reopen December 27. Offices will also be closed December 31 for the New Year's Day holiday and reopen January 3. A Magistrate Court judge will be available at the Gwinnett County Detention Center on both holidays. Christmas and New Year's Day are on a Saturday this year; therefore, there will not be any delays to trash and recycling collection. To view the holiday schedule, visit [GCSolidWaste.com](http://GCSolidWaste.com).

### GWINNETT COUNTY CONNECTION

ESCANEE PARA LEER EN ESPAÑOL  
한국어 버전은 QR 코드를 스캔해 주세요



Gwinnett County Connection questions/comments:  
[Info@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:Info@GwinnettCounty.com) | 770.822.7180  
Water bill questions: 678.376.6700