



Gwinnett County Government
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NEWS RELEASE
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GWINNETT COUNTY PURCHASES 294 ACRES ALONG PALM CREEK FOR PARK LAND

(Lawrenceville, Feb. 5, 2002) – Gwinnett County officials have again expanded greenspace throughout Gwinnett with the acquisition of 294 acres of land on Ewing Chapel Road located in the eastern portion of the county.

Palm Creek traverses the western portion of the heavily wooded site. The land is designated for future passive recreation use and was purchased with funds from the 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Gwinnett County closed on the property in December 2001 at a cost of approximately \$16,300 per acre.

A major goal of the county's greenspace program targets the protection of stream buffers. "This land purchase will preserve the natural beauty of this property and will especially protect the quality of the stream running through the property," stated Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman F. Wayne Hill.

District 1 Commissioner Marcia Neaton-Griggs also supported the land purchase. "It was very important for the county to purchase this greenspace while the land was available," she said. "The fact that this unique site, which contains a beautiful waterfall, will be preserved is a benefit for all of Gwinnett's residents."

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 3,000 acres of passive recreational land. Gwinnett County has purchased greenspace with funds from the General Fund, SPLOST and the Georgia Greenspace Program.

Gwinnett 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, and has applied for \$2.9 million in fiscal year 2002.

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation is to provide quality parks and leisure activities to the citizens of Gwinnett County.

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