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NEWS RELEASE

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GWINNETT COUNTY PURCHASES 64 ACRES FOR PARK

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Jan. 17, 2003) – Gwinnett County has purchased 64 acres at Old Peachtree Road and Rock Springs Road for a future park to help relieve the busy Collins Hill Park.

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to ratify the purchase, which occurred in late 2002, on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2003.

The 2000 Capital Improvement Program had identified the need for additional active recreational facilities in the Collins Hill area to supplement Collins Hill Park, an extremely popular park and home to one of the county's largest youth athletic associations. Last year, 4,727 children participated in the Collins Hill Youth Athletic Association's baseball, softball, football, cheerleading and basketball programs.

The new park site is located less than two miles north of Collins Hill Park. There was insufficient land available for an expansion immediately surrounding the existing park.

No funding has been allocated for the development of the new park site but preliminary plans call for tennis courts, a gymnasium and a stand-alone football field, which would replace the overlay football field at Collins Hill Park. The overlay football field is built over the park's baseball and softball fields every year during football season. The new stand-alone football field will allow year-round use of the baseball and softball fields at Collins Hill.

The new park site, located north of Old Peachtree Road and Rock Springs Road and west of Spriggs Road about one mile south of Interstate 85, also will serve as a buffer between a residential area and a burgeoning industrial site.

"This future park will relieve Collins Hill Park, which is one of the county's busiest recreational sites," said Gwinnett County Commission Chairman F. Wayne Hill. "The park will also provide some new amenities in the area, such as a gymnasium."

In buying the \$6.9 million tract, the county also negotiated the settlement of pending litigation regarding access to the site with property owner Brand Partners, L.P.

Revenues from the 2001 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funded the purchase.

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