DUNWOODY DIGEST
City of Dunwoody - Official Newsletter
Spring 2016

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

The City of Dunwoody is undertaking a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Update initiative. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update project will examine existing recreational facilities, programs, services, conduct a comprehensive community input process, and help determine the current and future parks and recreation service levels for the community.

Community involvement and public input will be a critical component of the master planning update process. The plan and update process prioritizes the needs and desires for upgrading existing and potentially creating new facilities and services. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update will help to determine the phasing, timing, funding, and other details for these projects and services for the next several years.

About the Plan Update Process

The city and its contracted partners will use quantitative and qualitative assessment tools to assist in collecting information and public feedback to assure residents, user groups, nonprofits and associations, and various community stakeholders are provided an opportunity to participate in the plan's development.

The plan update process includes:

- Initial information gathering
- Focus group meetings
- Community-wide public meetings
- Stakeholder interviews
- Community surveys: Random sample survey sent out mid-March & Open web survey available online in early April
- Online public participation portal
- Public recommendation presentations

Citizen feedback and stakeholder input is a critical component of the master plan update process. The survey information feeback date will provide guidance on key needs and priorities to help the city make decisions regarding current and future parks, recreation and trails. For additional information on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, please email parks@dunwoodyga.gov

Parks & Recreation Online Survey --

Be sure to respond!

Your input is important! Visit dunwoodyga.gov/2016ParksMasterPlan

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Pictured below: Mayor Denis Shortal swears in three new Dunwoody Police Officers. The Dunwoody Police Department recently completed a “OneWord” video where officers chose one word to describe their duty and commitment to the City of Dunwoody. You can find the OneWord video on the Dunwoody Police Department Facebook page and YouTube channel.

DUNWOODY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Residents Value Location, Safety and Lifestyle

Dunwoody residents provided positive opinions and feedback on a recent survey inquiring about satisfaction levels with city services, amenities and quality of life. Results from the 2015 community-wide survey point to overall approval and agreement the City of Dunwoody is heading in a positive direction.

The primary findings from the survey demonstrated high levels of satisfaction with city services. The latest data, when compared to the results from the 2013 survey, reaffirms positive opinions from respondents who regard Dunwoody as a good place to raise children, believe the city conveys an overall feeling of safety and an upbeat quality of life.

When considering the strengths of the city, survey respondents pointed to **location**, **safe community** and **parks** as the city's top three assets. Conversely, the top weaknesses as identified by respondents were traffic, streets and infrastructure, and transportation.

The 2015 community survey, as well as the survey conducted in 2013, were developed by the city and independent, third-party research firm Pioneer Marketing Research, a Norcross-based full service marketing research firm with more than 30 years of research and survey experience.

Comparing the 2015 survey responses to those from the 2013 survey, several key perception levels were notably different. Agreement levels with how City Council members handle city finances and the Council's responsiveness to the community improved noticeably from 2013 levels.

Opinions regarding the city's parks also swung to the positive when compared to 2013 responses as demonstrated by parks being listed as one of the top three strengths of the city. Respondents also gave higher ratings to the Parks and Recreation Department, particularly when providing input on the overall quality of parks and the quality of trails and open spaces.

Based on the 2015 survey responses, Dunwoody residents as a whole: are very pleased with services provided by the city government; have a high level of appreciation for city staff and employees; seek answers to address traffic and transportation issues; show concern about the quality of schools; and, feel the city is a safe place to live, raise a family and work.

The city's Police department received the highest ratings for quality of service followed by the Parks and Recreation Department which also received a majority level of resident satisfaction with quality of service.

The 2015 Community Survey report materials are available for review and download at the city website at www.dunwoodyga.gov.

DUNWOODY POLICE

Dunwoody on the cutting edge of first responder technology and access

In March of 2015, the Dunwoody City Council passed a Gated Community ordinance requiring all gated communities to install an SOS Gate Trigger, that will provide first responders access through RFID technology. The Council budgeted $40,000 to pay for the devices, and each gated community is responsible for the device installation and ongoing maintenance. This investment in technology and adoption of a cutting edge ordinance by the City of Dunwoody significantly improves the response times of emergency personnel to gated communities and demonstrates Dunwoody's commitment to keeping our citizens safe. Any gated community created after the effective date of this ordinance will be required to pay for the device, installation and ongoing maintenance themselves.

-Chief B. Grogan, Dunwoody Police Department

HOME IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY

Don't be Fooled: Safety is the Key to Quality

Many Dunwoody homeowners take advantage of the spring and summer months to improve their homes through remodeling and additions. While costs, scope of work and completion times are always high on the list of key decision influencers, homeowners should also pay close attention to working with licensed contractors.

Without the help and guidance of a licensed professional, some homeowners take on added risks and liabilities, especially when the quality or design of the project does not meet with safety requirements within the allowable and adopted codes.

All construction activities in the city require a permit through the Community Development Department, which provides permitting and subsequent inspection measures designed to help the homeowner through the process.

Most major projects require plan review such as new construction, additions, deck replacement, land disturbance, retaining walls, swimming pools, permanent signs, and fire sprinklers. The city strives to complete all plan reviews within 10 days. Many projects will require the review and approval by outside agencies, such as DeKalb County, which may add to the overall process time. These reviews should be accounted for in your project development schedule.

The city also offers a number of over-the-counter permits for projects that do not require plan review such as single-family residential interior renovations, residential interior demolition, roof replacements, plumbing (such as water heater replacements), and temporary signs.

Not sure if you need a permit or if your permit will require plan review? Please call the Dunwoody Community Development Department at 678. 382.6800.

DUNWOODY PARKS

Above: View of the park from the tiered amphitheater seating.

PARK AT PERNOSHAL COURT

In September 2012, the City hosted a charrette and public workshop for the Park at Pernoshal Court. Driven by citizen feedback and input, a plan for the park area and multi-use trail on the 19 acre property at North Shallowford and Pernoshal Court was finalized.

The city broke ground on the park in the summer of 2015 and will soon host **a special celebration to officially open the new 5-acre park** and the multi-use trail connection to Brook Run via the Dunwoody Trailway.

The new park is the largest newly-built park created since the city's incorporation. In addition to the multi-use trail, the park will have a centralized pavilion/restroom facility, 162 parking spaces for park and trail users, passive and active open areas/fields for sports, and basketball courts with a pickle ball court overlay.

The grand opening celebration is scheduled for Earth Day, Friday, April 22nd! Get the latest news from the city by signing up to receive the city's weekly e-news email blast at dunwoodyga.gov.

BANNISTER FARM

The Donaldson-Bannister Farmhouse originally built in the 1870's is a historic treasure in the heart of Dunwoody. The City of Dunwoody in partnership with the Dunwoody Preservation Trust have reinforced, stabilized, and repaired the farmhouse to prevent further deterioration. In the coming months crews will install an ADA compliant restroom adjacent to the barn, a meeting room, and an outdoor gathering place as well as a small public parking lot. This restorative construction is expected to be complete in 2016 and will help create an attraction and facility which will soon be available for all.

Dunwoody 2015 Fun Facts

2,265
Number of businesses

Parks are connected with new trail installation

2
Playgrounds replaced

Brook Run Dog Park moved and updated

12,498
Number of people signed up to receive emails from the city

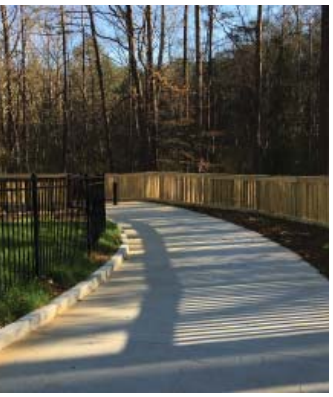
Dunwoody website welcomed
235,685
unique visitors

218
Stormwater issues were addressed

150+
Trees were planted

18+
Miles of repaved streets

2+
Miles of sidewalk installed



Be the first to know, it's
Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Visit Dunwoody's website at dunwoodyga.gov
2. At the bottom of the page under How Do I...Click on ...Sign up to receive news and information?
3. Enter your email address and you're all signed up!

@dunwoodyga

City of Dunwoody - Government

@cityofdunwoodyga

Citizen Connections

INFRASTRUCTURE INSIGHTS

PAVING & INTERSECTION UPGRADES MOVE FORWARD

The 2016 budget includes funding for progress on the capital paving plan along with significant investments into sidewalk improvements which will provide new connections to a number of important amenities and character areas.

In addition, the city has added many neighborhood streets to this year's plan, and recently added an extra $250,000 to the 2016 road paving budget making 2016 the city's biggest year for street paving. (See the 2016 Paving Map at right for details.)

The Tilly Mill Road at North Peachtree Road intersection improvement project, which began in late 2015, is the first true intersection makeover the city has undertaken. The intersection was determined to be a high priority based on community input and the existing poor level of service.

This intersection and surrounding area manages traffic from five arterial and collector roads of Dunwoody. The intersection of North Peachtree with Peeler Road will also be incorporated into this project with the addition of a traffic signal that will be synchronized with the existing signal at Tilly Mill and North Peachtree. The improvements to this intersection will reduce the average wait time experienced at these duel intersections.

Design elements such as new sidewalks and bike lanes, additional turn lanes, and pedestrian refuge islands will all improve the safety and flow of these two related intersections. Aesthetically pleasing traffic signal mast arms will replace the existing strung signal heads, enhancing the character of this area of Dunwoody.

The construction project is expected to take approximately 14 months to fully complete. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be finished by Spring 2017.

Access to well-maintained and operational city streets is of continued importance for FY 2016. The resurfacing of several major corridors, including Mount Vernon and Chamblee Dunwoody Road is being coordinated with DeKalb County's water main replacement program.

The primary water main installation work has been completed and the city will soon begin resurfacing this section of Mount Vernon Road and complete the new sidewalks on the south side of Mount Vernon Road between Dunwoody Village Parkway and Vernon Oaks Drive.

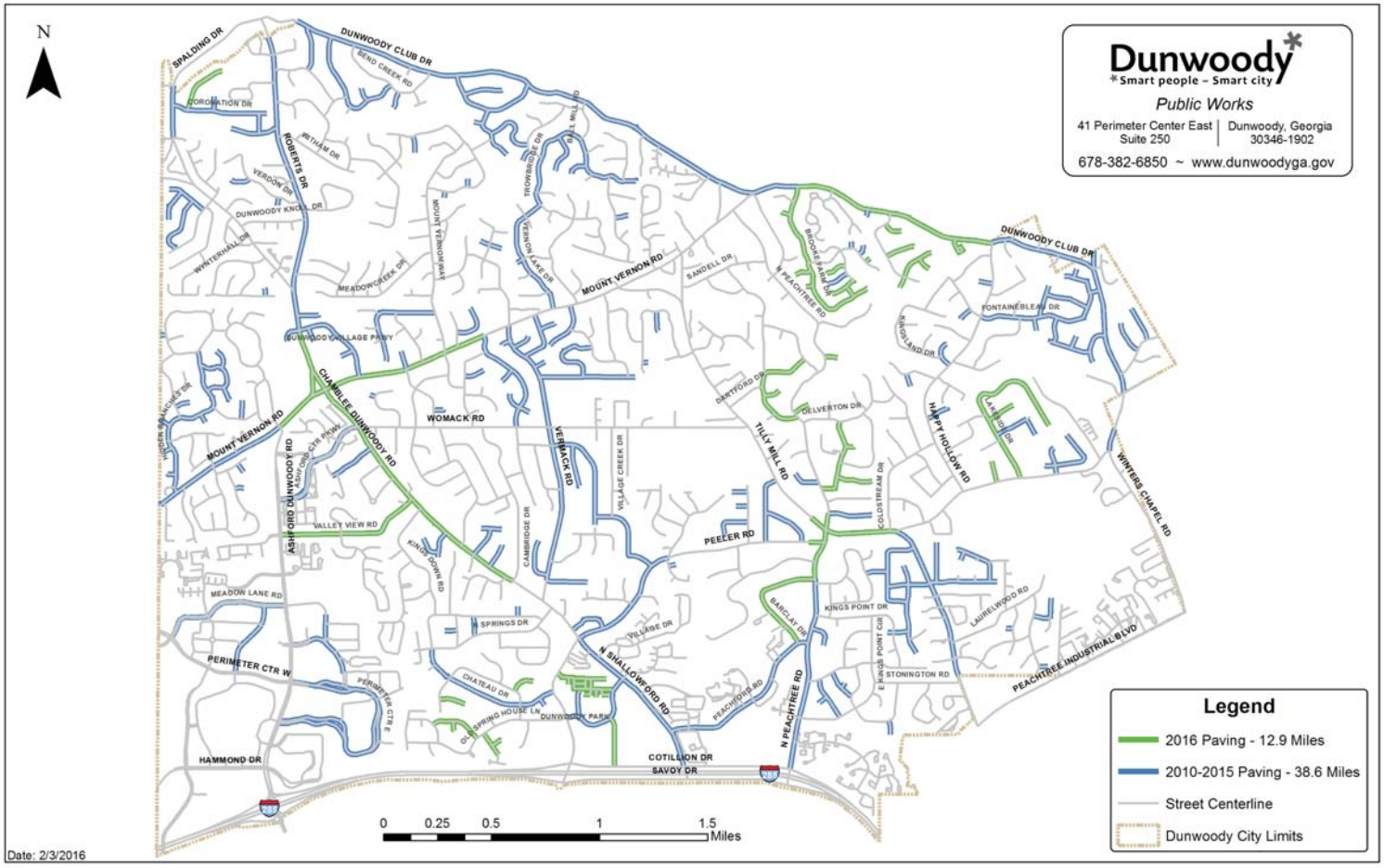
The same type of water main replacement project is also occurring on Chamblee Dunwoody Road, from Roberts Drive on the north end down to Cambridge Drive.

Chamblee Dunwoody Road, from Cambridge Drive to Womack Road, has no bicycle facilities and when sidewalk is available, it is only on the west side of the road. The proposed improvements aim to remedy these deficiencies by widening the road to accommodate bicycle lanes in both directions and a sidewalk on the east side of the road. Existing stormwater ditches will be replaced with stormwater pipes, curb, and gutter.

In an effort to reduce construction duration and minimize project costs, the City of Dunwoody will be undertaking this project on two separate fronts. The water main work on the northern end of the project between Womack Road and Roberts Drive will occur concurrently with shoulder work on the southern end of the project between Cambridge Drive and Womack Road.

Both of these projects will be under construction in 2016 and the projects may necessitate minor periodic lane closures from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

2016 DUNWOODY PAVING PLAN



The list of roads that will be paved in 2016 are:

B-C

Barclay Drive
Bethesda Court
Bethesda Trail
Bishop Hollow Court
Bishop Hollow Run
Bramble Place
Bramble Walk
Brendon Court
Brendon Drive
Brindley Court
Brooke Farm Drive
Brooke Farm Trail
Brunning Court
Chamblee Dunwoody Road
Chaplin Court
Claridge Square
Cromwell Walk

D-L

Dellrose Court
Dellrose Drive
Devon Walk
Dunwoody Club Drive
Dunwoody Park S
Fergus Way
Kensington Place
Kent Avenue
Lakebrook Court
Lakeside Drive
Leisure Court
Leisure Drive
Leisure Lane
Littlebrooke Circle
Littlebrooke Lane
Littlebrooke Terrace
Littlebrooke Trace

M-W

Mount Vernon Road
North Peachtree Road
Nandina Lane
Old Brooke Lane
Old Brooke Point
Orleans Court
Peeler Road
Pointe Place Avenue
Queensborough Drive
Rochelle Court
Sancroff Court
Tilly Mill Road
Valley View Road
Waterford Court
Waterton Court
Windwood Drive

PEDESTRIAN PERKS

SIDEWALK COMPLETION

The city recently completed new sidewalks along the south side of Peachford Road. The new sidewalk connects both ends of Peachford, from North Peachtree Road to North Shallowford Road, furnishing both sides of Peachford with ADA accessible sidewalks.

This new sidewalk is a key component of the city's ongoing efforts to create connectivity and pedestrian access to roads, schools, parks and other facilities. The new Peachford Road sidewalk provides access to Chesnut Elementary school to the south and to Peachtree Charter Middle School and Brook Run Park to the north.

Dunwoody is home to approximately 63 linear miles of sidewalk. Since 2009, the city has invested over $3.2 million to construct roughly 10 miles of new sidewalk infrastructure, making Dunwoody a safer, healthier, and more enjoyable community for all.

The city has identified over 21 miles of future sidewalk improvements. The Sidewalk Improvement Policy was created to provide an objective process to prioritize the city's sidewalk projects. Additionally, in 2014 the city prepared a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan in an effort to help guide and inform the city's other pedestrian safety improvements. The City has begun implementing the recommendations of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan with additional improvements planned for 2016.

DON'T BLOCK THE BOX

The City of Dunwoody, in coordination with the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts and the neighboring cities of Brookhaven and Sandy Springs, as well as the Georgia Department of Transportation are educating residents, commuters, property managers, tenants and employees through a "Don't Block The Box" campaign.

Beginning in mid-April, five intersections will be restriped to help make drivers aware of the limits of an intersection and promote efforts to maintain a clear intersection "box." By keeping intersections clear of idling vehicles which block traffic from other directions following a signal change, drivers can aid in improving pedestrian access and avoid gridlock-related traffic incidents.

The five intersections which will be restriped as part of the "Don't Block The Box" campaign include:

- Parkside Place at Perimeter Summit
- Peachtree Dunwoody at Johnson Ferry
- Peachtree Dunwoody at Abernathy
- Peachtree Dunwoody at Lake Hearn
- Ashford Dunwoody at Ravinia

Their selection was based on the opportunity to collect data that will be used for future striping projects as well as the Perimeter Traffic Operations Program. Additional intersections may be restriped throughout 2016 as part of "Don't Block the Box" campaign.

STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

In 2015 the City of Dunwoody addressed a total of 218 stormwater issues. Stormwater infrastructure upgrades are a key component of work conducted in the city and in 2016 the city will continue to repair and replace aging stormwater infrastructure.

The construction scope of the Tilly Mill Road and North Peachtree Road intersection project also includes improvements to existing stormwater infrastructure such as pipes and detention facilities to improve downstream conditions. Relocation of existing utility infrastructure, including the replacement of DeKalb County's water main through this intersection will also be incorporated into this construction.

A highlight of recently completed stormwater work includes the North Peachtree Road culvert replacement project. Crews replaced the failing 6 foot corrugated metal culvert, located on North Peachtree Road, just south of the intersection with North Peachtree Way, with a new 9 foot by 4 foot reinforced concrete box culvert. In addition to using a larger and stronger culvert, the city also raised its invert to accommodate higher stormwater flows.

The majority of the stormwater pipes and structures within the city are close to 40 years old and in varied stages of deterioration. Every year the city makes consistent progress in addressing these problems and upgrading this critical infrastructure.

MAKING A MORE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY CITY

As the city plans and constructs new sidewalks and multi-use trail connections, identifying, improving, and implementing safe pedestrian crossings becomes more important. Enhancing pedestrian safety near the five elementary schools, middle school and high school as well as parks, playgrounds, and other locations around the City of Dunwoody is essential.

That was one of the reasons the city conducted the 2014 citywide pedestrian safety study to identify and analyze both existing and potential crosswalk locations within the city. The study's detailed research and review identified and prioritized 23 crosswalk locations as opportunities for pedestrian upgrades.

Since the study's completion, four (4) flashing beacon crossings and two (2) pedestrian islands have been installed, and several crossings have been striped or restriped at prioritized points throughout the city. The new and/or upgraded pedestrian crossings include:

- North Peachtree Rd. at Chestnut Elementary School (flashing beacon)
- Mt. Vernon Rd. at Stratham Dr. (flashing beacon)
- Perimeter Center Pl. between Target shopping center and the Terraces office complex (flashing beacon)
- Tilly Mill Rd. at Stonington Rd. (flashing beacon)
- Womack Rd. at Dunwoody Elementary School (pedestrian island)
- Brendon Dr. at Brendon Ct. (pedestrian island)

Beyond 2016, the city is planning additional upgrades and installation opportunities based on the citywide pedestrian safety study. If you have questions about crosswalks in and around the city, please contact public.works@dunwoodyga.gov.

City of Dunwoody
41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 250
Dunwoody, Georgia 30346

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
ATLANTA, GA
PERMIT NO. 3259

Food Truck Thursdays
Starts Thursday, April 7th
5pm - dusk
(April - October)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

Sunday, April 3
Dunwoody Sunday Cycle
Village Burger - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7
Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 11
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12
Planning Commission Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday-Sunday, April 13-17
Lemonade Days
Brook Run Park

Thursday, April 14
Sustainability Committee Meeting
City Hall - 7:45 a.m.

Friday, April 22
Park at Pernoshal Court Opening
Pernoshal Court - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 25
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

May

Sunday, May 1
Dunwoody Sunday Cycle
Village Burger - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 5
Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday May 7 & Sunday May 8
Dunwoody Art Festival
Dunwoody Village Parkway

Monday, May 9
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10
Planning Commission Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12
Sustainability Committee Meeting
City Hall - 7:45 a.m.

Saturday, May 14
Concert in the Park
Dunwoody Nature Center - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 23
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 28
Concert in the Park
Dunwoody Nature Center - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day Event
Brook Run Park - 10:00 a.m.

June

Thursday, June 2
Zoning Board of Appeals
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 5
Dunwoody Sunday Cycle
Village Burger - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 9
Sustainability Committee Meeting
City Hall - 7:45 a.m.

Saturday, June 11
Concert in the Park
Dunwoody Nature Center - 7:00 p.m.

June 11 -18
Dunwoody Restaurant Week
Throughout Dunwoody

Monday, June 13
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 25
Concert in the Park
Dunwoody Nature Center - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28
City Council Meeting
City Hall - 6:00 p.m.

City of Dunwoody events are subject to change.
Please check dunwoodyga.gov or
cvbdunwoody.com for the latest information.

Mayor Denis Shortal
City Manager Eric Linton, ICMA-CM
City Clerk Sharon Lowery, CMC
Post 1 Pam Tallmadge
Post 2 Jim Riticher
Post 3 Doug R. Thompson
Post 4 Terry Nall
Post 5 Lynn Deutsch
Post 6 John Heneghan

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