

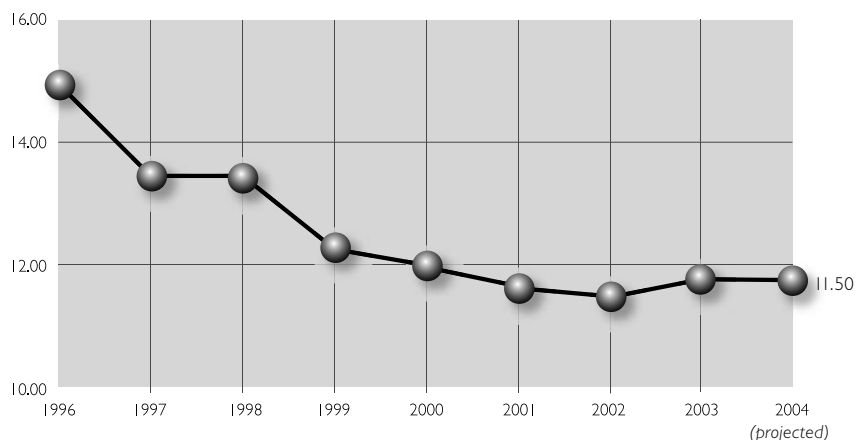


local economy

By many different measures, Gwinnett is a prosperous and growing county. We continue to attract tens of thousands of new residents each year, drawn by the opportunities and quality of life we have to offer.

- The county's population now stands at an estimated 676,284 residents, up more than 87,000 from the 2000 Census Bureau count of 588,448. (Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Gwinnett County Forecasting and Research Division)
- Gwinnett's loss of 631 jobs from 2001 to 2002 represents less than one percent of the 65,164 jobs lost in the entire state of Georgia during that period. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Gwinnett had approximately 285,370 employment positions in the 1st quarter of 2003 (1st quarter 2003 monthly average – latest figure available).
- Unemployment in the county is 3.4 percent, below the Georgia rate of 4.0 percent (Source: Georgia Department of Labor – November 2003, preliminary numbers).
- The Tax Digest continues to grow even during this current economic downturn with the real property net tax digest and the personal property net tax digest projected to grow 6.0 percent and 2.3 percent respectively during 2004.
- The County has rolled back the millage rate with the passage of the last two SPLOST programs a total of 2.0 mills. These reductions remain in effect and when combined with rollbacks to offset property value updates, the County has reduced the millage rate a total of 3.45 mills since 1996 – 23 percent of the total county millage. This includes the addition of .25 mill in 2003 for the voter-approved \$75 million General Obligation Bond to fund the jail expansion.

History of Millage Rates 1990 – 2004

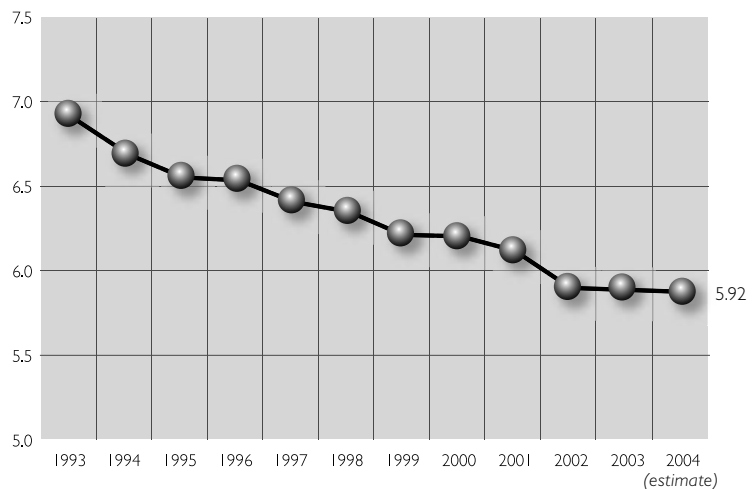


county finances

The County has again maintained its AAA credit rating from all three major credit rating agencies, as we have done since 1997. We issued just over \$293 million in water/sewer revenue and general obligation bonds in 2003. Our excellent credit indicates solid financial management and results in significant interest savings for our citizens.

- The proposed 2004 budget total is \$1.4 billion, the same as last year.
- The 2004 Operating Budget of \$670 million includes:
 - 106 new positions (compared to 187 last year)
 - 84 for public safety and courts
 - 14 for public utilities
 - 8 for planning/development and community services

County Employees Per 1,000 Population



- The long-term Capital Improvement Program includes these total project costs:
 - \$1.6 billion for water and sewer projects
 - \$1.0 billion for transportation improvements
 - \$356 million for parks, libraries, and social-service delivery centers
 - \$287 million for courts, tag office, and central service facilities
 - \$233 million for public safety, including the jail expansion
- The 2001 SPLOST program with \$450 million budgeted in sales tax revenues is moving forward with continued development of our parks and recreation facilities, public safety facilities, and transportation improvements
 - In the 2004 budget we have designated projects for the library, parks and recreation, and public safety portions of this SPLOST including:
 - Three new fire stations and three fire station relocations
 - New \$20 million police training facility
 - Park improvements including renovations to Shorty Howell and Best Friend Parks
 - Construction of the Suwanee and Dacula Libraries
 - Design of the Grayson Library



Suwanee Library



Westside Precinct



Fire Administration Building



New Home Construction



Sugarloaf Parkway

public safety

Police Services

- New Westside and Northside Precinct buildings will open in 2004
- New training facility will be under construction
- Eastside (Dacula) Precinct site acquired in 2003 and design starts this year
- New mobile crime scene unit and computer forensics lab equipment funded by law enforcement grants in 2003
- DUI Task Force won 1st Place in state for Overall Traffic Enforcement

Fire and Emergency Services

- Fire Station 24 near the Mall of Georgia and Fire Station 25 on Hwy. 29 near Ronald Reagan Parkway opening in 2004
- Relocated Fire Station 5 near Duluth and new fire administration and support facility also will open this year
- Design to start on Fire Station 12 relocation

Corrections

- Total value of inmate and community-service labor: \$4.5 million
- Began using inmate labor to remove graffiti from private property

Sheriff

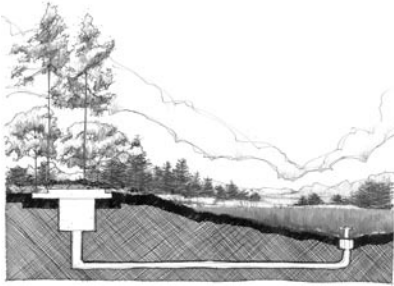
- Construction of \$75 million jail expansion begins in 2004

planning and development

- Revitalization Task Force is studying 3 areas:
 - Highway 78/Stone Mountain Highway
 - Beaver Run residential area northeast of Norcross
 - Gwinnett Place Mall area
- In 2003, new single-family permits totaled 7,916, down 3.5 percent over the previous year. The total number of commercial building permits issued in 2003 totaled 1,182. This marks a decrease of 3.4 percent from last year.

transportation

- Transportation projects in Capital Improvement Program budget: \$1.0 billion
- Sugarloaf Parkway is now open from the Lawrenceville/Grayson area to the Duluth/Suwanee area
- Gwinnett County Transit
 - Three new local bus routes started up in 2003 with more riders than expected
 - During the month of November 2003 there were more than 2,800 average daily boardings
 - Express Bus Service averaged 1,321 daily boardings in November 2003



Shoal Creek Water Filter Plant



Gwinnett Corporate Challenge



One Justice Square



The Arena at Gwinnett Center

public utilities

- Water/sewer projects in Capital Improvement Program: \$1.6 billion
- New Shoal Creek Water Filter Plant should open this year and will insure an adequate, reliable supply of drinking water
- The 40 million gallon per day expansion of the F. Wayne Hill Water Resources Center that is under way will allow the County to continue to provide very high levels of wastewater treatment
- Gwinnett has about 3,000 miles of water lines and 2,000 miles of sewer

community services

- New Suwanee Branch Library to open in 2004
- Centerville Community Center expanded in 2003 with additional meeting space and outdoor walking trail
- Purchased two new Meals On Wheels vans with donations
- Will deliver 70,000 meals in 2004 (up from 50,000 in 2003)
- Corporate Challenge, a partnership of Parks and Recreation and GUIDE, provided \$6,000 in camp scholarships to underprivileged children in 2003
- 40,000 children and 13,400 adults joined athletics programs
- County's biggest playground opened at Tribble Mill Park in 2003
- 3,728 acres acquired since 2001 for active and passive parks
- Construction on 2001 SPLOST projects began or continued in 2003: Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building; Bay Creek, Five Forks, Little Mulberry, McDaniel Farm Parks; Jones Bridge Park shoreline stabilization; renovations to Hudlow Tennis Courts and Shorty Howell Park
- Citizen committee developing new parks and recreation master plan
- Hired executive director and approved facility/site design contract for Gwinnett County Environmental and Heritage Center
- Planning began for the first phase of the Ivy Creek Greenway

support services

- The state DFACS office moved to One Justice Square at the beginning of 2004; the County's Department of Planning and Development also will move to the building this year
- New Juvenile and Recorder's Court facility to start construction this year
- Security at Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center (GJAC) and other county buildings upgraded in 2003
- Dedicated Gwinnett's Fallen Heroes Memorial on Memorial Day 2003

other highlights

- Such popular entertainers as Bruce Springsteen, George Strait, and Elton John performed at The Arena at Gwinnett Center during its successful inaugural year. The 13,000-seat venue also is home to arena football team the Georgia Force and minor league hockey team the Gwinnett Gladiators.
- 2001 SPLOST sales tax collection continues through March 2005:
 - \$192 million: parks and recreation
 - \$54 million: public safety
 - \$192 million: transportation
 - \$11 million: libraries