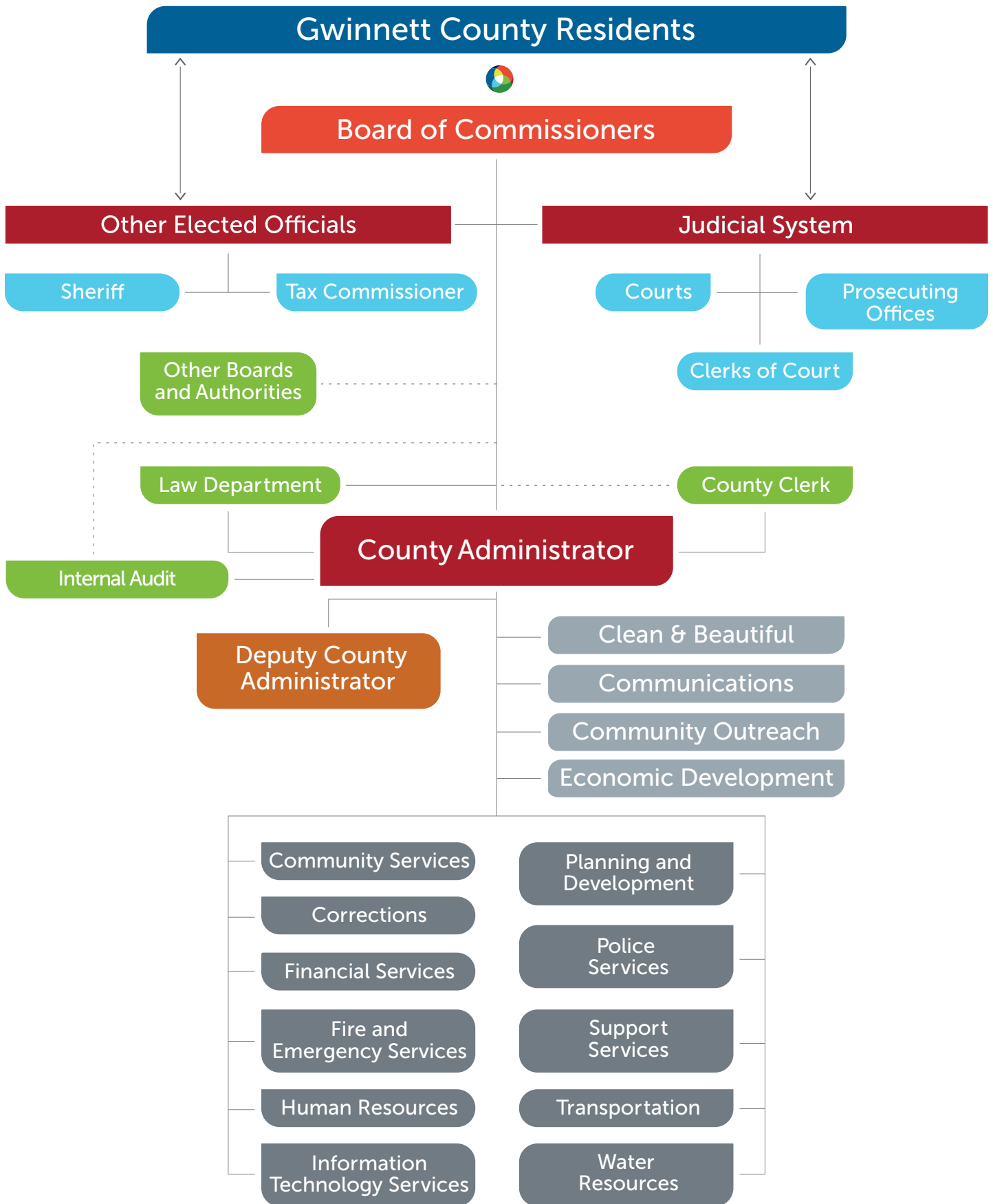


# INTRODUCTION

*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

**Acting County Attorney**

Mike Ludwiczak

**Community Services**

Tina Fleming, *Director*

**Corrections**

Darrell Johnson, *Warden*

**Financial Services**

Maria Woods, *CFO/Director*

**Fire and Emergency Services**

Chief Russell Knick

**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 Hammer Blum

**Probate Court Judge**

Christopher A. Ballar

**Sheriff**

R.L. "Butch" Conway

**Solicitor**

Brian Whiteside

**Tax Commissioner**

Richard Steele

**State Court Judges**

Pamela D. South, *Chief Judge*

Carla E. Brown

John F. Doran Jr.

Emily J. Brantley

Shawn F. Bratton

Ronda Colvin Leary

Howard E. Cook, *Senior Judge*

Joseph C. Iannazzone, *Senior Judge*

Robert W. Mock Sr., *Senior Judge*

**Superior Court Judges**

George F. Hutchinson III, *Chief Judge*

Melodie Snell Conner

Tracie H. Cason

R. Timothy Hamil

Ronnie K. Batchelor

Tracey D. Mason

Warren Davis

Karen E. Beyers

Kathryn M. Schrader

Randolph G. Rich

K. Dawson Jackson, *Senior Judge*

Fred A. Bishop Jr., *Senior Judge*

Debora K. Turner, *Senior Judge*

Tom Davis, *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

Ramon Alvarado

**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, 2018. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, 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, 2018**

*Christopher P. Morill*

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 50<sup>th</sup> county to be organized in the state and is the 50<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state in landmass covering 437 square miles and approximately 280,000 acres of land.

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. His 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 and most companies were downsizing, the tannery prospered reaching a peak employment level of 2,400 workers. The 1930 Census recorded a County population of 29,087.

## POPULATION

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. Growth slowed during the recessions of 1990 and 2007, but the influx of new residents and businesses continued. The county's population in 2018 stood at an estimated 950,807, up nearly 20 percent from 2009. Today Gwinnett County is the second most populous county in the state of Georgia (Sources: Woods & Poole and U.S. Census Bureau), and its population is expected to reach more than one million by the year 2021.

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 lines in the 1970s, which proved to be an essential step in preparing for the next decade. The 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. 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.



From December 15, 2017, through December 15, 2018, the County organized a bicentennial celebration to celebrate and further Gwinnett's legacy. The County commemorated its bicentennial year in 2018 by honoring our shared history, recognizing and remembering the people who made and make our community great, and highlighting the vision for our promising future.

While celebrating its bicentennial, the County simultaneously launched a re-branding campaign with a new logo that celebrates the diversity and vibrancy that continues to drive success. The new brand's overlapping layers represent the interconnectedness of the Gwinnett community, as well as connections to the state, the nation, and the world. The logo represents the unique identity the County has made for itself as a manifestation of the American dream, offering opportunities to pursue professional, intellectual, and educational endeavors in an environment that encourages innovation and change, yet still values all perspectives. At the center of the logo 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.



# OUR STORY

**1818** Gwinnett County formed by an act of the Georgia General Assembly



**1868** RH Allen Tannery opening, Gwinnett's first major industry

**1885** Historic Gwinnett County courthouse constructed

**1891** The Georgia, Carolina, and Northern Railway (now CSX) is built



**1956** The gates of Buford Dam are closed, creating Lake Lanier

**1965** Section of I-85 between South Carolina and Suwanee completed

**1984** Gwinnett Place Mall opens

**1986 – 1988** Gwinnett County is the fastest growing county in the United States with a population over 100,000

**1996** Atlanta and Georgia host the Centennial Summer Olympics

**2000** Population: 588,448

**2001** Gwinnett County Transit begins operations



**2009** Gwinnett Stadium (now Coolray Field) opens

**2010** Population: 808,719

**2018** Population: 950,807

**2040** Population estimates range from 1.29 to 1.56 million

**1820** First U.S. Census including Gwinnett County; Population: 4,589

**1850** Population: 11,257

**1871** The Danville and Piedmont Air Line railroad (now Norfolk Southern) is built, inducing the founding of Norcross, Duluth, Suwanee, and Buford

**1900** Population: 25,585



**1960** Population: 43,541

**1970** Population: 72,349

**1980** Population: 166,903

**1988** Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center opens

**1990** Population: 352,910

**1999** Mall of Georgia opens

**2001** Discover Mills (now Sugarloaf Mills) opens

**2003** Gwinnett Arena (now Infinite Energy Arena) opens



**2018** Gwinnett County celebrates its bicentennial

*Decennial (every 10 years) population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 population estimate from Woods & Poole.*



## PUBLIC SAFETY

The Gwinnett County Police Department has an authorized strength of 879 sworn officers, supported by 292 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 2019 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. This commitment includes the construction of the new Bay Creek Police precinct and an alternate E-911 center to better serve the citizens of Gwinnett County.

The Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services responded to 83,170 calls for assistance in 2018. The department has 961 authorized personnel and operates 31 strategically located fire stations including 31 engines, 11 ladder trucks, and 29 Advanced Life Support (ALS) medical units. 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. In 2018, the department maintained accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International from the Center for Public Safety Excellence and a Public Protection Classification of 2/2x from the Insurance Service Office.



The Department of Corrections has 136 authorized personnel, including an authorized strength of 119 sworn officers supported by 17 non-sworn officers. The department 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.

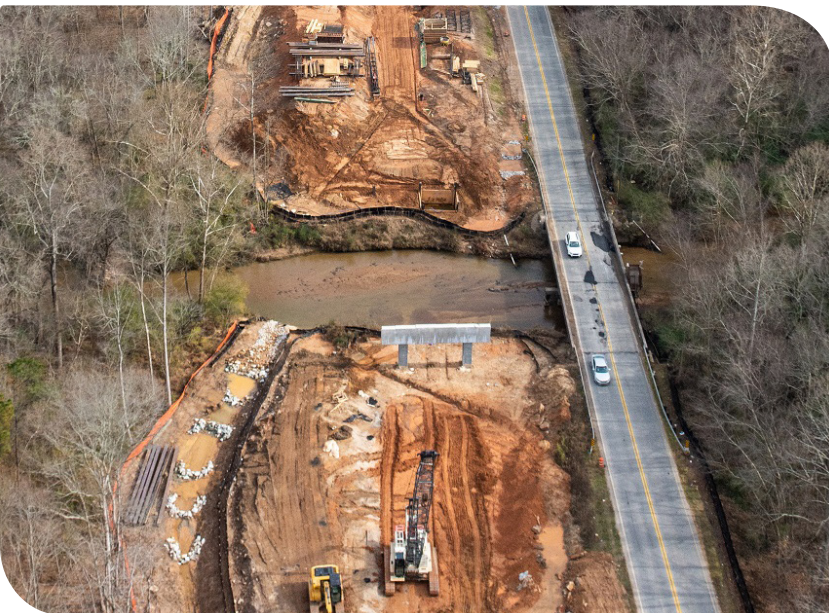
The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office has an authorized strength of 601 sworn officers supported by 176 non-sworn employees. The office continually strives to maintain the highest law enforcement standards possible and is committed to providing the community with professional, efficient law enforcement 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](http://www.gwinnettcountysheriff.com).



## TRANSPORTATION

Gwinnett County's infrastructure includes more than 2,600 miles of roads, with more than 720 signalized intersections. The 2019 capital budget and 2020 – 2024 Transportation Capital Improvement Plan totals approximately \$432.9 million.

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 2018, the County began construction on a number of projects including the widening of Cruse Road from Club Drive to Paden Drive; the New Hope Road at Archer High School school safety, sidewalk, and bridge project; and the Holcomb Bridge Road at Thrasher Street intersection and railroad crossing project. The Cruse Road widening will provide significant operational and safety improvements. The New Hope Road at Archer High School project will provide a new bridge along with school safety and pedestrian improvements along the corridor. The Holcomb Bridge Road at Thrasher Street intersection and railroad crossing project will provide a significant safety improvement to the Holcomb Bridge Road railroad crossing in downtown Norcross. In addition, engineering is underway on the new interchange at McGinnis Ferry Road and I-85.

In 2018, the County oversaw the resurfacing of 140 miles of roadway covering 520 total streets. The Operations and Maintenance Division staff completed 14 in-house, quick-fix projects that installed more than 3,600 feet of sidewalk, 9,360 feet of concrete curb, and four minor intersection improvements. The Traffic Engineering Division began construction of four SPLOST-funded Advanced Traffic Management System/Intelligent Transportation System (ATMS/ITS) projects. Together, these projects will add 28 miles of fiber, 54 cameras to the ATMS, and connect 30 signals to the Traffic Control Center (TCC) along the following corridors: Five Forks Trickum Road, Old Peachtree Road, Ronald Reagan Parkway, and SR 316/University Parkway.



In 2019, a few projects of significance include the Dacula Road at US 29/SR 8/Winder Highway bridge and intersection improvement project and the Harbins Road at SR 316 Interchange project, both of which have begun advertising for bids and will begin construction in 2019. These projects along with the Pleasant Hill Road widening project (construction began January 2019), the SR 324/Gravel Springs at I-85 interchange (project ready for February 2019 bid), and the bridge projects at Whitehead Road, Springdale Road, and at Bailey Road (all scheduled for early 2019 construction) will provide significant infrastructure improvements.

For 2019, both the Operations and Maintenance Division and the Traffic Engineering Division have a number of significant projects. The 2019 resurfacing program will include nearly 150 miles of roadway covering more than 600 total streets. The Operations Maintenance Division has identified over 15 quick-fix projects that will include bridge rehabilitation, curb installations, sidewalk installations with curb ramps, and turn lane extensions or additions. Some of these projects will be in conjunction with new traffic signal installations in partnership with Traffic Engineering staff. Others will be on state routes and require coordination with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). For 2019, the major project for the Traffic Engineering Division is the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Smart Corridor. This project will start construction during the summer and will add connected vehicle technology along a major commuter corridor as a pilot project. Construction will also begin for pedestrian crossing improvements at nearly a dozen locations, including school crossings and transit stops. In addition, engineering will begin on five ATMS/ITS projects slated for construction to begin in 2021.

Gwinnett County Transit operates five express bus routes during morning and afternoon peak travel times Monday through Friday and seven 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 the 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, 33 local buses, seven paratransit vehicles, and seven microtransit/flex vehicles. In 2018, the transit system transported more than 1.5 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 2018 – 2019 school year, the district is expected to serve 180,320 students. One in every five Gwinnett County residents is a GCPS student. With more than 22,000 employees, GCPS is the largest employer in Gwinnett County and one of the largest in the state of Georgia. For fiscal year 2019, the school board adopted a \$2.193 billion budget. In fiscal year 2019, the average annual cost to educate one student is \$9,463. GCPS is one of only 24 school districts in the nation with a triple-A bond rating.

GCPS is made up of 140 schools, including 80 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, 22 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 Mill Creek High, North Gwinnett Middle, and Jackson Elementary.

In August 2018, GCPS opened in the Norcross cluster its first theme school with Paul Duke STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) High School. As a STEM-themed school, programs of focus include applied engineering and robotics; communication, art, and design; and cyber security. GCPS is in preparation mode for the opening of another themed school, the Meadowcreek Cluster Health Science High School, which is set to open in August 2019. The health sciences themed school will offer coursework in patient care, allied health, health informatics, and advanced medicine. The new theme schools provide students learning paths beyond the regular core curriculum. Included in these paths are college course credits and industry certifications.

Phoenix High School, an alternative to the traditional high school program, opened a second location at Sugarloaf Mills in August 2018. The school offers a non-traditional setting with work-based learning opportunities for students committed to completing their education, but need additional support to be successful. Students needing transportation are able to use Gwinnett Transit routes that stop at Sugarloaf.

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 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. 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. The Class of 2018 was one of the largest, most distinguished, and most decorated. This class of seniors has the distinction of being the first to be born in the new millennium. Of the more than 12,600 graduates, 84 percent plan to continue their education. During high school, 7,100 took AP classes and 3,246 graduated with honors.

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. In 2017, GCPS earned the distinction as a "Great District for Great Teachers" and was named College Board Advanced Placement District of the Year. For 2018, Niche.com, a website ranking schools by academics, culture and diversity, and teacher performance, rated Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology one of the top 10 public high schools in the United States. The 2018 annual College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scored Gwinnett County Public Schools higher than the state average. CCRPI scores show how well schools are doing at preparing students for college or careers. In addition, GCPS and its school board were named the inaugural winner of the *Governance Team of the Year Award* for 2018. The award recognizes school boards that demonstrate a commitment to maximizing student achievement and enhancing trust and support for public education in the community. For more information on Gwinnett County Public Schools, go to [www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us](http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us).

Gwinnett is also home to several colleges and universities, such as Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett Technical College, the University of Georgia Gwinnett campus, DeVry University Duluth Center, Shorter University Gwinnett campus, and the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, the county is home to Gwinnett College (formally known as Gwinnett College of Business at Lilburn), Ashworth College at Norcross, and Empire Beauty School in Lawrenceville. For students interested in instrumental instruction and the recording arts, the Atlanta Institute of Music and Media can be found in Gwinnett County off Breckinridge Boulevard near Duluth.



The University of Georgia (UGA) Gwinnett campus is located near Sugarloaf Parkway and I-85 and its curriculum includes graduate programs and continuing education. UGA'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. Twelve years later, the school has more than 130 student organizations, an average class size of 21, more than 45 concentrations of study, and 17 programs of study. In the spring of 2018, GGC graduated its largest class at its annual commencement with more than 530 students. The 2018 fall enrollment reached 13,455. Fall 2018 commencement highlighted Chairman Nash with her presentation of the ceremony's keynote address.

Almost 70 percent of GGC students are from Gwinnett—the college enrolls more Gwinnett students than any other institution. Students are offered on-campus housing with apartment style living quarters. 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. Per *U.S. News & World Report* magazine, it is the most ethnically diverse southern regional college. In the *U.S. News & World Report* publication for its 2019 Best Colleges rankings, the Lawrenceville-based college ranked among the south's 10 best public regional colleges. GGC is also among the top schools in the state of Georgia for local economic impact. Included in Georgia Gwinnett's impact are 4,240 jobs at the college. Almost two off-campus jobs are generated from each job created on campus. In addition, the student body has spent \$251.9 million and the college has spent \$44.7 million. The Gwinnett Chamber *IMPACT Regional Business Award for Education* was given to the GGC School of Business in 2018. The college has had a nearly \$2 billion cumulative (across multiple years) impact on the community's economy.

To keep up with the Georgia film industry impact, the college created a Bachelor of Arts in Cinema and Media Arts in 2017. 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 graduates are looking to get a competitive edge in the movie business. 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 common associations with the arts and education with a visible connection or network. Construction began May 2018 on a 2.2-mile linear park connecting downtown Lawrenceville with GGC. The plan is to create Gwinnett's first "college town" with multi-use trails, bike paths, roundabouts, and landscaping.

Gwinnett Technical College opened in 1984 as Gwinnett Area Technical School. Since then, the school has made two name changes and expanded its course offerings to include more than 140 different associate degrees, diploma, and certificate programs. 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. It is now one of the state's largest technical colleges and the county's largest provider of corporate training. This correlates with the school being recognized with four Best of Gwinnett 2017 Awards in the following categories—Best in Higher Education, Best Child Care Center, Best Continuing Education Programs, and Best Meeting and Event Facility. In 2018, for a third consecutive year, Gwinnett Technical College recorded its highest enrollment with more than 12,000 students across two locations, one at Sugarloaf Parkway in Lawrenceville and the other at the new Alpharetta-North Fulton campus. Of the current student population, an estimated 68.8 percent live in Gwinnett County and 64.2 percent are members of a minority group. Females make up



approximately 59.8 percent of student enrollment. Military veterans, high school students dually enrolled and participating in The Move On When Ready program, and participants in new programs across high demand fields such as engineering and cybersecurity will continue to find support through the college's services. With Gwinnett Tech's mission of workforce development and its Launch Pointe program, which provides resources for internships, apprenticeships, networking and career coaching, enrollment should continue to grow and sustain an already existing job placement rate of 99 percent.

Devry University Duluth offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs online, on-campus, and in innovative connected classrooms. Located near Fortune 500 corporate headquarters and major financial institutions, Devry opens the door for its students to explore many career possibilities across a range of industries.

Shorter University was one of the first to offer evening programs for adults in the Metro-Atlanta area. Its Duluth location has degrees available at the Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's levels. Shorter Duluth is designed to assist adults who work and is a part of Shorter's College of Adult and Professional Programs (CAPP).

In 2005, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine opened a Georgia campus in Suwanee near I-85. The state-of-the-art campus offers health-related degree programs. These degrees consist of a doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of pharmacy, biomedical sciences, and physical assistant studies. The facility houses research and multi-use basic science laboratories, an anatomy laboratory, a Simulation Center, three pharmacy practice labs, and a practice suite for osteopathic manipulative medicine. In addition, the campus is home to the Georgia Osteopathic Care Center, a clinic open to the public.

Founded in 1976 and purchased by LTE Enterprises in 1995, Gwinnett College, once known as Gwinnett College of Business, began to offer associate degree programs in 2003. In hopes of offering technical skills for entry-level positions for vocational students, the college broadened its technical programs across the medical, legal, business, and natural health and massage careers.

Located at The Corners Parkway in Norcross, Ashworth College offers online degrees, certificates, and career training diplomas. Known for its career-focused distance education, the institution offers students another avenue to achieve educational goals for vocational training.

The Empire Beauty School in Lawrenceville offers training with licensed beauty educators for those looking to become licensed cosmetologists. To help students pass the state exam, the school provides a student salon with real clients. In addition to technical training, students learn the business side of the industry and gain real-world training by participating in fashion and beauty shows.

The Gwinnett County Public Library system, established in 1935, has grown to 15 full-service branches. In 2017, the Hamilton Mill branch was recognized as one of the 10 Most Beautiful Libraries in Georgia by the Georgia Public Library Services. The GCPL system was named a 2017 finalist for an IMPACT Regional Business Award. The library system was also recognized as a top innovator in customer service in 2017 with the creation of its Customer Contact Center, and was awarded a 2017 and 2018 Top Workplaces, Workplace Achiever honor by the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. GCPL received a National Achievement Award for Best in Category for Homegrown Gwinnett in July 2018—the Best in Category award recognized a community gardening initiative that provided each branch with an aeroponic Tower Garden system. And, in 2018, GCPL was recognized for its innovative and effective county government programs that strengthen resident services with a Best in Category Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties.



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.

In 2017, the County's library system launched Connect Gwinnett, a program that allows library patrons to check out WiFi 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.

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. All 15 branches have been equipped with evidence-based Learning Alive kits from Alive Studios. This software developer uses a technology called augmented reality (3D without glasses) to bring reading and math lessons to life. The County's library system is the first public library in the country to roll out this program.

Looking to find a long-lost relative can be easy with the help of GCPL's new databases that include Findmypast, Fold3, and Gale Genealogy Connect. The databases supply online family history records and military records. The genealogy resources have proven to be a useful tool during the County's bicentennial celebration. In addition, learning labs, video/sound/edit equipment and 3D printers are offered at a number of GCPL branches.

Gwinnett County Public Library is committed to meeting the needs of the whole community when and where they need resources the most. Computer sessions statistics remained in the millions at more than 1.8 million while WiFi access was up from 850,409 in 2017 to 907,701 in 2018.

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. The partnership resulted in an uptick in the percentage of the county's population with a library card and increased access to resources; in particular, electronic resources. 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. Students can transfer previously earned high school credit and have up to 18 months to finish the program.

## 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 more than 35,000 businesses that range in size from sole proprietorships/entrepreneurial startups to multi-billion dollar corporations. In a January 2018 *Atlanta Business Chronicle* article called "Gwinnett County a model for future business," Masino refers to the county as a "true living laboratory for enterprise and lifestyle." The county's diversity across living areas, shopping developments, roadways and populations offers companies a unique mix to test their ideas, products, and concepts. Even haunted houses find the county to be a great location. NETHERWORLD, one of the best haunted attractions in the world and one of the top haunted houses in the nation, expanded operations in Gwinnett as of 2018. Located in the Evermore Community Improvement District at West Park Place Boulevard, NETHERWORLD's expansion will equate to more than 400 seasonal jobs and includes year-round attractions such as themed event spaces, a monster museum, and escape game rooms.





The county is quickly becoming a hub for tech jobs in information technology solutions, healthcare 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 home to the corporate headquarters of Waffle House, a well-known restaurant chain famous for its scattered and smothered entrees. In 2018, the County issued 17,648 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 numerous 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. Aluvision, Inc., a leading Belgium manufacture of modular aluminum exhibit systems, chose Gwinnett as the site for its first U.S. location in 2015. 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. In March 2018 the Swiss manufacturing company, Gezolan, selected Gwinnett County to expand its U.S. operations. The Switzerland-based manufacturer makes rubber granules used in rubber flooring. Plans include opening a 60,000-square-foot facility in Buford off Hamilton Mill Road and an investment of \$12 million. Gezolan's sister company, Kraiburg, TPE, has been located in Buford for the past 15 years. Growing off this relationship, along with the county's infrastructure and logistic resources, should prove to be a successful investment.

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 a 3,000 square foot tasting room. Residents no longer have to drive down to Atlanta or Athens to a brewery. And, the brewery will play a key role in Lawrenceville's plans for developing north of the downtown square.

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.

In June 2018, TTEC, a customer experience technology and services provider, announced plans to open its first Georgia customer engagement center in Gwinnett. Plans are to open in an existing facility on Breckinridge Boulevard in Duluth. Assurant, which provides risk management products and services, opened a tech support center in Duluth in May 2018. Late in 2018, Hapag-Lloyd, the fifth-largest shipping company in the world, announced plans to expand its Gwinnett operations with a \$5.5-million investment over two years and the creation of 363 new jobs. County officials note that when an existing business chooses to expand their organization it is paying

the county the greatest compliment. Investing in Gwinnett has become part of a decision to find a central location to reduce 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 to the Port of Savannah should make this possible. Also, Gwinnett demonstrates the benefits of site selection with not only its strategic location, but its infrastructure and talent base.

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. According to an *Atlanta Business Chronicle* article written in January 2018, 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. No wonder Gwinnett is home to more than 600 internationally-based companies. The foreign direct investment in the local economy equals \$78.5 million. And, the final investment means job creation and workforce development. The old saying used to be, "If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere." Gwinnett hopes to be a similar gauge for the global marketplace. Companies that succeed in Gwinnett with its innovative culture and global diversity should find themselves ready to advance in the global marketplace of tomorrow.

Gwinnett County is also growing its commitment to the research and technology industry. Most notable is the expansion of Gwinnett's Innovation District along Highway 316 to the Barrow County line. The corridor is a multi-county group designed to pursue biotechnology development along the University Parkway. In addition, the County has approved a mixed-use office and retail development on Highway 316 near Dacula and Sugarloaf Crossing.

Similar 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 in 2001, The Forum on Peachtree Parkway in 2002, and The Shoppes at 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 revitalization projects include repurposing retail and construction of high-rise buildings along with residential development. Together, the County and the CID are proposing studies for ACTivate Gwinnett Place that include a possible connector bridge between McDaniel Farm Park and Gwinnett Place Mall. The Mall of Georgia has its own current projects that include work on The Dining Pavilion and The Village renovation. In June 2018, the Mall of Georgia unveiled these renovations. Using a new modern design, patrons will find bar-height seating and communal-style tables in the dining area. The Village now offers a newly designed play area for children along with a new sound system and synthetic turf for its amphitheater. In addition to its ranking as the largest mall in the state with more than 200 stores and an IMAX theater, the Buford-based shopping center is now on a list of top malls across each U.S. state. *USA Today* named Mall of Georgia as the state's best mall in fall 2018.



For residents and visitors desiring upscale chains and boutiques in an outdoor mall with a European feel, The Forum on Peachtree Parkway is an ideal shopping area. On the other hand, for those looking for entertainment and dining, Sugarloaf Mills is perfect with options that include Medieval Times Dinner Theater and Atlanta's largest Dave & Buster's. Sugarloaf Mills began a new College Student Discount Program for local students in summer 2018. 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 the downtown areas also host numerous concerts and festivals.

Explore Gwinnett, the county's official travel office, is focused on keeping tourism spending above \$1 billion. And, 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. Occupancy at the more than 100 hotels located in the county was at 73.8 percent for 2018. 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.

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 companies find Gwinnett County's easy access to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport a plus, and the area's versatility is a major draw. Home to commuter communities and upscale suburbs, the county's landscape is lined with historical and rustic settings intertwined with new commercial and industrial development. The film industry is cashing in on these numerous options. 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." In September 2018, downtown Lawrenceville was a filming site for Warner Brothers' "Doom Patrol," a streaming television series. "Stranger Things," a Netflix series and 80s era TV show, filmed its third season at Gwinnett Place Mall in May 2018. The Gwinnett courthouse hosted Mark Wahlberg and his movie set in spring 2018 while filming courtroom scenes for the film "Instant Family."

Productions are also being filmed at our Parks and Recreation facilities, courthouse, county jail, and the Infinite Energy Center/Arena. Other popular locations include malls, historic downtown areas across the county's cities, outer rural areas, and warehouses. Ninety-five permits were issued by the county for 48 film projects in 2017. 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. In addition, the County closed on a purchase in December 2018 of more than half of the OFS Brightwave Solutions site on I-85 at Jimmy Carter Boulevard. The location has been used for more than 35 movie and TV productions in recent years. The purchase along with continued revenues from ongoing film production and payments from an office space lease with OFS at one of the existing buildings will help promote site redevelopment for a possible urban style mixed use community and a multimodal transit station.

## RECREATION & THE ARTS

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation 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 41,887 young athletes. Parks and Recreation also partners with healthcare providers, Live Healthy Gwinnett, and other Community Services divisions to promote community health and wellness programs. In 2018, GCPR offered 7,794 activities and hosted 11,201 facility rentals.

Currently GCPR operates 51 parks and facilities that include 183 multi-purpose sports fields, 59 tennis courts, 41 outdoor basketball courts, 24 sand volleyball courts, five year-round and seven seasonal aquatic facilities, 24 dog park areas, 183 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 2018, Gwinnett parkland totaled 9,908 acres for both passive and active parks and boasted 12 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 preservations 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, the University of Georgia, and 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 five special exhibits and conducted 161,274 educational contact hours in 2018. 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.

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. In March 2017, Aurora Theatre opened a satellite office behind Central Gwinnett High School to allow for collaborative projects between school, theatre, and community. To further bring the arts, educational opportunities, and community together, Aurora Theatre has unveiled plans for an expansion. Going into 2019, the expansion's design plans could reach a cost of \$26 million with a targeted completion date in 2020. The project includes a cabaret theater, practice rooms, classes, and office space. It will also include one of Georgia's largest live performing art stages. Well into its 22<sup>nd</sup> season and producing on two stages, the theatre received 31 Suzi Bass Award nominations in 2018. Downtown historic Norcross is home to the Lionheart Theatre Company. Volunteer operated and nonprofit, Lionheart is a leading community theatre in the metro area. In addition to the entertainment value, attending a performance at the Lionheart Theatre includes an additional perk—all tickets include complimentary coffee and dessert at intermission. 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 Company is located in 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 Gwinnett residents to enjoy and support the arts in their local neighborhoods.

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 magnet for local visitors and tourists. Gwinnett's growth and welcoming customer base has drawn numerous chefs to the suburbs. Typical Atlanta neighborhood restaurants are cropping up all over the county's cities. Also, the county is bursting with ethnic restaurants and ethnic dishes across its diverse communities. Classic Indian, Vietnamese, European, and Arabic dishes, among many others, can be found close to home. Residents and visitors looking for a unique culinary experience can check out the many food trucks rolling through the county. For a change from traditional restaurants, downtown Duluth offers a new concept of Truck & Tap, which offers a different food truck each day.

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 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 Infinite Energy 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. Described as "Downtown Gwinnett," plans include a movie theater, residential units, office space, and retail. Plans are to construct a four-star hotel as part of the Infinite Energy Center build out. The design is intended to connect a full-service 300-room Marriott hotel to the arena and convention center and will develop the 110-acre entertainment district into an experience that is unique to Gwinnett County creating a vibrant shopping, dining, and entertainment destination for county residents. This is an opportunity to promote tourism and attract visitors with a project guided by five principles: 1) being festive, 2) being welcoming, 3) being vibrant, 4) being diverse, and 5) being a hub of activity. The development, called Revel, is expected to break ground in the coming year. While North American Properties is working on developing and building, County officials will be working on the construction of parking decks that will replace the parking lot space lost to the Revel development.



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. Accompanying the rebranding initiative 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 (NLL) team, the Georgia Swarm, with an introductory press conference. Their inaugural game was held January 9, 2016. The NLL plays 18 regular season games followed by the Champion's Cup Playoffs. In June 2017, the Georgia Swarm defeated the two-time defending champions to claim the National Lacrosse League's Championship Cup. The arena is also 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, Mariah Carey, and Eric Clapton. Disney On Ice and the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championships are also hosted at the campus. In 2017, Rock 'n' Roll legend Paul McCartney was added to the list. In celebration of his inaugural Gwinnett performance, the County named a road after the former Beatle. In 2018, the Irish rock band U2 performed to a sold-out crowd of more than 12,000. This show set the record for highest grossing single event in the history of the arena.

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. In October 2018, the facility was named to Billboard's 2018 Arena Power List. Based on a 12-month gross of total ticket sales ranking, the arena placed number eight in the top 10 arenas in the 10,001 to 15,000-seat capacity. Located conveniently in the midst of the premier Sugarloaf business district and off I-85 at Sugarloaf Parkway, the center is close to shopping and dining suitable to consumers of all types.

In addition to the Infinite Energy Arena, Gwinnett has other establishments 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 facilities.

With four professional sports teams based in Gwinnett, the county also accommodates sports enthusiasts. In 2009, the Atlanta Braves' Triple-A affiliate, formerly called the Gwinnett Braves (now called the Gwinnett Stripers), 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 2018 season marked the 10<sup>th</sup> season of play since the stadium opened. Coolray Field has provided the community with hundreds of new jobs, and the Gwinnett Stripers have been active with donations and fundraising for local nonprofit organizations.

In late fall 2017, it was announced that Atlanta United FC would bring a professional soccer team, Atlanta United 2, to Gwinnett County. Atlanta United 2 played 17 home games in the 2018 season at Coolray field. Growth of soccer as a youth sport in the county and growth in the professional sports market should continue to expand in correlation to an increase in the county's population and sports fan base.

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 residents and visitors.



Source: Explore Gwinnett

# HEALTHCARE

Gwinnett Health System is the parent company of Gwinnett Medical Center, Gwinnett Medical Group, and Sequent Health Physician Partners. According to its 2017 Annual Report, GHS employs more than 5,000 associates and has more than 880 affiliated physicians serving more than 600,000 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. Redefining healthcare has been a top priority of the Gwinnett Health System. In 2017, 24-hour online scheduling for all GMC primary care practices was debuted. GMC Primary Care & Specialty Center-Suwanee and an innovative Back Pain Center opened in 2017 as well.

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. In 2017, GMC received a four-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It is one of only two hospitals in metro Atlanta to receive a four-star rating or better. The rating is indicative of effective and efficient care for non-emergency healthcare. In 2017, Nurse.org, a career site for nurses on the web, recognized Gwinnett Medical Center as one of the best hospitals in Georgia for nurses to work. The birth center at Gwinnett Women's Pavilion was recognized as a Baby-Friendly facility in March 2017. Also in 2017, the American Stroke Association awarded GMC with the *Stroke Gold Plus Award*. As recently as summer 2018, a national study by Indeed.com recognized GMC as one of America's 25 best hospitals to work for. With a ranking of 19<sup>th</sup>, GMC was one of only two Georgia facilities to earn a spot in the top 25.

In 2015, Gwinnett Health System and Northside Hospital announced plans for a merger, and the merger was approved February 12, 2019, after years of delay. Expected to be operational by summer 2019, the Northside-Gwinnett combined system will have more than 21,000 employees and 3,500 physicians.



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.

In an effort to expand community outreach, GMC introduced a Mobile Sports Medicine and Concussion Care-A-Van in 2017. The Care-A-Van is able to travel out to sports facilities, recreation centers, athletic events, and numerous other sites, and it 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. As of late 2017, 78 certified athletic trainers along with a team of sports medicine physicians were caring for more than 42,000 student athletes. Currently, GMC provides full-time certified athletic trainers (ATCs) at 18 local high schools. 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, women's services, walk-in care, and imaging services. In 2016, GMC opened Urgent Care Centers in partnership with ChoiceOne in Sugar Hill and Hamilton Mill. Both centers went on to be the first in the state to receive accreditation by the Urgent Care Association of America. 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](http://www.gwinnettmedicalcenter.org).

Recognized nationally for patient safety with an 'A' grade by the Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Report, Eastside Medical Center has a team of 1,200 medical professionals and a medical staff of 500 physicians. Recent stats place hospital admissions at more than 12,000 and annual ER visits at more than 66,000. 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 healthcare 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 Breast Imaging and Diagnostic Center has been designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the FDA. 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. Accredited as a Primary Stroke Center, Eastside has been given the Gold Plus status for stroke care. In addition, the hospital has been designated a Bariatric Center of Excellence. A patient tower opened in 2013 that features advanced technology including a hybrid operating suite and 48 surgical beds. Eastside Med-

ical Center also offers a spine center and a center for surgical weight loss. The hospital recently earned the Blue Distinction Centers Program for spine surgery. 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. In 2017 and 2018, the medical center was a recipient of the *Healthgrades Patient Safety Excellence Award*. This places Eastside among the top 5 percent of all short-term acute care hospitals reporting safety data.

Eastside Medical Center now has two emergency room locations that serve Gwinnett County families. The Main Campus ER has 45 private treatment rooms and eight pediatric rooms. Its location provides patients with easy access to Ronald Reagan Parkway and Scenic Highway. The new South Campus ER has 11 private treatment rooms. Located on Fountain Drive, patients have access to via Highway 78 and Scenic Highway.



Eastside opened a fourth urgent care facility in summer 2018 in Grayson. Three other urgent care centers in Lawrenceville, Snellville, and Lilburn opened in 2017. Multiple locations around the county provide easy access close to where people live and work. By late 2017, Eastside Heart and Vascular Center 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 is committed to making kids better and healthier by providing after-hours patient care, onsite labs and X-rays for patients, online scheduling, and access to 60 pediatric specialties.

In July 2014, a healthcare 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.



Northeast Georgia Physicians Group has opened urgent care facilities in the cities of Dacula, Buford, and Braselton, and in the Hamilton Mill area. These healthcare 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 six and 24 hours. Complicated procedures in interventional radiology, computed tomography, MRI, and ultrasound can be accessed through the Radiology Observation Care Unit.

To provide an affordable healthcare alternative to citizens, the Hope Clinic was created in 2002 by Dr. William Martin and is located in Lawrenceville. The clinic is a nonprofit internal medicine clinic that provides care to the uninsured, underinsured, and indigent in Gwinnett County. In 2017, the clinic provided more than 9,000 appointments. The Hope Clinic offers reduced fees on a sliding scale that takes into consideration the patient's income. The clinic is an important contributor to the county's healthcare safety net.

Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett is another nonprofit organization that provides affordable and accessible health and dental services to the uninsured and underinsured in our community. Located in Norcross, the clinic is designed to be affordable and provide routine non-emergency services. In 2017, the clinic served more than 25,000 patients.

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 at Buford, Centerville, and Norcross, and manages County funding for nonprofit and other governmental organizations. These integrated County health and human services centers, along with other centers located throughout the county, offer programs for low-income individuals, families, and seniors.



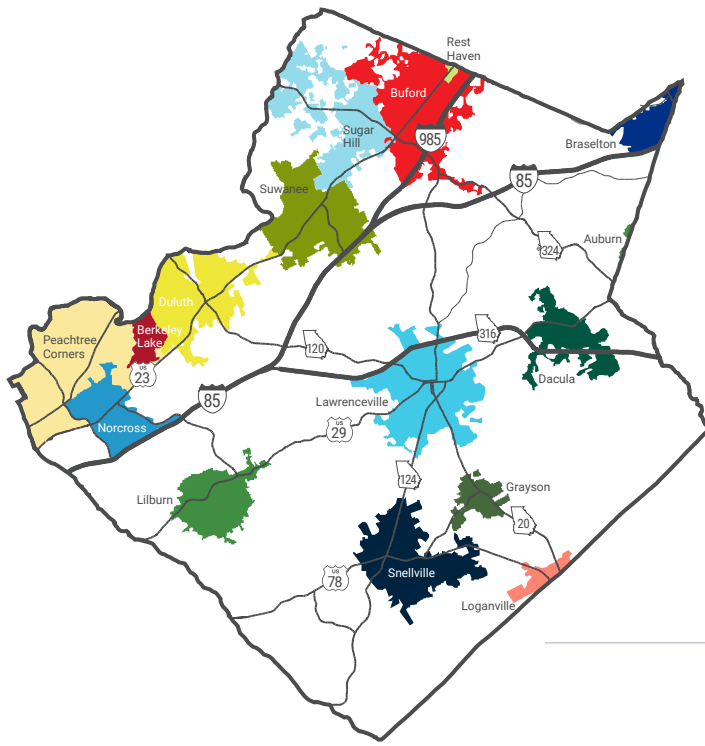
## GOVERNMENT

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 Community Services, Corrections, Financial Services, Fire and Emergency Services, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Law, Planning and Development, Police Services, Support Services, Transportation, and Water Resources. 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 I: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 began 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.





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

IN 2018, AN ESTIMATED **950,807 PEOPLE** CALLED GWINNETT HOME.

SOURCE: WOODS & POOLE

**Unincorporated:**  
Population = 691,867

**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 = 2,107)

**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 = 4,375\*)

**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 = 13,732\*)

**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 = 6,190)

**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 = 29,463)

**Grayson:** Founded in 1880, Grayson is another city given birth by the railroad. The city was previously known as Berkely. (Population = 4,195)

**Lawrenceville:** Incorporated in 1821, Lawrenceville is the county seat. (Population = 29,873)

**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 = 12,700)

**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 = 2,912\*)

**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 = 16,845)

**Peachtree Corners:** Peachtree Corners is the newest city in Gwinnett County. The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation on March 16, 2011, to hold a referendum for voters to consider the incorporation of the City of Peachtree Corners. The referendum passed on November 8, 2011. (Population = 43,268)

**Rest Haven:** Incorporated in 1940, Rest Haven is one mile and a half wide. (Population = 35\*)


**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 = 23,180)

**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 = 19,549)

\*Population within Gwinnett County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's July 1, 2017 population estimates



# DID YOU KNOW

*In 2018, Gwinnett County completed the Connect Gwinnett: Transit Plan, a roadmap for how the County wants to develop its transit network to serve current and future needs.*