



SUWANEES APPROACH TO PUBLIC WORKS

City of
Suwanee
Georgia

BY THE NUMBERS:

Number of Staff Members:
20 full-time & 3 part-time
16 part-time events staff

15

Number of Buildings
Maintained

8

Number of Parks
Maintained

63

Number of Street
Miles Maintained

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS:

Problem: Persistent speeding
Solution: Attractive planter
islands in the road

Problem: Watering Town
Center Park
Solution: An irrigation well

The City of Suwanee values high quality provision and maintenance of:

- infrastructure (water system, stormwater system, streets, signs)
- public facilities (municipal buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, cemeteries)
- amenities to enhance quality of life (parks, trails, events, lake, amphitheater, interactive fountain, disc golf, public art)
- resources required to provide a high quality experience of living, working and playing in Suwanee (capital and long range planning, staff, fleet vehicles, equipment, contracting)

The city's Public Works Department maintains a drinking water system, 15 buildings, 8 parks, 8.71 miles of greenway/trails, and approximately 63 miles of streets, curbs and sidewalks with a staff of 20 full-time, 3-part time, and approximately 16 part time events staff members.

PRIORITIES: To maximize the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of our efforts, we manage our resources within a system of priorities:

- We staff to meet predictable seasonal peaks but do not staff to a level where under-utilization occurs.
Example: We make use of part-time employees when this is the most efficient way to cover peak needs of specific services.

- We contract for work that is infrequent, involves specialized skills or requires purchase and maintenance of expensive equipment with an extended return on investment.
Examples: Snow removal assistance, street sweeping services, sidewalk repairs, asphalt patching, etc.

- We undertake systematic approaches to maintenance - analyzing real-world conditions and developing plans of action, such as the Facilities Maintenance Plan, Water System Evaluation, Annual Road Maintenance Survey, Stormwater Facilities Assessments, etc.

Example: Roads don't deteriorate at uniform rates. As such, we don't pave each road once every X number of years. Instead, we survey pavement conditions annually, rate roads for needed maintenance, and address those roads that are the highest priority. We also have long-range maintenance and capital planning programs for all municipal facilities, parks and their structures.

- We address functional defects and safety or risk management issues first, followed by cosmetic infrastructure issues as allowed.

Examples: Sinkholes, major sidewalk displacements, stormwater pipe failures or missing regulatory road signs (e.g. Stop signs) take precedence over cracked but functioning gutters, missing "Fine for Littering" signs, or a fallen tree in a park meadow.

- Using the assistance of technical experts, we develop long-range plans that drive resource planning and allocation.

Examples: The Facilities Maintenance Plan, Water System Evaluation, Annual Road Maintenance Survey, Stormwater Facilities Assessments, etc. are all used to plan and project costs for the annual budget and multi-year Capital Improvement Program.

- We seek creative and innovative solutions to issues.

Examples: Creating an attractive solution (planter islands) to reduce persistent speeding on Eva Kennedy Road. Development of irrigation well for a water supply source for the Town Center Park lawn.

- We provide multiple platforms for citizens to communicate concerns and service requests.

FUTURE EFFORTS: We will continue budgeting for and implementing our Facilities Maintenance Plan, which will ensure our municipal facilities, parks, and their structures receive regular and preventative maintenance and do not develop functional defects or safety or risk management problems. We will continue implementation of the Water System Evaluation in order to address existing inadequacies and have the ability to connect future customers. We will continue work on our annual maintenance programs - street resurfacing, stormwater, etc. - in order to keep the City's infrastructure in good condition as it ages.