

Gwinnett County Government NEWS RELEASE

Charles E. Bannister, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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COUNTY BUYS LAND FOR FUTURE LILBURN PARK

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Dec. 16, 2008) – Gwinnett County Commissioners today approved buying land at 4925 Five Forks Trickum Road for a future Lilburn-area park. The County will spend \$3 million to buy 25.6 acres from the family of J.B. Williams. The County agreed to name the park in his memory and to preserve a large oak tree on the property.

“Chairman Bannister and I have worked with area residents for several years to locate additional park land that will provide relief for the heavily-used facilities at Mountain Park Park,” said District 3 Commissioner Mike Beaudreau. “And once again, we need to thank the voters for approving the sales tax program that allows us to buy needed park land.”

J.B. Williams grew up in Snellville on land that is now the Eastside Medical Center. He moved to Lilburn in 1942 after marrying Newtie Joe Wesley, a Lilburn native. At first, he was a sharecropper on the property before buying it in 1944. The Williams family remodeled the 1882 house and raised their son, Bobby, there.

Today, Bobby has fond memories of his childhood home and the land where he played for many years. “It was great to grow up with lots of open land,” said Williams. He built a house next door where he raised his two daughters. “It’s getting rare to see land like this preserved in Gwinnett County these days.”

Board Chairman Charles Bannister said, “This new park will be a welcome addition to the Mountain Park area and will complement our existing park there that stays busy year-round with football, baseball, softball, tennis and skateboarding.”

A master plan in 2004 identified the Lilburn area as needing more recreational space. The County will organize a citizen steering committee soon to begin planning for the new park. For more information call (770) 822-8840.

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