

NEWS RELEASE

Charles E. Bannister, Chairman

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SETTLES BRIDGE PARK START GETS APPROVED

(Lawrenceville, Ga., April 1, 2008) – A new park along the Chattahoochee River between Suwanee and Sugar Hill got a go-ahead from the Gwinnett Board of Commissioners today.

The new Settles Bridge Park consists of 268 acres that adjoin federally owned property. Classified as a large, open-space park, the new facility will be accessible from Johnson Road. Phase One will feature 2.5 miles of natural-surface trails, a multi-purpose trail, a dog park, picnic pavilion, playground, and a teen area with basketball courts and a skate park.

"The County worked with both the National Park Service and the state Department of Natural Resources to preserve this valuable land along the river," said District 4 Commissioner Kevin Kenerly. "We're using just a small portion of the land to help meet recreational needs in the Sugar Hill area while keeping most of it as greenspace."

The construction contract went to low bidder JHC Corporation for \$3.62 million. Board Chairman Charles Bannister said, "Again, we thank the voters of Gwinnett for supporting greenspace and recreation through the SPLOST program, which is providing the funding for Settles Bridge Park."

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