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NEWS RELEASE
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GWINNETT COMMISSIONERS APPROVE VINES GARDENS

(Lawrenceville, Ga., March 1, 2005) – The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners today approved a proposal to establish Vines Gardens as the newest passive recreational property in the County park system. Gwinnett County has owned the Vines site on Oak Grove Road in Loganville since it was donated to the County in December 1990. In June 1997, Gwinnett Commissioners entered into an agreement to lease approximately 23 acres of the property to Georgia Fine Restaurants, Inc. The Board action amended the existing lease agreement by realigning the boundary of the leased property to make it more amenable for public park facilities.

“With the continued population growth in the Grayson and Loganville areas, the need for public park land has grown,” said District 3 Commissioner Mike Beaudreau. “The public will be able to enjoy a lake, flora, pathways, a gazebo, an open play area, picnic facilities and parking at this site.”

“Citizen support for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) has provided Gwinnett County with the financial resources to improve our parks and recreation system countywide,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles E. Bannister.

According to Department of Community Services Director Phil Hoskins, Vines Gardens could be open to the public in early April of this year. He said that future plans include the development of a park master plan to encompass the entire 79-acre park property. This future development phase is not currently funded. Gwinnett County also plans to work with various community volunteer groups, including the Gwinnett Parks Foundation and Cooperative Extension Service, to provide for volunteer opportunities at the park.

“We are delighted to be cooperating with Gwinnett,” said Joe Fidelibus, vice president for Georgia Fine Restaurants, which maintains the Manor House and its immediate grounds. “This truly is a unique property and beautiful greenspace. This partnership will open the door for more citizens to know that this beautiful area is available for them,” he added.

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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