



## Gwinnett County Government

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# NEWS RELEASE

F. Wayne Hill, Chairman

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### **GWINNETT COUNTY PURCHASES 350 ACRES IN NORRIS LAKE AREA FOR PARK LAND**

**(Lawrenceville, October 25, 2001)** – Today Gwinnett County officials announced a greenspace acquisition of 350 acres near Norris Lake in southern Gwinnett County. District 3 Commissioner John Dunn made the announcement during a press conference held at the Norris Lake Community Center.

Gwinnett County spent the remaining 2000-2001 Georgia Greenspace Program funding on this purchase. The balance of the funds came from the 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Gwinnett County closed on the property at a cost of \$11,700 per acre.

Acquisition of the Norris Lake area property meets several goals specified by the Georgia Greenspace Act. These objectives include protecting or enhancing water quality, providing flood protection, providing natural habitat and corridors for native plant and animal species, providing passive recreation, and providing connective links between lands contributing to the Georgia Greenspace Act.

Specifically, this land purchase protects the drainage basin of the Doc Moore Branch, which contributes to the water quality of Norris Lake. Commissioner Dunn remarked, "I'm proud the County has purchased this significant tract of land given its beauty and environmental significance. This park will be a treasure for all Gwinnett residents to enjoy."

The Board of Commissioners supports an ambitious program to acquire and preserve greenspace for current and future generations of Gwinnett County residents. Since 1998, Gwinnett County has acquired more than 2,600 acres of passive recreational land purchased at a cost of approximately \$61 million. Gwinnett County has purchased greenspace with funds from the General Fund, SPLOST and the Georgia Greenspace Program.

"There are so many exciting things happening in Gwinnett County right now, but one of the most exciting is the acquisition of beautiful properties for passive recreational purposes. We'll be able to look back on this and know we did the right thing to set aside lands for our grandchildren and their children," said Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill.

Gwinnett County was one of the first counties in Georgia approved for the Georgia Greenspace Program funding. Gwinnett County and cities in the County received \$3.3 million in 2000-2001, the first year of the program. The County's first acquisition with these funds purchased the Alcovy River Gristmill, including 11 surrounding acres.

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