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COUNTY ENHANCES GREENSPACE INVENTORY WITH PURCHASE OF LAND ALONG YELLOW RIVER

(Lawrenceville, Aug. 11, 2005) – Gwinnett County’s southside just got a little greener, permanently. The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners have agreed to purchase 68 acres along the Yellow River south of Highway 78. The purchase price for the new passive park in the southern area of the county is almost \$3.2 million.

“This purchase will help maintain water quality in the Yellow River by protecting floodplain on both sides of the river,” said District 3 Commissioner Mike Beaudreau. “It gives residents in south Gwinnett and the 78 corridor a significant passive recreation area right in the middle of the Highway 78 corridor.”

Last year, a revitalization plan for the highway corridor between Snellville and Stone Mountain recommended the creation of a park at this site in its five-year action plan. Eventually, the County hopes to connect this land by greenway trail along the river to a 44-acre parcel the County owns north of the highway.

Known as the Vecoma property, the land surrounds an existing special events facility that is not included in the purchase. Funding will come from the greenspace portion of the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

The County’s director of community services, Phil Hoskins, noted that this purchase “will ensure future public access to scenic land for passive recreation while protecting valuable natural resources from development. Both are stated objectives of the County.”

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR) is to provide quality parks and leisure activities to the citizens of Gwinnett County. GCPR manages 30 park sites, with 16 more scheduled for future development. The park system totals nearly 7,800 acres.

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