



Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center

and storage. Other new stations underway include Fire Station 28 on Rosebud Road near Loganville and a relocated Fire Station 7, which will include three bays and a new ladder company. Construction will begin in 2008 on Fire Station 29 in Braselton and a relocated Fire Station 18 in the Hamilton Mill area.

A new **Animal Welfare and Enforcement Center** opened to the public in September 2007. The much-needed shelter is located on Highway 29 in Lawrenceville. Doubling the size of the old facility, this 33,000-square-foot facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the latest in animal care.

A \$40 million project to upgrade the analog radio system with an **800 MHz digital radio system** is currently underway. This initiative will improve the overall performance of the system, interoperability, and countywide coverage for public safety communications. Two new tower sites have been added to enhance the signal in the Norris Lake and Peachtree Corners areas. A third tower may be added in the Dacula/Alcovy River area in the future. This project is scheduled for completion in December 2008.

SPLOST and the 2008 Budget

Gwinnett County's capital and operating budgets for 2008 show the dramatic impact that SPLOST programs have had. Especially in the areas of transportation and parks, the additional SPLOST

funds have allowed traditional tax revenues to expand other basic services and keep up with a rapidly growing population. For example, the County added 95 new jobs in this year's operating budget, with 61 of them going to public safety, the sheriff's department, and the courts.

Operating Budget	\$ 855,888,557
Capital Budget	\$ 676,352,248
TOTAL	\$1,532,240,805

Cities in Gwinnett will receive an estimated \$88.6 million from the current SPLOST program. Revenues are monitored monthly. To allow for unexpected shortfalls, the County budgets only 90 percent of expected SPLOST revenue. Any additional income will be allocated later to the same voter-approved categories listed below.

Transportation	\$180,001,500
Parks and Recreation	\$180,001,500
Public Safety	\$ 87,577,640
Libraries	\$ 13,800,500
Cities Share	\$ 88,620,400
TOTAL	\$550,001,540

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sales tax program update

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spring 2008



About SPLOST

One penny of every dollar spent in Gwinnett County pays for specified capital improvements throughout the county. The current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) program went into effect in April 2005.

The four-year program is expected to raise about \$550 million, to be shared between County and city governments and used for transportation, parks and recreation, public safety, and libraries. By using sales tax funds for these improvements, the County has been able to minimize long-term debt and hold property taxes steady.

Citizen committees studied and prioritized many proposed transportation and parks projects and made recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The County's long-range planning and master plan documents also help guide this process.

Gwinnett voters have approved a series of previous SPLOST programs since the mid-1980s that have paid for such projects as the **Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center**, the **Gwinnett Center**, many acres of greenspace, new parks and recreation facilities, **Sugarloaf Parkway**, **Satellite Boulevard** and hundreds of other road improvements, new police and fire stations, and libraries around the county.

This brochure highlights just a few of the County's SPLOST-funded projects that are currently underway. These and many other improvements will continue to have a dramatic impact on the quality of life in Gwinnett County.

Transportation

Sales tax dollars are helping widen two major roads in the Mall of Georgia and Gwinnett Place areas. **Gravel Springs Road** from State Route 20/Buford Drive to I-85 and from I-85 to State 124/Braselton Highway is currently under construction. Rights-of-way are being purchased for widening **Pleasant Hill Road** from Old Norcross

Road to Buford Highway, and construction bids have been received.

Engineering and land acquisition are underway to extend **Sugarloaf Parkway** from State Route 20/Grayson Highway to State Route 316 east of Lawrenceville. Construction of Phase One (Grayson Highway to New Hope Road) is underway.

Arcado Road will be improved from Luxomni Road to Lilburn Industrial Way including improving both intersections with traffic signals, turn lanes, and sidewalks. The bridge over Jackson Creek will be replaced. This project is currently being designed, and rights-of-way are being purchased for this project.

Construction is underway on **Rockbridge Road** from east of Jimmy Carter Boulevard to Dickens Road. Improvements include a center turn lane and sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.



Lucky Shoals Park Community Center/Gymnasium

Parks and Recreation

Funds from the 2005 SPLOST program were identified to build a new \$17.8 million park in Gwinnett. The 155-acre **Peachtree Ridge Park**, home to the County's second special needs ball field and playground, opened this spring. The park also features three lighted baseball/softball fields, two soccer fields, football field with lighted walking track, another playground, large rental pavilion, basketball courts, open play area, one-mile paved multi-purpose trail, and concession and restroom facilities.

Lucky Shoals Park in southwestern Gwinnett underwent \$6.5 million in improvements and received a new community recreation center with two classrooms, a dance studio with wood flooring, game room, and community room with a kitchen. The new gymnasium includes two indoor basketball courts, volleyball and badminton court areas, and another first for Gwinnett County—an indoor walking track that surrounds the upper level of the gym. Other park renovations include two new lighted tennis courts and two outdoor basketball courts. Renovations unveiled in January were made possible by the 2005 SPLOST.

Located in eastern Gwinnett County, **Harbins Park** is a \$5.7 million park funded through the 2001 SPLOST. Scheduled to open by summer 2009, this 1,902-acre park is the county's largest park to date and will feature more than three miles of multi-purpose trails, trails for horseback riding and mountain biking, open-space play area, playground, large rustic pavilion, restrooms, and an equestrian-only parking area.

Settles Bridge Park, located in northern Gwinnett between Suwanee and Sugar Hill, is currently under construction. Classified as a large, open-space park, phase one will feature 2.5 miles of natural-surface trails, a paved multi-purpose trail, dog park, picnic pavilion, playground, and teen area with basketball courts and a skate park. The 2005 SPLOST is funding the \$4.5 million project, which is scheduled to open in summer 2009.

Libraries

Book lovers have three new branch libraries to choose from thanks to SPLOST. Branch libraries have opened in **Grayson**, **Dacula**, and **Suwanee** since 2004. Design is underway for the new **Hamilton Mill Branch Library**.

Public Safety

Fire Station 1 in Norcross is typical of the public safety improvements funded by SPLOST programs. The newly-opened—and relocated—station has two truck bays, offices, living quarters,