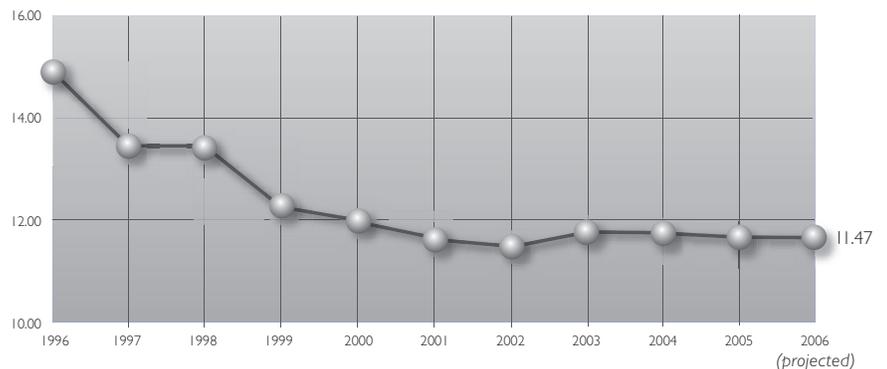


Local Economy

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 outstanding quality of life we have to offer.

- The county's population now stands at an estimated 726,723 residents, up more than 138,000 from the 2000 census (Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and Gwinnett County Forecasting and Research Division)
- Gwinnett gained more than 12,200 jobs, a growth of 4.2 percent, between 2003 and 2004 contrasted with 1.2 percent statewide. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Gwinnett had 307,357 jobs in the first quarter of 2005 (monthly average, latest figure available)
- Unemployment is 4.6 percent compared to 5.3 percent statewide according to the Georgia Department of Labor (October 2005 preliminary numbers)
- The Tax Digest continues to grow with the real property net tax digest and the personal property net tax digest expected to grow 5.2 percent and 4.2 percent in 2006
- The County rolled back the millage rate with the passage of the 1997 and 2001 SPLOST programs a total 2.0 mills. These reductions remain in effect. Combined with rollbacks to offset property value updates, the County has reduced the millage rate a total 3.48 mills since 1996 – a 23 percent reduction to the total county millage. This includes a .25 mill addition in 2003 for the voter-approved jail expansion.

History of Millage Rates 1996 – 2006



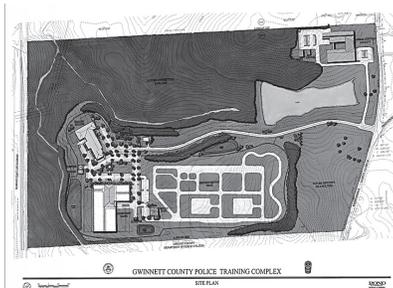
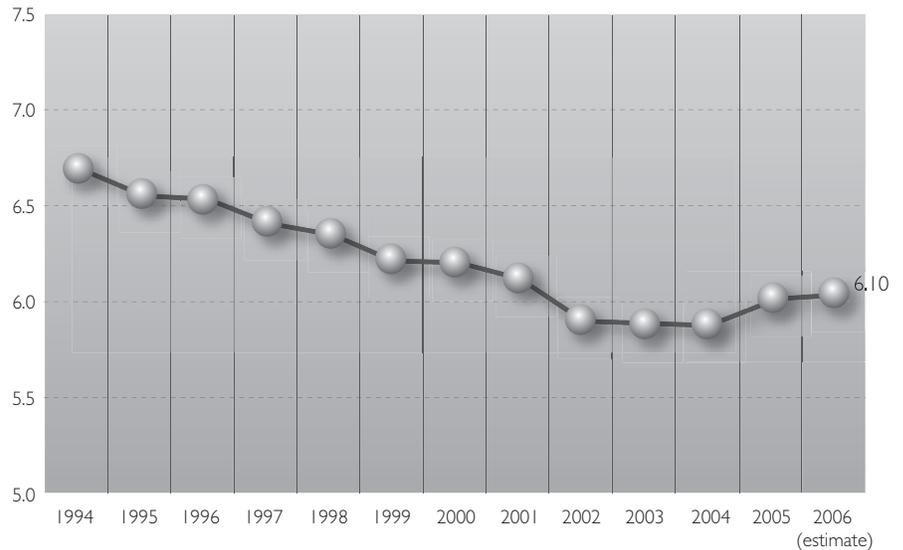
County Finances

Gwinnett has maintained AAA credit ratings from all three major credit rating agencies since 1997. We issued \$259.6 million in water/sewer refunding revenue bonds in 2005. Our excellent credit results in significant interest savings for our residents. The 2006 budget total is \$1.5 billion, which is approximately the same as last year.

- The Operating Budget for 2006 includes:
 - 181 new positions (compared to 239 last year)
 - 154 for public safety, courts, and sheriff
 - 5 for public utilities (stormwater)
 - 11 for community services
 - 11 general government positions

- 2 percent pay for performance and 2 percent one-time market adjustment payment
- Revitalization reserve: \$200,000
- Operational efficiency studies: \$600,000

County Employees Per 1,000 Population



Police Training Complex



Police East Precinct

- The long-term Capital Improvement Program includes these six-year program costs (2006 – 2011):
 - \$1.2 billion for water, sewer, and stormwater projects
 - \$648 million for transportation improvements
 - \$166 million for parks, libraries, and social-service delivery centers
 - \$167 million for general government, tag offices, and central services facilities
 - \$123 million for public safety, courts, and sheriff
- The 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, program began on April 1, 2005, and is expected to raise about \$550 million over four years for transportation, public safety, parks, and libraries. The County portion is budgeted conservatively at 90 percent of projected revenues, or \$503 million. Gwinnett's 15 municipalities will share about \$89 million from the 2005 SPLOST program.
 - In this year's 2006 capital budget we have designated projects for libraries, parks and recreation, roads, and public safety in this SPLOST program, including:
 - Completion of construction on the Dacula and Grayson libraries
 - Continuation of existing fire station relocations and the addition of new fire stations
 - New Police Training Complex and East Precinct
 - Begin construction on a new Animal Control Facility
 - Park improvements including renovations to Bethesda Park and Mountain Park Park, plus funding for park land and open space acquisitions



Recorder's and Juvenile Courts



Fire Station 24



Dacula Library under construction



Shorty Howell Park and Activity Center

Public Safety and Courts

- Recorder's and Juvenile Courts relocate to a new building in Lawrenceville in 2006
- Pre-Trial Detention Center expansion will be completed this year; 140 positions were added to the Sheriff's Department in 2005 – 2006 to staff the 1,440-bed addition
- Gwinnett hired a record 82 new police officers in 2005; the hiring process was reduced from five months to three and hiring incentives were offered to new officers
- A new North Police Precinct, Fire Station 24, and North Gwinnett Tag Office complex is now open near the Mall of Georgia
- Construction was started on a Police Training Facility and a new East Precinct last year; and a satellite police precinct will open in Peachtree Corners this year
- A new Police Headquarters Annex will be designed this year to house upgraded E-911 equipment and operators
- Three new, relocated, or renovated fire stations set to open in 2006 include stations in Snellville and Sugar Hill; construction will start on three additional stations and ambulance/emergency medical service will also expand
- Fire Marshal's office conducted 14,000 inspections and reviewed 7,000 building plans
- Fire and Emergency Services handled more than 46,000 incidents and delivered 1,700+ free education programs covering a range of topics such as fire safety, disaster preparedness, and CPR

Community Services

- Dacula Branch Library opens in the spring and Grayson Branch Library in the fall
- Lawrenceville Senior Center kitchen renovation allows Senior Services to prepare 1,000 meals per day without adding staff
- Gwinnett County Senior Services celebrates 30 years in 2006
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center opens fall 2006 – the County's first "green" building to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards
- New/expanded park facilities now open:
 - Shorty Howell Park and Activity Building
 - Dacula Park Activity Building
 - Vines Park
- Gwinnett now operates Lions Club Park by lease from the City of Lilburn
- New or renovated park facilities opening in 2006 include: Best Friend Park, Little Mulberry Park (north entrance), Graves Park, Lenora Park, and Yellow River Park
- Aquatics centers are coming to Bethesda Park (opening in 2006) and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard
- George Pierce Park and Lucky Shoals Park are getting new community centers
- Construction will begin on two new parks: Peachtree Ridge Park will have football, tennis, ball fields, and trails and a skate park will be featured at Duncan Creek Park
- Gwinnett has preserved more than 8,000 acres as parks and greenspace

Transportation

- Enhancements to express bus service addressed overcrowding on trips to Atlanta
- Improvements to Russell Road and Medlock Bridge Road at Bush Road/SR 141 were completed in 2005
- Carried out 12 "quick fix" projects to improve traffic flow at various locations, such as re-stripping the SR 120 bridge over SR 316 to add a dedicated turn lane
- Resurfaced 120 miles of roads
- Two major projects – construction on the I-85/SR 316 interchange and a tunnel to carry Pleasant Hill Road under Buford Highway and railroad tracks – begin in 2006

- Howell Ferry Road gets turn lanes for a new hospital in Duluth and Dacula Road gets a new traffic signal and left turn lane at the entrance to the new branch library
- New “intelligent transportation systems” are coordinating traffic flow and timing traffic lights on some major routes



Hill Water Reclamation Facility Expansion



Operation Fixing Broken Windows



Katrina Relief Center

Public Utilities

- Gwinnett continues to be a leader in water quality issues
- 40-million-gallon-per-day expansion of the Hill Water Reclamation Facility will be completed in 2006
- County reached an agreement with the Lake Lanier Association on the discharge from the Hill Water Resources Center into Lake Lanier, which brings the \$47 million outfall sewer project closer to acquiring a permit and starting construction
- No Business Creek Regional Pump Station starts operations in 2006 and a tunneling project will begin
- \$9 million upgrade at the Lanier Raw Water Pump Station is scheduled for construction beginning in 2006
- A new stormwater utility will help manage environmental and water-quality requirements; fees will help fix a large backlog of drainage problems and replace failed drain-pipes
- Major programs in 2006 will detect leaks, rehabilitate old pipes and streambanks, and develop a new master plan for water and wastewater

Planning and Development

- Created mixed-use and high-rise zoning classifications to help revitalize areas before they experience decline
- Community Improvement Districts (CID) are helping improve a variety of older commercial areas
- The planning division processed 211 rezoning cases and 89 special use permits
- 8,194 new single family permits were issued in 2005, about 100 fewer than the previous year; commercial, office, and industrial permits issued totaled 1,514, or an increase of more than 200 from 2004

Other Major Initiatives

- Operation Fixing Broken Windows began targeted enforcement of existing ordinances to maintain safety, property values, and quality of life – the effort continues with a dedicated quality of life team made up of police and code enforcement officers
- In another example of inter-departmental cooperation, the County quickly aided the Hurricane Katrina recovery by converting a vacant Wal-Mart building into a resource center headed by the American Red Cross; in four weeks of operation, the center opened more than 10,000 cases and distributed more than \$14 million in assistance
- The building will be retrofitted to house records management, elections and registration, and public health offices in one of several projects intended to relieve overcrowding in governmental office buildings
- Live commission meetings began airing on TVgwinnett, Cable Channel 23, and Gwinnett’s website, www.gwinnettcounty.com
- Other TVgwinnett programming can be viewed both live and on-demand on the Web
- Mapping and aerial photography resources can also be accessed online
- Gwinnett implemented a new enterprise resource planning tool that touches everything from financial to human resources functions



gwinnett county government
access cable channel 23