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The community of Dunwoody, Georgia officially became the City of Dunwoody on December 1, 2008. Located in the heart of the Metro Atlanta Region along Interstate 285, Dunwoody is vibrant community with a mix of retail, commercial and residential activities that make it an attractive destination for young and old alike. Dunwoody is home to a MARTA rail station and major retail establishments in the Perimeter Center area, as well as, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the American and the corporate offices of Intercontinental Hotels Group. Dunwoody is an easy commute to downtown Atlanta, but also maintains a suburban feel that is attractive to those who desire life at a slower pace.

Over the past few decades, Dunwoody saw tremendous growth like many other communities near Atlanta, and over five thousand residential units were approved for development in Dunwoody's Perimeter Center area prior to the recent down turn in the economy. The community currently lacks the adequate facilities to meet the recreation demand, and future developments will only increase the need for additional public parks and open spaces.

During the movement to become a City, the citizens expressed a desire to have a city government that was more responsive to the citizenry and a government that offered quality services. This feeling was restated in the recently completed City of Dunwoody Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted 2010.

Dunwoody is proud of its history and cultural resources, while also embracing changes necessary to maintain its status as one of the preferred addresses in the Metro Atlanta region. City leaders recognize that good planning is essential to maintaining a high quality of life and attracting high quality development. To this end, the City has commissioned a long range transportation plan, redevelopment plans for several sections of the City and the development of this comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. City leaders appointed Lose & Associates, Inc. to develop this master plan.

The City of Dunwoody 2011 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan seeks to respond to community needs and determine the desired forms and levels of park and recreation services to be rendered over the next ten years, as well as their necessary administration and funding. In order to develop a full assessment, an extensive public involvement process was conducted, which included interviews, focus group meetings, design charrettes, a community needs assessment and public meetings. Additionally, Lose & Associates, Inc. compiled a demographic analysis, along with department research and facility reviews. The aggregate of information accumulated through this process, as well as the necessary recommendations, can be seen in the following sections.

As the City continues the process to expand services, this Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will serve as a blueprint for redeveloping existing parks and facilities and the development of new parks and greenways throughout the City. Having a strong reputation and a distinctive community, the City hopes to establish itself as a model recreation and parks provider, thereby continuing in its tradition of excellence.

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