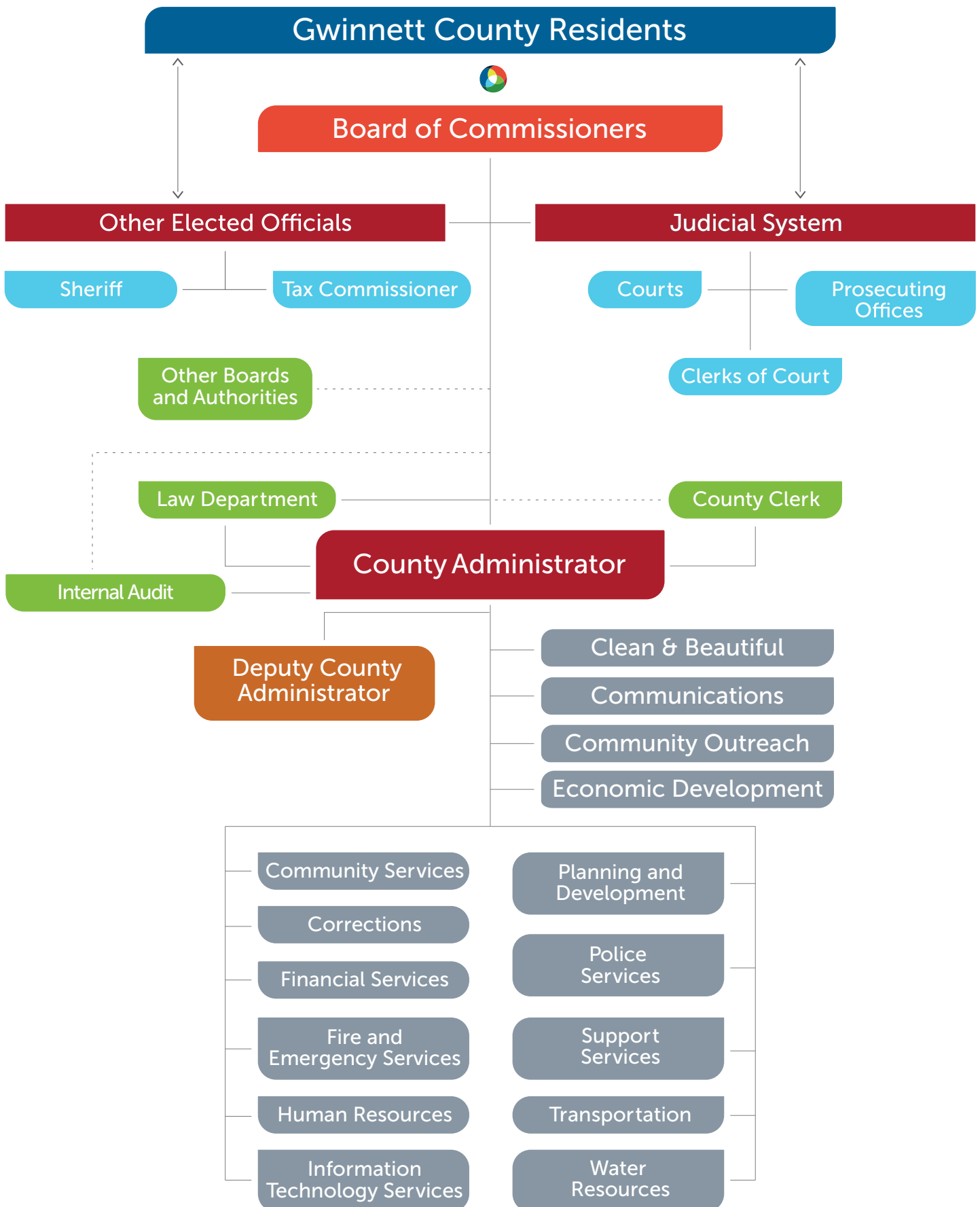


INTRODUCTION

This section contains a high-level organizational chart and general facts about Gwinnett County and its municipalities.



GWINNETT COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



COUNTY ADMINISTRATION & DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

County Administrator

Glenn P. Stephens

Deputy County Administrator

Phil Hoskins

County Attorney

Bill Linkous

Community Services

Tina Fleming, *Director*

Corrections

Darrell Johnson, *Warden*

Financial Services

Maria Woods, *CFO/Director*

Fire and Emergency Services

Chief Casey Snyder

Human Resources

Sheryl Dallas, *Director*

Information Technology Services

Abe Kani, *Director/CIO*

Planning and Development

Kathy Holland, *Director*

Police Services

Chief Butch Ayers

Support Services

Angelia Parham, *Director*

Transportation

Alan Chapman, *Director*

Water Resources

Ron Seibenhener, *Director*

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Clerk of Court

Richard T. Alexander Jr.

District Attorney

Danny Porter

Chief Magistrate Court Judge

Kristina H. Blum

Probate Court Judge

Christopher A. Ballar

Sheriff

R.L. "Butch" Conway

Solicitor

Rosanna Szabo

Tax Commissioner

Richard Steele

State Court Judges

Pamela D. South, *Chief Judge*

Joseph C. Iannazzone

Carla E. Brown

John F. Doran Jr.

Emily J. Brantley

Shawn F. Bratton

Howard E. Cook, *Senior Judge*

Robert W. Mock Sr., *Senior Judge*

Superior Court Judges

Melodie Snell Conner, *Chief Judge*

Debra K. Turner

R. Timothy Hamil

Ronnie K. Batchelor

Tom Davis

Warren Davis

Karen E. Beyers

Kathryn M. Schrader

George F. Hutchinson III

Randolph G. Rich

K. Dawson Jackson, *Senior Judge*

Fred A. Bishop Jr., *Senior Judge*

JUDICIALLY APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Juvenile Court Judges

Robert V. Rodatus, *Presiding Judge*

Tadia D. Whitner

Robert Waller

Recorder's Court Judges

Michael Greene, *Chief Judge*

Rodney S. Harris

Patricia Muise

Clerk of Recorder's Court

Jeff C. West

Court Administrator

Philip M. Boudewyns

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT:

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Gwinnett County, Georgia for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

PRESENTED TO

**Gwinnett County
Georgia**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

January 1, 2017

Christopher P. Morrell

Executive Director

This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.



HISTORY

Gwinnett County was created on December 15, 1818, and named for Button Gwinnett, one of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence. The county was formed from the combination of land that was ceded to the state of Georgia by the Cherokee and Creek Indians and a portion of Jackson County. Gwinnett was the 50th county to be organized in the state. The county currently covers 437 square miles and includes approximately 280,000 acres of land. This makes Gwinnett the 50th largest county in the state in landmass.

The home of Elisha Winn, near what is now Dacula, was the first Gwinnett County courthouse. Winn was chosen to select the site for the first county seat and new courthouse. He paid \$200 for a 250-acre lot in the center of the county. Early courthouse business was held in a log cabin until a more permanent structure was built in 1824. The city of Lawrenceville was incorporated and designated the county seat in 1821, when Gwinnett consisted of a cluster of agrarian communities. By 1850, Lawrenceville was a thriving metropolis with a census count of 11,257. In an 1871 fire, the courthouse was burned down, destroying most of the early records and deeds. A new courthouse, built on the square in Lawrenceville, was deemed inadequate after only 12 years, and was replaced by the building now known as the Historic Courthouse for \$23,000 in 1885. It served as the center of Gwinnett government operations until 1988.

A railroad line, the Danville and Piedmont Air Line (now Norfolk Southern), was built through the county in 1871. The railroad induced the founding of new cities: Norcross, Duluth, Suwanee, and Buford. A spur line was run from Suwanee to Lawrenceville in 1881, and another main line, the Georgia, Carolina, and Northern Railroad (now CSX), was built in 1891 through Lilburn, Lawrenceville, and Dacula.

The County's first major industry came in 1868 when the RH Allen Tannery was established possibly at the Elisha Winn house that Robert Allen appears to have been renting before setting up in Buford. Brother Bona soon followed with the Bona Allen Tannery, which later purchased the RH Allen Co. after Robert's death. Both tanneries made leather goods, harnesses, whips, shoes, and became famous for handmade saddles. During the Depression of the 1930s when a number of farms began to decline, the tannery employed 2,400 workers. The 1930 Census recorded a County population of 29,087.

Gwinnett County moved into the modern era in 1950 when the U.S. Congress authorized the construction of Buford Dam to provide hydroelectric power, flood control, water supply, navigation, and recreational facilities. Also it was around this time that key decisions by federal, state, and local leaders paved the way for some of our greatest opportunities, including the expansion and growth of what is now Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the creation of Lake Lanier, and the completion of I-85 from Atlanta to South Carolina, right through the middle of Gwinnett.

The County constructed its major water and sewer main lines in the 1970s, which proved to be an essential step in preparing for the next decade. For three consecutive years, 1986 through 1988, Gwinnett ranked as the fastest growing county in the U.S. among counties with a population greater than 100,000. During that period, voters approved the 1986 bond issue, and the 1985 and 1988 one-percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax programs, mechanisms which provided funds for significant capital investments. The late 1980s witnessed a dramatic increase in the County's road construction program, the development of a countywide Parks and Recreation program, construction of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, renovation of the historic courthouse, construction of new public libraries, and other capital improvements.

Population

According to estimates by Woods & Poole, the County's population was estimated at approximately 938,799 in 2017, and its population is expected to reach more than one million by the year 2020.



Growth slowed during the recessions of 1990 and 2007, but the influx of new residents and businesses continued. The county's population in 2017 stood at an estimated 938,799, up more than 20 percent from 2008. Today Gwinnett County is the second most populous county in the state of Georgia (*Sources: Woods & Poole and U.S. Census Bureau*).

From December 15, 2017, through December 15, 2018, the County will be organizing a bicentennial celebration to celebrate and further Gwinnett's legacy. The County will commemorate 200 years of history by paying homage to a shared history, recognizing and remembering the people who made and make our community great, and highlighting the vision for a promising future.

While celebrating the past, officials are looking forward with a re-branding campaign that consists of a new seal, logo, and slogan. Government stationery, documents, vehicles, buildings, and the website are breaking out the new colors and circular shapes with interconnected crescents. The brand resembles a colorful kaleidoscope that symbolically encompasses the desired image our County – a business friendly environment catering to our unique blend of many people, nations, ages, religions, cultures, education levels, professional skills, and life perspectives. At the heart of the kaleidoscope resides a unifying crest, a symbol of our integrity and a token of our unwavering mission to make life better for the people of Gwinnett. The circular shape also includes three overlapping crescents that represent Gwinnett's three main water basins. The county's new slogan, "Vibrantly Connected," denotes the collaboration between the diverse people working to make Gwinnett a better place and our network of roads that keep us connected nationally and globally.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Gwinnett County Police Department has an authorized strength of 848 sworn officers, supported by 280 non-sworn employees. The department has attained accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. since 1993. Approximately 5 percent of more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide enjoy this prestigious recognition. First in 2013 and again in 2016, the Gwinnett County Police Department is one of the few police agencies nationwide to receive the Accreditation with Excellence Award, the highest level of accreditation. The department's goals in 2018 are to continue to meet the needs of the increasing population and its changing demographics and to ensure fiscal responsibility while providing the latest technology, facilities, training, and equipment.

The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services responded to 79,651 calls for assistance in 2017. The department has 952 authorized personnel and operates 31 strategically located fire stations including 31 engines, 11 ladder trucks (with one budgeted in 2018), and 29 Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical units (with two budgeted in 2018). Specialty teams are trained to respond to situations involving hazardous materials, technical rescue, swiftwater rescue, and mass casualty incidents. The department operates with a service model that integrates fire suppression, emergency medical response, and community risk reduction efforts. This model enables the department to operate at a high and efficient level and ensures that the organization can meet its main goal and objective of optimal service delivery. On March 22, 2017, the department was awarded the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International accreditation. In addition, the Insurance Service Office (ISO) also elevated the department's Public Protection Classification score to a 2 rating, which was effective August 1, 2017.

The Department of Corrections operates the Comprehensive Correctional Complex, an 800-bed prison facility that contains 512 beds for state and county inmates classified as minimum or medium security. This complex also contains 288 work release beds for non-violent criminal offenders sentenced to part-time incarceration and parents who habitually fail to pay court-ordered child support. The correctional complex is the only government-owned prison in Georgia that is nationally accredited.

The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office has an authorized strength of 559 sworn officers supported by 164 non-sworn employees. The office continually strives to maintain the highest law enforcement standards possible and is committed to providing the community with professional, efficient law enforcement through well-trained employees and up-to-date technology. The Sheriff's Office is a state certified agency responsible for constitutional duties that include operation of the county jail, court security, arrest warrant service, civil order service, sex offender registry, family violence orders, and general law enforcement. Additional information about the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office is available at www.gwinnettcountysheriff.com.



TRANSPORTATION

Gwinnett County's infrastructure includes more than 2,550 miles of roads, with more than 700 signalized intersections. The 2018 Capital Budget and 2019 – 2023 Transportation Capital Improvement Program totals approximately \$478.7 million.

In 2017, the County completed construction on the widening of SR 20 from Peachtree Industrial Boulevard to Burnette Trail, the last remaining two-lane section of SR 20 in Gwinnett County. The County purchased right-of-way and easements using state and federal dollars and managed the state-funded construction. The project includes widening from two lanes to four lanes with a depressed median.

The third busiest airport in the state, Briscoe Field, is located on approximately 500 acres in Lawrenceville. The airport is capable of handling all light, general aviation, and most corporate jet aircraft. Two fixed-base operators and three flight schools provide service and instruction at the airport.

In 2017, the airport continued design work on an extension of the northern taxiway resulting in two full-length parallel taxiways on both sides of the runway, which limits the need for aircraft to cross the runway and decreases the chances of a runway incursion.

In 2017, the department completed an update to the *Comprehensive Transportation Plan* and initiated a *Comprehensive Transit Development Plan*.

In 2018, the County will begin construction on the widening of Cruse Road from Club Drive to Paden Drive, the intersection and bridge replacement on US 29/SR 8/Winder Highway at Dacula Road, and will begin engineering on the new interchange at McGinnis Ferry Road and I-85.

In 2018, the County will complete engineering and right-of-way acquisition for the new interchange on SR 324/Gravel Springs Road at I-85. Georgia DOT plans to let the project to construction late in the year.

Gwinnett County Transit operates five express bus routes during morning and afternoon peak travel times Monday through Friday and six local bus routes all day Monday through Saturday. The express routes allow transit customers to park their cars at County Park and Ride lots and take transit to destinations in downtown and midtown Atlanta and Emory/CDC area. The local routes are complemented by door-to-door Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service for ADA-eligible customers unable to use the local bus. The transit system is operated using 43 express coaches, 32 local buses, and 7 paratransit vehicles. In 2017, the transit system transported over 1.4 million riders on express, local buses, and paratransit.



EDUCATION

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is the largest school system in Georgia, and it continues to grow. In the 2017 – 2018 school year, the district is projected to serve 180,186 students. Of the Gwinnett County residents, one in every five is a GCPS student. With approximately 23,300 employees, GCPS is the largest employer in Gwinnett County and one of the largest in the state of Georgia.

GCPS is made up of 139 schools, including 80 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, 21 high schools, and nine other educational facilities/schools – Gwinnett Online Campus; GIVE Center East and GIVE Center West, alternative programs for middle and high school students; the International Transition Center; Maxwell High School of Technology; New Life Academy of Excellence; North Metro Academy of Performing Arts; and two schools for special education. The largest schools by number of students and by level are Norcross High, North Gwinnett Middle, and Jackson Elementary. In fiscal year 2018, the average annual cost to educate one student is \$8,853. And, for fiscal year 2018, the school board adopted a \$2.092 billion budget. GCPS is one of only 17 school districts in the nation with a triple-A bond rating.

The vision of GCPS is to become a “system of world-class schools.” The school system is pursuing this vision through the following initiatives: the Gwinnett Teacher Effectiveness System, the Academic Knowledge and Skills Curriculum, the eCLASS online portal, and the Quality-Plus Leader Academy leadership development program. In addition, GCPS offers its students cutting-edge opportunities to learn. One such example is a four-story fire training tower built on the Maxwell High School of Technology campus. Partnering with the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, the school district hopes through a collaborative effort to offer high school students breathing apparatus training, maze training, ladder training, and other life-saving techniques. Educating the next generation of firefighters will provide county residents with an increasingly skilled workforce. As of November 2017, Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services has hired 12 former Maxwell students. GCPS also partners with Gwinnett Medical Center to provide academic support to various Medical and Health Science programs offered through the school system’s Career and Technical Education programs, including medical-related academies at six high schools. Schools and healthcare are essential building blocks for our county’s communities.

The academic achievements of GCPS are numerous. To date, the GCPS Class of 2017 is the most decorated. The class included 3,092 honor graduates. During their high school career, 6,982 took Advanced Placement (AP) with almost half earning an AP Exam high enough to receive college credit. It is no surprise, therefore, that Gwinnett County Public Schools was named a College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year for being the national leader among large school districts. The Class of 2017 received an average SAT score that was 24 points higher than the national average and 34 points higher than the state average. And, these students were first to take a revised SAT version that prioritized reading and math content to reflect material that would be encountered in college and future work lives. Eighty-five percent of the 12,150 graduates plan to continue their education.

GCPS is a three-time finalist of The Broad Prize for Urban Education in years 2009, 2010, and 2014 and a two-time winner in 2010 and 2014, making it one of the nation’s top urban school districts. For 2018, Niche.com, a website ranking schools by academics, culture and diversity, and teacher performance, rated Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology as one of the top 10 public high schools in the United States. Back in November 2015, voters expressed their recognition of the importance of Gwinnett schools as a national leader when approximately 75 percent of those who voted approved the E-SPLOST renewal that began July 1, 2017. The continuation of the one-percent tax already being collected on sales will last another five-year period. The one-percent tax will help fund construction of new schools, renovations to existing schools, and provide technology improvements. For more information on Gwinnett County Public Schools, go to www.gwinnettk12.ga.us.



Gwinnett is also home to several colleges and universities, such as Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett Technical College, the University of Georgia (UGA) Gwinnett campus, DeVry University Duluth Center, Shorter University – Gwinnett campus, and the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. For students interested in instrumental instruction and the recording arts, the Atlanta Institute of Music and Media can be found in Gwinnett off Breckinridge Boulevard near Duluth.

In May 2008, the University of Georgia moved its Gwinnett programs from the campus it shared with Georgia Gwinnett College to its current location near Sugarloaf Parkway and I-85, and changed its curriculum to graduate programs and continuing education only. The University of Georgia’s Gwinnett Campus offers 19 graduate credit programs, professional development opportunities, and a small business development center. UGA-Gwinnett is a full service campus conveniently located and thoughtfully designed to help working professionals meet the demands of busy schedules.

Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) opened its doors as a four-year college in fall 2006. Eleven years later, GGC set a college record with more than 500 students graduating in May 2017. By December, another 475 bachelor’s degrees were awarded in the fall commencement ceremony. This marked a major milestone for this institution by surpassing 5,000 graduates in its 12-year history. Almost 70 percent of GGC students are from Gwinnett, and the college enrolls more Gwinnett students than any other institution. Thirty-seven U.S. states and 126 nations are represented by the student body. GGC’s accessibility to a broad and diverse population is a point of pride for the county. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked GGC as the most ethnically diverse regional college in the South, number nine regionally for public schools in the South, and number two in the region for the least student debt. In May 2016, Georgia Gwinnett College was awarded the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 Impact Regional

Business Award in the education category. This award recognizes organizations impacting economic development and job creation. Since inception, the college has generated more than \$2.7 billion into the local community's economy. As fall 2017 approached, the college announced an economic impact on the community for fiscal year 2016 that totaled up to \$451 million. Between July 2015 and June 2016, GGC employed 4,596 people, and student spending was around \$238.7 million. In March 2017, GGC was one of eight colleges chosen by the Institute of International Education for innovation in international education. Known as a College of Distinction, GGC is the ninth largest and fastest-growing institution in the state and recently added a 15th bachelor's degree. As the school approaches its second decade of existence, hopes are to expand access to public higher education with an increase in dual enrollment and an increase in graduate degrees. In addition, the college and the city of Lawrenceville plan to expand their kindred associations with the arts and education with a visible connection (network). The city of Lawrenceville plans to connect Georgia Gwinnett College and its Downtown District with a college corridor. This will allow for the construction of a 2.2-mile linear park and bring to fruition the vision of Lawrenceville as Gwinnett's own 'college town.'

Gwinnett Technical College opened in 1984 as Gwinnett Area Technical School. The school has significantly expanded its course offerings and made two name changes since then. In 1989, Gwinnett Technical College became one of the first technical schools to earn accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Per a recent analysis by WalletHub, the facility was the highest-ranked community college in Georgia and ranked in the top 5 percent nationally. The number of graduates at Gwinnett Tech has risen 73 percent over the last five years. And, the number of awards given has grown by 20 percent. With a 99 percent job placement rate, students are guaranteed a high return on their hours of investment. Today, more than 140 different associate degree, diploma, and certificate programs are offered. Many of these programs are ranked in the top 10 in the nation. Also, 42 transfer agreements with other academic institutions are offered. With private philanthropy, it was the first technical college in Georgia to establish a dedicated Office of Veteran Affairs. The institution was recently named as a top 10 school by *Military Times* and *Military Friendly*. Gwinnett Technical College serves more than 18,000 students annually through credit programs, workshops, continuing education courses, veteran services, and an adult education program. This makes it one of Georgia's largest technical colleges. For a third semester in a row, Gwinnett Technical College recorded its highest enrollment numbers in the college's 33-year history. Up 13 percent from last year, the technical college's student body rose to 8,400 students across the region in fall 2017. The uptick in enrollment is partly attributed to their new campus in Alpharetta-North Fulton that opened in early 2016. New or expanded programs in high-demand fields such as engineering and cybersecurity also contributed to the increase. Participation in the *Move On When Ready* program, a program that allows high school students to earn college credit online and on-campus, has increased as well. Enrollment for this program in fall 2017 was at 1,218, compared to last year's 763 high school students. These numbers are expected to increase with spring enrollment projected at 1,500. Gwinnett Technical College also plans to introduce a Center for Internships and Entrepreneurial Excellence. It will be called Launch Pointe and will provide resources for internships, apprenticeships, networking, and career coaching.

The Gwinnett County Public Library (GCPL) system, established in 1935, has grown to 15 full-service branches. The library system received *Gwinnett Magazine's* Best of Gwinnett 2014 award for the Best Place to Take the Kids. Gwinnett County Public Library system was named a 2017 finalist for an IMPACT Regional Business Award. The library system was recognized as a top innovator in customer service in 2017 with the creation of its Customer Contact Center. And, GCPL was awarded a 2017 Top Workplaces, Workplace Achiever honor by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Georgia Public Library Services recognized Gwinnett's own Hamilton Mill branch as one of the 10 Most Beautiful Libraries in Georgia in 2017.



In its fiscal year 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan, the Gwinnett County Public Library system identified the following goals: 1) awareness – increase community awareness of the library and its services; 2) outreach and engagement – develop new resources, services, and strategies for meeting the diverse needs of Gwinnett County residents; and 3) community needs – develop the library’s staff and resources to ensure that the library continues to provide relevant service to all residents of Gwinnett County. Inherent to reaching these goals is providing the community with greater choice and flexibility. This means expanding access to library materials, programs, and services with new innovative and creative methods. GCPL has partnered with one of the international library technology companies, Bibliotheca, to become the first library in North America to use a technology that grants customers self-service use of the library outside normal operating hours. This allows the system to expand hours without adding staff time. The pilot program began June 20, 2016, at GCPL’s Lawrenceville headquarters branch. The system automatically controls and monitors entry at the building, self-service at kiosks, and access to public computers. Patrons are finding the service great for casual reading and browsing, hold pick-ups, and computer use. For 2017, the County’s library system launched Connect Gwinnett. Library patrons will be allowed to check out Wi-Fi hotspots from the library. The program is intended to help expand access to technology and create a more equitable distribution of online resources. In addition, Gwinnett libraries are now offering a digital magazine service called Flipster. This service allows patrons to read magazines in digital format on Android, Apple, and Kindle Fire. In addition, the County’s library system has partnered with NASA at My Library to help offer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs to the community and its students. GCPL is the only library system in the state chosen for this program. STEM and interactive learning will be a cornerstone of NASA at My Library. Materials and training will be provided to staff along with how-to-videos, apps, and educational games for patrons. Gwinnett County Public Library is committed to meeting the needs of the whole community when they need resources the most.

Programming attendance at Gwinnett County’s libraries has seen substantial increases over the years, as shown on page VII:7. From 2016 to 2017, attendance went from 373,999 to 655,328. This library user metric refers to attendance at library sponsored events, off-site events such as author signings, and outreach visits to the schools. Computer sessions were up from 1,600,365 in 2016 to 1,890,568 in 2017. Also, Wi-Fi access increased from 687,485 in 2016 to 850,409 in 2017.

GCPL and Gwinnett County Public Schools have partnered together to extend public library resources to students. The partnership, called Branch Out, allows parents to opt in during back-to-school registration. The school system provides information on the student to the library that then allows the library to provide an account for the student using his/her student identification number and a PIN. The hope is to expand access to many online and physical resources – in particular print and digital – to the school children of Gwinnett County. These resources are not currently available through the schools or school media centers. In September 2017, the library system hit a milestone with more than 500,000 registered library accounts in total. And, more than 128,000 of its accounts belong to students who have signed up through the Branch Out partnership. The County’s library system also offers adult students who have aged out of the school system a chance to receive a high school diploma. The library’s Career Online High School is the world’s first accredited, private online school district. In fall 2017 at the Lilburn branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library, the program saw its first graduating class.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Gwinnett County has been a top job creator in Metro Atlanta for the past decade. According to Nick Masino, Chief Economic Development Officer for Partnership Gwinnett, the county is home to over 35,000 businesses that range in size from sole proprietorships/entrepreneurial startups to multi-billion dollar corporations. In July 2017, *Georgia Trend* Magazine ranked two Gwinnett businesses as the best place to work in Georgia across two separate categories. Duke Realty of Peachtree Corners was ranked first in the Large Employer Category with 200 or more employees. And, the Medicus Firm that is located near Duluth ranked first in the Small/Medium Employer Category with 15 to 199 employees.

The county is quickly becoming a hub for tech jobs in information technology solutions, health care science, and manufacturing. Gwinnett is one of 15 counties located in Georgia’s Innovation Crescent, which spans from the Atlanta airport on one end to the University of Georgia in Athens on the other. Gwinnett County is also home to the corporate headquarters of Waffle House, a well-known restaurant chain famous for its scattered and smothered entrees. In 2017, the County issued 17,727 occupation tax certificates (business licenses).



The county's infrastructure, skilled workforce, and business environment is a draw for many companies. These companies and their employees residing in Gwinnett are afforded a lower cost of living compared to other areas, a moderate climate, and numerous recreational opportunities. Gwinnett County also offers easy access to major interstate highways such as I-75, I-85, and I-20 with proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Gwinnett is home to almost 900 manufacturing and logistics firms. The county, with its bright workforce, can accommodate these companies as they look for employees with both soft skills and technical skills. In addition, Gwinnett is a major distribution center for a large number of imports and exports. For example, Aluvision, Inc., a leading Belgium manufacture of modular aluminum exhibit systems, chose Gwinnett as the site for its first U.S. location. Carcoustics, a German company and automotive supplier, announced in 2017 that it is investing \$6 million in a new Buford facility over a five-year period. The investment is expected to create 200 jobs and will include manufacturing positions. It should be noted that Carcoustics will be joining almost 100 other German companies that operate in the county.



Gwinnett's first craft brewery opened September 15, 2017. Slow Pour Brewing Company hopes to serve downtown Lawrenceville and Gwinnett as a whole. Located just off the Lawrenceville Square, the business opened with tasting and tours and will grow into distribution.

Gwinnett County caters to domestic and international businesses of all sizes and works to promote the industries of advanced communications, information technology, manufacturing/supply chain management, healthcare and life sciences, and corporate headquarters/professional services. Gwinnett's assets in these related sectors are strong, and efforts are made to ensure companies continue to be satisfied with their Gwinnett location, expand their presence in the county, and grow additional local economic opportunities. On January 12, 2017, Kaiser Permanente held its grand opening for a new 185,000 square-foot center located near Duluth on Steve Reynolds Boulevard. The facility has the potential to create 800 new jobs by 2020 and serve 10 million customers across eight states. Kaiser Permanente invested almost \$51 million in renovations with the expectation of tapping into Gwinnett's skilled workforce, solid infrastructure, and quality of life amenities. As of March 2017, Crawford & Company, an insurance claims management provider, announced it was moving its global headquarters from Atlanta's perimeter area to Gwinnett's Peachtree Corners. The location was chosen because of its ability to attract technology companies, its community built around live, work, and play, its affordability, and its access to public transportation. Also in 2017 National Compressor Exchange (NCE) announced the grand opening of its new southeastern headquarters in Gwinnett. NCE specializes in HVACR (heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration) products. The Gwinnett location will not only serve as a warehouse but as a showroom. Investing in Gwinnett was part of a decision to find a central location to cut down delivery times, provide unmatched product supply, and have easy access to export globally. The county's proximity to an international airport at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta and its proximity to the Port of Savannah should make this possible. In what has been called "the world's biggest animal health science deal of the year," Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) moved its U.S. animal health headquarters to Gwinnett. Based in Germany, BI makes such familiar brands as Heartgard and FRONTLINE. The multi-billion-dollar international company's decision to locate in Gwinnett demonstrates the benefits of site selection. Most notable are the county's strategic location, its infrastructure, and its talent base.

Gwinnett County is also growing its commitment to the research and technology industry. Most notable is the expansion of the research and development corridor area along Highway 316 to the Barrow County line. In addition, the County has approved a mixed-use office and retail development on Highway 316 near Dacula and Sugarloaf Crossing. In 2016, Comcast, the nation's largest video, high-speed internet, and phone provider to residential customers, opened its new regional (southeast) headquarters at 6200 The Corners Parkway in Peachtree Corners. The location is a state-of-the-art facility with a high-tech demonstration lab and a Comcast University space for training and continuing education. Comcast is one of Georgia's largest employers. Economic achievements such as these highlight Gwinnett County's skilled workforce and help identify the county as a hub for research, development, and technology in the southeast.

Gwinnett's hospitality and international sophistication, along with affordable real estate and a well-educated labor pool, continues to attract a comprehensive array of diverse companies. Gwinnett is a minority-majority community that has 25 percent of its population born outside of the United States and has a 78.6 percent diversity index. More than 600 internationally-based companies call Gwinnett home. These companies from around the world have provided the ecosystem with a \$78.5 million foreign-direct investment. Gwinnett is prepared to advance in the global marketplace of America's future.

In addition to Gwinnett County's success in attracting businesses to the area, the county has also thrived as a major retail center for more than 30 years. It became home to Gwinnett Place Mall in 1984, the Mall of Georgia (the largest shopping mall in Georgia) in 1999, Sugarloaf Mills (formerly Discover Mills) in 2001, The Forum on Peachtree Parkway in 2002, and The Shoppes at Webb Gin (formerly The Avenue Webb Gin) in 2006. Presently, the County and the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District are working on plans to revitalize the area around Gwinnett Place Mall. The Mall of Georgia has its own current projects that include work on The Dining Pavilion and The Village renovation. And Sugarloaf Mills recently announced the addition of five new stores that are to include fashion boutiques and a home décor outlet. Gwinnett's charming towns also offer a vast array of restaurants, antique stores, boutiques, gift shops, art galleries, consignment stores, and specialty retail establishments. The main streets of these downtown areas also host numerous concerts and festivals.

Tourism is a growing industry in Gwinnett. Occupancy at the more than 100 hotels located in the county was at 71.5 percent for 2017. With convenient locations and a wide array of accommodations, visitors can find easy access to shopping, dining, sporting events, and meeting/convention services at the county's bundle of hotels. Gwinnett offers full-service hotels at Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, the Atlanta Marriott Peachtree Corners, Holiday Inn Gwinnett Center, and the Embassy Suites Sugarloaf.

Tourism is expected to continue to grow with the county's steady convention business and the large number of professionals who attend. In addition, concerts and sporting events are a natural draw for visitors. According to Georgia Deputy Economic Development Commissioner Kevin Langston, Gwinnett's impact on tourism for the state puts the county among the top 10 in metro Atlanta and along the coastline. More than 12,000 jobs in Gwinnett are tied to tourism. And, Explore Gwinnett, the county's official travel office, is focused on keeping tourism spending above \$1 billion. It is no surprise that the Gwinnett Tourism Education Program was cited as the "Best Hospitality Marketing Program" in Georgia by the governor, Nathan Deal.

The county is likely to see additional tourism growth as a result of the emerging film industry. The county is home to Eagle Rock Studios. Located on Best Friend Road near Norcross, Eagle Rock Studios Atlanta is one of the largest television production studios under one roof in the United States. The building space, a former Kraft warehouse, was converted to house four 30,000 square-foot sound stages. The facility has a direct economic impact on tourism in Gwinnett through trade at local restaurants, hotels, and surrounding businesses. Production crews find overnight accommodations in nearby hotels and have food catered from local businesses to film sets. Gwinnett has recently been the location for a number of scenes in such movies as "American Made," "Baby Driver," "Captain America Civil War," and "Sully."

Productions are being filmed at our Parks and Recreation facilities, the county jail, and the Infinite Energy Center/Arena. The film industry is helping drive development and redevelopment in the county with the multiplier effect. Film crews need living quarters, possible additional retail space, and possible additional studio/educational space. This is helping to fuel what some call a renaissance to the county's downtown areas and improvement districts.



Even the county's student population has made strides in breaking into the growing film industry. College students at Georgia Gwinnett College can now participate in a Cinema and Media Arts degree program. The program is being launched at a time when film and television production is growing exponentially locally. Georgia Gwinnett College grads are looking to get a competitive edge in the movie business.

Production companies find Gwinnett County's easy access to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport a plus. And, the area's versatility is a major draw. At any place and time, the county can provide filming scouts with such options as downtown parks, rural areas, and warehouses. Gwinnett County is home to commuter communities in both outer rural areas and inner upscale city suburbs. The county's landscape is lined with historic downtown and rustic settings intertwined with new commercial and industrial development. And, the county's award-winning park system provides a variety of sceneries. Gwinnett County is where both the new and the old meet for success.



RECREATION & THE ARTS

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR) offers award-winning parks and leisure activities year-round to the young and young-at-heart residents of Gwinnett County. Residents can choose to stroll on a trail, play a sport, learn to swim, take a fitness or pottery class, go on a horseback or bike ride, or explore the county's rich history. There is something for everyone with GCPR's dedication and commitment to a growing and diverse population. Noteworthy is Gwinnett's emphasis on community partnerships and volunteer service. GCPR offers facility rentals and partners with 32 volunteer youth athletic associations to offer sports such as baseball/softball, basketball, cheerleading, football, soccer, roller hockey, and lacrosse to more than 43,000 kids. Parks and Recreation also partners with healthcare providers, Live Healthy Gwinnett, and other Community Services divisions to promote community health and wellness programs. In 2017, GCPR offered 7,967 activities and hosted 11,126 facility rentals.

Currently GCPR operates 50 parks and facilities that include 182 multi-purpose sports fields, 59 tennis courts, 41 outdoor basketball courts, 24 sand volleyball courts, five year-round and seven seasonal aquatic facilities, 10 dog park areas, 135 miles of trails, eight skate complexes, 75 playgrounds, picnic areas, pavilions, fishing lakes, and more.

Gwinnett County continues to place a high priority on greenspace and historic sites. As of 2017, Gwinnett parkland totaled 9,875 acres for both passive and active parks and boasted 11 cultural/historical sites. Natural and cultural resources took on a renewed focus with the addition of management and staff to support environmental conservation, stewardship of public lands, and historic restoration and programming. The dedication to restore Gwinnett's historical buildings and areas can be seen while visiting one of the historic preservation projects such as McDaniel Farm Park, Isaac Adair House, Freeman's Mill Park, and the Yellow River Post Office site.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is a unique partnership between the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, Gwinnett County Board of Education Public School system, and the University of Georgia. With the support of the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation, this 66,000 square-foot educational center is a multi-use history, culture, heritage, and environment facility that hosted six special exhibits and conducted 197,477 educational contact hours in 2017. The center was Gwinnett County's first LEED-certified green building and has one of the nation's largest sloped vegetated roofs.

ArtWorks! Gwinnett is a nonprofit organization designed to cultivate arts opportunities in Gwinnett that enhance cultural and economic capital and enrich the county's residents and the business community. The organization is an independent branch of the Partnership Gwinnett community and economic development initiative and supports the County's 2030 Unified Plan.

Gwinnett County offers a wide range of theatre opportunities. Located in Lawrenceville, the Aurora Theatre is recognized for its award-winning dramas, musicals, and comedies. Furthermore, it is acknowledged as Gwinnett's only professional theatre and the second largest professional theatre in the state. Aurora received the Community Impact Award for Performing Arts Organization by *Artworks!* Gwinnett in 2014 and the IMPACT Regional Business Award from the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce in 2015. Also, the

theatre received an award from Governor Deal for its significant contributions to the humanities in late 2016. As of March 2017, Aurora Theatre opened a satellite office behind Central Gwinnett High School to allow for collaborative projects between school, theatre, and community. Well into its 21st season, the theatre received 24 Suzi Bass Award nominations and took home a total of 10 of these top honors at the Annual Suzi Bass Awards in November of 2017. Downtown historic Norcross is home to the Lionheart Theatre Company. Volunteer operated and non-profit, Lionheart is a leading community dessert theatre in the metro area. Equipped with seating for 274 and located at the Buford Community Center, the Sylvia Beard Theatre offers an ideal venue for theatrical performances. Duluth is home to the Red Clay Music Foundry, a 257-seat listening room/music venue. The New Dawn Theater is relocating to the Mall Corners Shopping Center near Duluth and Gwinnett Place Mall. New London Theatre can be found in Snellville and is one of the county's premier community theatres. Each of the facilities allows residents of Gwinnett to enjoy and support the arts within their local neighborhoods.



If looking for a unique music experience, residents can consider attending outdoor concert series offered in a number of the county's cities. Tables and semi-private suites allow event goers an intimate experience, diverse set of music, and great seating. These facilities include Sugar Hill City Lawn and Amphitheater, Suwanee Town Park and Amphitheater, Buford Town Park Amphitheater, Duluth Town Green Amphitheater, and Lawrenceville Lawn and Amphitheater.

Along with the arts, culinary experiences can drive visitor interest. Unique foods and beverages are a draw for local visitors and tourists. Three Gwinnett County restaurants were named to a 2017 list for tastiest dishes in Georgia. The list that was compiled by the Department of Economic Development's tourism division included Umaido, a Japanese restaurant near Suwanee for its spicy miso ramen, Local Republic in Lawrenceville for its pimento cheese, and the 1910 Public House in Lilburn for its burger and fries. Also noteworthy are educational food tours started by Explore Gwinnett, the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau marketing brand. In 2017, the Seoul of the South tours were opened to the public. The tours deliver participants to Korean restaurants and provide information on Korean culture. Such interactive outings are perfect for families and are a great way to introduce participants to Gwinnett's international food experience.

A quarter of a century ago, county leaders decided Gwinnett needed a facility to host trade and convention activities along with community events. The Infinite Energy Center opened its doors November 27, 1992, and was funded by a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax approved by voters in 1988. Presently, the facility is made up of four major parts. The Infinite Energy Center consists of a convention center (Infinite Energy Forum), a performing arts center (Infinite Energy Theater), an arena (Infinite Energy Arena), and an



arts center (The Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts). Beautiful landscaping and complimentary onsite parking make a visit to any of these facilities an enjoyable one. The complex is operated by the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau under an operating agreement with Gwinnett County. In June 2016, the Board of Commissioners approved a redevelopment resolution for the center and endorsed Explore Gwinnett's plan to create an atmosphere for the center where people come early and stay late. The six-year, \$950 million SPLOST referendum adopted in November 2016 will contribute \$67.3 million for an expansion of the Infinite Energy Center. County officials note that the center's annual economic effect is at more than \$175 million. Plans are in place to add an outdoor greenspace with an amphitheater, expand conference space, and expand the arena's seating. By mid-2020 the center expects to double its exhibit space. Plans are to construct a four-star hotel with 302 rooms as part of the Infinite Energy Center build out. The design is intended to connect a full-service Marriott to the arena and convention center. North American Properties will be tackling this massive mixed-use development project at the Infinite Energy Center, developing the 110-acre entertainment district into an experience that is unique to Gwinnett County. Using their experience from other mixed-use projects like the Avalon in Alpharetta, North American Properties hopes to create a vibrant shopping, dining, and entertainment destination for county residents. The development, called Revel, is expected to break ground on March 1, 2019.



The Infinite Energy Forum is anchored by a 50,000 square foot exhibit hall, which is an ideal venue for trade shows, conventions, consumer shows, and corporate meetings. With 28-foot ceilings and column-free exhibit space, up to 300 exhibitors can use the exhibit hall at one time. The forum has 23 fully-adaptable meeting rooms accommodating any size group from two to 2,000. The grand ballroom consists of 21,600 square feet of space, with banquet seating for up to 1,500.

The Infinite Energy Theater is a 708-seat performing arts theater with superior visibility, acoustics, and a high-tech sound system. The theater has fully-equipped production capabilities and is ideal to showcase stage productions, musical performances, corporate meetings, and civic events.

In 2017, the Hudgens Center debuted a new name and logo. It is now known as the Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for Art & Learning. Along with the rebranding is an upgraded website and marketing message that reads, "I Heart Art." The center provides a setting with casual elegance and an artistic flair with outdoor gardens, an art gallery, and a variety of beautiful spaces for receptions, weddings, or other special events. The AI Weeks Sculpture Garden offers 28,000 square feet of enclosed, private outdoor space with a lily pond, waterfalls, koi, and garden seating. The sculpture garden has been named an official Wildlife Sanctuary by the Audubon Society.

The Infinite Energy Arena seats up to 13,000 attendees for concerts, sporting events, religious conventions, corporate meetings, and family shows. The arena includes 36 corporate suites, two-party suites, and club level seats. Since 2003, the arena has been the home of the Atlanta Gladiators (formerly the Gwinnett Gladiators) of the East Coast Hockey League. As of May 2015, the arena welcomed the National Lacrosse League team, the Georgia Swarm, with an introductory press conference. Their inaugural game was held on January 9, 2016. The NLL (National Lacrosse League) plays 18 regular season games followed by the Champion's Cup Playoffs. The Georgia Swarm defeated the two time defending champions to claim the National Lacrosse League's Championship.

Cup in June of 2017. In addition, the arena is home to the Legends Football League's Atlanta Steam. With corporate suites, high-end sound, and versatile lighting, the venue has a top reputation in the industry among promoters and planners. The venue has hosted such entertainers as Carrie Underwood, Justin Timberlake, George Strait, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Enrique Iglesias, Pitbull, Beyonce, and Eric Clapton. Disney On Ice and the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships are also hosted at the campus. As of July 2017, Rock 'n' Roll legend Paul McCartney can be added to the list. In celebration of his inaugural Gwinnett performance, the County named a road after the former Beatle.

The Infinite Energy Arena has been nationally and internationally ranked as a top venue based on gross ticket sales and attendance. The facility is consistently listed as a Best of Gwinnett recipient, which is voted on by consumers and honors Gwinnett County companies. In addition, the Gwinnett Convention Center received an award in 2013 and 2014 as one of ConventionSouth's Readers' Choice winners, which is voted on by more than 6,500 meeting professionals and venue fans. The Infinite Energy Center has established a community outreach program called STARS – Serving Together to Advocate Respect and Service. The program's mission is to contribute to the Gwinnett County community by supporting such organizations as Gwinnett Relay for Life, CURE Childhood Cancer, and Georgia SPCA.

In addition to the Infinite Energy Arena, Gwinnett has other facilities to offer tourists and groups for meeting and conventions. These include BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir (Temple), Suwanee Sports Academy, and our own Parks and Recreation.

In 2009, the Atlanta Braves' Triple-A affiliate, formerly the Gwinnett Braves, began playing at Coolray Field, located in close proximity to several Gwinnett cities and Interstate 85. This state-of-the-art stadium seats more than 10,000 fans and plays host to 72 regular season home games and other events such as concerts, charity events, baseball clinics, and public safety exhibitions. The 2017 season marked the ninth season of play since the stadium opened. Coolray Field has provided the community with hundreds of new jobs, and the team has been active with donations and fundraising for local nonprofit organizations. To further connect with the Gwinnett community and eliminate any confusion with sharing the same name as the Atlanta major league team, the Gwinnett Braves changed their name to Gwinnett Stripers on December 8, 2017. The name change is a local tie-in with Lake Lanier's indigenous fish population of stripers. This Gwinnett hot-spot is one of the best striped bass places in the entire world. Along with the name change, new uniforms and logos were unveiled as well.

In late fall of 2017, it was announced that Atlanta Havoc and United Atlanta FC will bring professional sports teams to Gwinnett County. Arena football will make a comeback to the county with the team Atlanta Havoc playing at the Buford City Arena, and professional soccer will debut at Coolray Field with United Atlanta FC. The Buford City Arena is an ideal location for indoor football with its proximity to the sprawling suburbs, and Coolray Field, known for its excellence as a sporting venue, will be an excellent fit for soccer. With the addition of these two professional sports organizations, Gwinnett County is proud to be home to five professional sports franchises—the Atlanta Gladiators, Georgia Swarm, Gwinnett Stripers, Atlanta Havoc, and United Atlanta FC.

The sports tournament industry is one of the strongest in the county. Every April, Gwinnett County is home to the Champions Tour Tournament for golfers. The three-day tournament is televised in about 200 countries. Some other top events include the Nike Memorial Day Classic, the Adidas International, and the Yong-In Presidential Cup (tae-kwon-do). Sports tournaments contribute tens of millions of dollars in visitor expenditures annually and help raise the county's profile on an international level.

Gwinnett County has often been referred to as "Atlanta's Playground." Within the confines of the county's friendly neighborhoods, one has access to the arts, entertainment, sports, parks/recreation, and great culinary delights. Gwinnett has a little bit of everything to offer its citizens.





HEALTHCARE

Gwinnett Health System (GHS) is the parent company of Gwinnett Medical Center (GMC), Gwinnett Medical Group, and Sequent Health Physician Partners. GHS employs more than 5,300 associates and has more than 800 affiliated physicians serving more than 400,000 patients annually. The healthcare network has repeatedly received national recognition for clinical excellence and ranks in the top 5 percent in the nation for clinical quality. In 2016, GMC received a four-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is one of only two hospitals in metro Atlanta to receive a four-star rating or better. Only 17 hospitals statewide have received a five- or four-star rating. The rating is indicative of effective and efficient care for non-emergency health care. In 2017, Nurse.org, a career site for nurses on the web, recognized Gwinnett Medical Center as one of the best hospitals for nurses to work in Georgia. GMC is a nationally-recognized, not-for-profit healthcare network with acute-care hospitals in Lawrenceville and Duluth. Additional facilities include: the Gwinnett Women's Pavilion, the Gwinnett Extended Care Center, Glancy Rehabilitation Center, outpatient health centers, a surgical center, imaging centers, and outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy facilities. On September 2, 2015, Gwinnett Medical Center and Northside Hospital announced plans for a merger. Almost two years later in August 2017, both hospitals completed the proposed merger agreement and plan to have the five-hospital combined system operational in early 2018. With Gwinnett Medical Center's programs in cardiac care, trauma care, and sports medicine, and Northside's strength in women's healthcare and cancer care, the two systems will make a great fit in services.

GMC-Lawrenceville, the system's flagship hospital, provides the county's only trauma center and is one of 16 Level II Trauma Centers in the state. This location is also home to the Strickland Heart Center, where patients requiring electrophysiology, cardiac catheterization, and open heart surgery receive treatment. For more than 20 years, GMC has provided expert cardiovascular disease care.

GMC-Duluth is best known for its Sports Medicine Program, Concussion Institute, Center for Weight Management, and Glancy Rehabilitation Center, which offers inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services. The Concussion Institute is the most advanced center of its kind in the southeast. GMC-Duluth was the first all-digital hospital in north Atlanta. The facility continues to grow and evolve with its surrounding community. One example is offering resources such as Korean-language newspapers to accommodate the growing Korean community in Gwinnett.

Additionally, GMC boasts a graduate medical education program offering family medicine and internal medicine residency programs. This program is designed to address the critical physician shortage in Georgia.

GMC, in an effort to expand community outreach, added its Mobile Sports Medicine and Concussion Care-A-Van that is available to travel out to sports facilities, recreation centers, athletic events, and numerous other sites. The Care-A-Van includes baseline testing and care for sports related injuries. This mobile unit is the first of its kind in the state of Georgia. Gwinnett Medical Center and the Gwinnett County Board of Education partner together to provide sports medicine care at the high school level. Seventy-eight certified athletic trainers along with their team of sports medicine physicians care for more than 42,000 student athletes. The partnership benefits students and helps improve the school experience.

To further accessibility, GMC provides services at the Hamilton Mill location across from Duncan Creek public library in Hamilton Mill Station. This location includes primary care, cardiac care and women's services, and walk-in care and imaging services. In 2016, GMC opened Urgent Care Centers in partnership with ChoiceOne in Sugar Hill and Hamilton Mill. The two facilities offer onsite medication dispensing, along with state-of-the-art imaging technology and equipment. To learn more about how GMC is transforming healthcare, visit www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org.

Recognized nationally for patient safety with an 'A' grade by the Leapfrog Group's latest safety report, Eastside Medical Center has a team of 1,200 medical professionals and a medical staff of 500 physicians. Eastside's team serves thousands of patients each year – performing surgeries with the latest minimally-invasive techniques, bringing more than 1,500 babies into the world, and handling more than 65,000 emergency room visits. Serving the area since 1980, Eastside Medical Center is a 310-bed, multi-campus medical center offering comprehensive medical and surgical programs. Services at the main campus in Snellville include heart and vascular, neuroscience, cancer, orthopedics, spine, 24-hour adult and pediatric emergency, maternity, women's health, surgery, rehabilitation, and sleep medicine services. Eastside Medical Center's South Campus is just 10 minutes away and provides behavioral health care and rehabilitation services. The Wound Center, an outpatient care center dedicated to the treatment of non-healing wounds, moved to a new location at 2295 Ronald Regan Parkway in 2015. A dedicated Breast Imaging Center is located at 1700 Tree Lane in Snellville, which now offers low dose Genius™ 3D MAMMOGRAPHY™ exams. Using advanced breast tomosynthesis technology, Genius™ exams are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers, while simultaneously decreasing the number of women asked to return for additional testing. The Eastside Medical Group practice, Gwinnett Gynecology and Maternity, aims to meet the growing needs of women in Gwinnett County. Eastside Digital Imaging Center near Loganville offers an array of imaging services including MRI, CT, mammography, ultrasound, and more. In 2011, the hospital received the American Heart Association's Gold-Plus Stroke Performance Achievement Award for implementing high standards for stroke care. Notably, the Joint Commission has accredited Eastside as a Primary Stroke Center. In addition, the hospital has been designated a Bariatric Center of Excellence. A new patient tower opened in 2013 that features advanced technology including a hybrid operating suite and 48 surgical beds. Eastside Medical Center also offers a spine center and a center for surgical weight loss. In November 2016, Eastside was made a designated Lung Cancer Screening Center and the hospital's Comprehensive Diagnostic Imaging Program received accreditation by the American College of Radiology for low-dose CT scanning. As of May 2017, Eastside was given a distinction placing it among the top 5 percent of all short-term acute-care hospitals reporting patient safety data. The hospital was one of 18 in the state of Georgia awarded the 2017 Patient Safety Excellence Award.

Eastside announced in 2017 the addition of a new emergency department at its south campus on Fountain Drive. The hospital also opened three new urgent care centers at Sugarloaf Parkway, Killian Hill, and Centerville Highway. By late 2017, Eastside Heart and Vascular opened to patients at both the Snellville campus location and satellite offices throughout Gwinnett. Community-centered care spread across multiple admission points brings easy access to high quality healthcare using the latest techniques and access to shorter commutes.



Pediatric clinical care is conveniently provided in Gwinnett at multiple Children's Healthcare of Atlanta offices located in Snellville and Suwanee, and near Duluth and Hamilton Mill. To better serve the children and families of Gwinnett County, Children's Healthcare is committed to making kids better and healthier by providing after-hours patient care, on-site labs and X-rays for patients, online scheduling, and access to 60 pediatric specialties.

In July 2014, a health care provider focused on transitional care and short-term recovery opened in Suwanee. The facility, named Salude, offers 64 private rooms and bathrooms. In addition, offerings at Salude include a 2,800 plus square foot therapy space, 24/7 in room dining, grab-and-go café, and walking paths. The goal of Salude is to provide an option to short-term and transitional recovery care that focuses on patient comfort and experience. State-of-the-art rehabilitation and medication delivery systems are key to perfecting the recovery process. The maximum patient stay at Salude is 20 days.

High-quality healthcare is a focus of Gwinnett County. Having Salude's first transitional care model located in the county is an asset to the citizens' patient care and recovery.

Northeast Georgia Physicians Group has opened urgent care facilities in the cities of Dacula, Buford, and Braselton, and in the Hamilton Mill area. These health care providers are all a part of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS). Expansion into Gwinnett County offers a large potential patient base. Services include a standalone physicians group as well as access to specialists, ancillary services, and complete hospital services.

In close proximity to Gwinnett County is Emory Johns Creek Hospital. The 100-bed acute-care facility opened in 2007 and offers emergency medicine, a birth center with Level III neonatal intensive care and the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. In 2018, Emory Johns Creek Hospital opened a new Clinical Decision Unit and Radiology Observation Care Unit. The Clinical Decision Unit serves ER patients requiring extended care between 6 and 24 hours. Complicated procedures in interventional radiology, computed tomography, MRI, and ultrasound can be accessed through the Radiology Observation Care Unit.

Gwinnett County Health and Human Services supports the needs of residents through coordination with private and public organizations. It participates in the planning of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, provides services to Gwinnett's senior citizens, develops and manages one-stop service centers, and manages County funding for nonprofit and other governmental organizations. Numerous health centers throughout Gwinnett County offer medical care to residents who meet income and eligibility requirements.



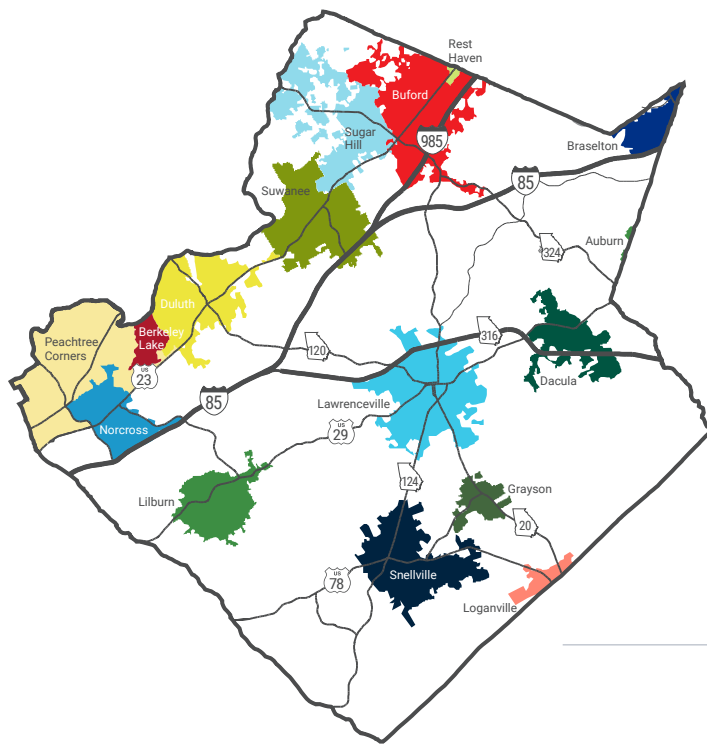
GOVERNMENT

Governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners, Gwinnett's local government is comprised of a chairman elected at-large and four commissioners elected by district for four-year terms. The Board of Commissioners appoints the County Administrator. To implement the Board's directives, the County Administrator uses a management team consisting of members of his immediate staff and 12 department directors. The 12 departments that make up the executive side of the county government are Police Services, Fire and Emergency Services, Corrections, Support Services, Financial Services, Community Services, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Law, Planning and Development, Water Resources, and Transportation. Each department is run by a director who is charged with managing departmental operations in a manner which stresses efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and customer service.

In addition to the internal departments that comprise the executive side of County government, certain services are provided to citizens through constitutional officers and independent elected officials. These external offices are created by the Georgia Constitution or through state law and are listed on page 2 under ["Elected Officials."](#)

While most administrative County government operations and courts are located in the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, some departments are located in the Annex Building, One Justice Square, and the Recorder's/Juvenile Court facility. As relocations and additions occur, the existing facilities undergo reconfigurations to better meet residents' needs. An expansion of the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is scheduled for construction in 2018. The project includes a new courthouse building of approximately 180,000 square feet and a new parking garage for approximately 1,500 vehicles. The building will house a jury assembly space, six court units, a prisoner holding area, and shell space for future growth. Design is underway, and the first elements of demolition and construction started in 2017. This project is funded by the General Government Capital Fund and the 2009 SPLOST program.








SPANNING **437 SQUARE MILES**, GWINNETT COUNTY HAS **16 MUNICIPALITIES** WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES.


IN 2017, AN ESTIMATED **938,799 PEOPLE** CALLED GWINNETT HOME.


SOURCE: WOODS & POOLE


 **Unincorporated:**
Population = 681,509


 **Auburn:** Located on U.S. Highway 29 between Lawrenceville and Athens, Auburn became a part of Gwinnett County in 1988, annexing 2,500 acres. (Population = 231*)


 **Berkeley Lake:** Established in 1956, Berkeley Lake is located near the Chattahoochee River and is mostly residential with wooded lots and rolling hills. (Population = 2,062)


 **Braselton:** Settled in 1876, part of this municipality is located within Gwinnett where property was annexed in 1989. It also extends into Barrow, Hall, and Jackson counties. (Population = 4,121*)


 **Buford:** Buford is Gwinnett's northern most city, with a small portion of the city in Hall County. It was founded in 1872 and originally developed as a railroad town. (Population = 13,280*)


 **Dacula:** Founded in 1891, a branch of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad was constructed from Dacula through Lawrenceville to Duluth. Elisha Winn is one of Gwinnett's early leaders, and his Dacula home served as a temporary first courthouse. (Population = 5,632)


 **Duluth:** In the early 1800s, this town was part of Cherokee Indian territory. In 1821, it developed as the town of Howell Crossing, and in 1873 the town name was changed to Duluth following completion of the railroad. (Population = 29,331)


 **Grayson:** Founded in 1880, Grayson is another city given birth by the railroad. The city was previously known as Berkely. (Population = 3,742)


 **Lawrenceville:** Incorporated in 1821, Lawrenceville is the county seat. (Population = 30,782)


 **Lilburn:** In 1892, a railroad stop known as the town of McDaniel developed. Renamed Lilburn in the early 1900s, this city is named after Lilburn Trigg Myers who was the general superintendent for the Seaboard Airline Railway. (Population = 12,675)


 **Loganville:** This town also started as a branch of the railroad in 1898 and is another city that Gwinnett shares with an adjoining county. (Population = 2,820*)


 **Norcross:** The second oldest city in Gwinnett, Norcross was founded as a resort town for wealthy Atlantans. Chartered in 1870, Norcross has an area of 112 acres listed in the U.S. Register of Historic Places. (Population = 16,787)

 **Peachtree Corners:** Established November 8, 2011, Peachtree Corners is the newest city in Gwinnett County. (Population = 42,773)

 **Rest Haven:** Incorporated in 1940, Rest Haven is one mile and a half wide. (Population = 34*)

 **Snellville:** In 1885, Snellville was founded by Thomas Snell and James Sawyer. It is located on U.S. Highway 78 in the southeastern corner of the County. (Population = 19,738)

 **Sugar Hill:** This town's name is said to have come from an incident in the 1800s when a freight wagon traveling down a steep hill spilled its load of sugar. The city was chartered in 1939. (Population = 22,197)

 **Suwanee:** Beginning as an Indian village and later developed as a railroad stop, Suwanee was officially founded in 1837 with the establishment of the post office. (Population = 19,421)

*Population within Gwinnett County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's July 1, 2016 population estimates

DID YOU KNOW

Button Gwinnett's signature is among the most valuable to collectors since fewer than 30 are known to exist. A Gwinnett signature most recently sold for \$800,000.