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GWINNETT STARTS BUILDING TWO PARKS, AQUATIC CENTER

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Aug. 15, 2006) – A construction contract for a new aquatic center at West Gwinnett Park at 4488 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard near South Berkeley Lake Road was approved Tuesday by the Board of Commissioners. Low bidder Juneau Construction Company will build the roughly \$16 million facility over the next 16 months.

The facility features two indoor pools and an outdoor aquatic playground similar to the popular Mountain Park Family Aquatics Center. The County bought the 22.5-acre site in 2003 and will build the park and facilities with funds from the 2001 and 2005 SPLOST programs for parks and recreation. The park will also include two multi-purpose athletic fields, one with a lighted walking track, and parking for 423 vehicles.

“Residents in the western edge of Gwinnett County have dreamed about getting an aquatics facility in their community for many years,” said District 2 Commissioner Bert Nasuti. “It won’t be too long before people of all ages will reap the health benefits – and enjoyment – of swimming.”

Another new park, named Sweet Water Park, will be built at 800 Bethesda School Road near Sugarloaf Parkway and Highway 29 west of Lawrenceville by Astra Group, Inc. under a \$3.5-million contract.

Phase one of Sweet Water Park will include a pavilion/plaza area, playground, two tennis courts, two half-court basketball courts, volleyball and horseshoe courts, restrooms, a 12-foot wide asphalt multi-use trail, and 114 parking spaces. “Sweet Water is a passive park on 25 acres near two elementary schools,” said District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly. “The master plan was developed with a citizen steering committee and I’m sure it will be a welcome addition to the historic Sweet Water community.” Construction is expected to take about seven months. Funding is from the 2001 SPLOST program.

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