



SUWANEE'S APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



GOING GREEN:

In December 2009, the City became the first community in Gwinnett County and one of only nine in metro Atlanta to be certified as a Green Community by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Sustainable practice policies to support this designation include:

- Green Fleet Policy
- Community Bicycle Facilities Policy
- Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy
- No Idling Policy for City Vehicles

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, 2011
- City of Suwanee Development Regulations

APPROACH: Provide residents opportunities to experience and understand the benefits of the natural environment, model environmentally sustainable development, and adopts a practical/rational approach to compliance with federal, state, and Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District requirements.

PROGRAMS

- **Green Space Initiative** – Purchased/acquired 372 acres of open space for preservation and passive recreation.
- **Green Community** – Achieved Bronze Certification by adopting a series of regulations related to purchasing policies and community infrastructure policies.
- **Town Center** – Models environmentally sensitive design.
- **Tree City USA** – Adopted Buffer, Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance, promote Arbor Day and the planting of trees, encourage maintenance of existing landscaping.
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (PBP)** – Encourages alternative forms of transportation by improving the sidewalk, trail and bike route network.

ORDINANCES

- **Buffer, Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance** – Require minimum amount of tree replacement and encourage preservation of specimen trees.
- **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance** – Requires buffers along streams and implementation of erosion control BMP's.
- **Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance** – Requires buffers along streams.
- **Development Regulations** – Requires sidewalks along all roads, requires detention as needed and water quality BMP's as well as channel protection.
- **Flood Plain Management Ordinance** – Ensures that development does not occur in floodplain areas, and where it does ensures that development does not impact other property owners or new construction.
- **Zoning Ordinance** – Encourages higher density mixed use in the appropriate locations, includes several approaches to reducing the negative impacts of parking lot run off (parking maximums, shared parking, alternative paving surfaces), and includes a conservation district.

EXAMPLE INITIATIVES

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certified City Hall Building
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Town Center
- LED lighting retrofit project in Town Center Park
- Recycling Programs in buildings and parks