

**Engage Gwinnett – Community Services Work Group  
 Responses to February 3, 2010 Questions  
 Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation**

**1. Were pools built with SPLOST money? If yes, could they be sold?**

The majority of Gwinnett County pools were constructed with SPLOST funding. These are the indoor and/or outdoor aquatics facilities at the following locations: Collins Hill Park; Lenora Park; Rhodes Jordan Park; Bethesda Park; Mountain Park; and West Gwinnett Park.

Pools not funded with SPLOST funds are located at Best Friend Park, Bogan Park, and Dacula Park.

In discussion with the Law Department, we are of the opinion that if a pool was built with SPLOST dollars it could eventually be sold. However, we would recommend that the pool be utilized for a reasonable period of time before being sold.

**2. What does it cost the County to provide active parks (utilities, maintenance costs, etc)?**

The following provides examples of direct operational costs for five (5) active parks located throughout Gwinnett County. As noted, the direct costs vary depending on the recreational components located within each park. Two (2) of the parks shown have outdoor pools but these costs are not included in the park cost center (except for utilities since these costs are not metered separately). In addition, indirect costs such as admin./support services are funded in different cost centers.

**Active Parks (Examples) – Costs for operations**

Direct Costs = Basic grounds/park maintenance, utilities

**Shorty Howell Park - 67 ac.**

- 7 Baseball/Softball Fields, 1 Football Field, 1 Activity Building (7,900sf), 2.3 miles of trail, 1 Large Pavilion, 2 playground units.

- Grounds/Park Maintenance= \$ 144,290
- Utilities = \$ 60,120

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 Total Direct Costs = \$ 204,410

**Peachtree Ridge Park – 155 ac.**

- 4 Baseball/Softball Fields (1 is wheelchair access/"Mondo" surface), 1 Football Field, 2 Soccer Fields, 3 miles of trails, 1 Large Pavilion, 2 playground units.

- Grounds/Park Maintenance= \$ 133,650
- Utilities = \$ 72,220

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 Total Direct Costs = \$ 205,870

**Bay Creek Park – 153 ac.**

- 8 Baseball/Softball Fields (1 is wheelchair access/"Mondo surface), 1 Football Field, 1 Large Pavilion, 3 playground units, 2 Basketball/4 Tennis Courts, 1 Skate Park, 1 mile of trails.

- Grounds/Park Maintenance= \$ 174,900
- Utilities = \$ 97,100

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 Total Direct Costs = \$ 272,000

**Dacula Park** – 76 ac.

- 7 Baseball/Softball Fields, 1 Football Field, 1 Activity Building (8,130sf),  
1 Outdoor Pool, 1 Large Pavilion, 2 playground units, 1.85 miles of trails.

- Grounds/Parks Maintenance= \$ 259,400
- Utilities = \$ 91,300

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Total Direct Costs = \$ 350,700

**Lenora Park** – 178 ac.

- 6 Baseball/Softball Fields, 1 Football Field, 1 Gym (14,800sf), 1 Leisure Pool,  
1 Dog Park, 3.8 miles of trails, 2 playground units, 1 Large Pavilion

- Grounds/Park Maintenance= \$ 205,360
- Utilities = \$ 148,400

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Total Direct Costs = \$ 353,760

**3. Which year's SPLOST funding is being used for parks projects currently in the works, specifically Rhodes Jordan Park renovation, Bryson Park, Rabbit Hill Park expansion, and those aligned with the new school clusters, Lanier and Harbins?**

Rhodes Jordan Park and Bryson Park are funded in both the 2005 and 2009 SPLOST Programs. The expansion of passive recreational facilities at Rabbit Hill Park (currently under construction) was funded in the 2005 SPLOST Program.

There are three (3) parks or park expansions aligned with new school clusters. These are: 1) Harbins Park Expansion (Archer School Cluster); 2) Rabbit Hill Park Expansion (Mountain View School Cluster); and, 3) Lanier Park Site (Lanier School Cluster). All of these projects are funded in the 2009 SPLOST Program. Note: the Rabbit Hill Park Expansion project includes the expansion of soccer fields at the existing park.

**4. What are the projected operational annual costs for these new parks?**

The following estimates are incorporated in the County's financial forecast 2012 thru 2015:

- Bryson Park - \$356,116\*
- Harbins Park Expansion - \$241,564
- Rabbit Hill Expansion - \$194,064
- Lanier Park Site - \$240,908

*\*actual costs will be lower as revenues from fees/charges not included*

**5. Is the golf course servicing the debt?**

The Collins Hill Golf Club (formerly Springbrook Golf Course) was deeded to the Springbrook Golf Commission in 2000. Promissory note payments were received by the County from the golf course through 2007. However, payments were not received in 2008 and 2009.