



S U W A N E E

ADVENTURES SUMMER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE



SUWANE
PARKS BINGO



BROADWAY
IN THE PARK



PUBLIC
WORKS



HOT TOWN.

SUMMER IN THE CITY!



GET outside




JULY IS NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH!

When you ask a kid his or her favorite place in Suwanee, the answer is usually **THE PARK!** The City of Suwanee has eight parks, each with its own distinct personality and unique use. That doesn't even count George Pierce Park! (Which is located within the city limits but is maintained by Gwinnett County.)

In 2001, the City of Suwanee conducted a survey asking citizens what they wanted in parks and recreation opportunities. The answer that rose to the top was preserving open space for parks and enhancing the city's greenway trail.

Citizens voted to approve the city's open space initiative in 2001, allowing the city to buy hundreds of acres of land

P A R K S T

1997

City Hall Park
Park
(now known as Station Park!)

1999

Main Street Park and
Martin Farm Park

2003

Town Center Park

2004

PlayTown Suwanee and
Suwanee Creek Park





to be preserved and developed as open space, neighborhood parks, greenways, and trails! Since then, the city has built five new parks and expanded the Suwanee Creek Greenway, increasing parks and greenspace from 28 acres to **more than 325 acres!**

DID YOU KNOW?

We named our larger-than-life K-9 city mascot **Parker** because Suwanee has so many parks!

Station Park (located between the police station and the courthouse) received an **upgrade and reopened this spring with new turf and seating!** The city is also preparing to expand Town Center Park across Buford Highway. The expansion will include a large bridge over a water feature, sand volleyball courts, and art pieces, all in the front yard of the Suwanee library!

I M E L I N E

2008
Sims Lake Park

2010
White Street Park and Harvest Farm Community Garden

2017
The Orchard at White Street Park



PlayTown Suwanee

Guess who built PlayTown Suwanee? 1,200 mommies and daddies, that's who!

Everyone's favorite playground opened in June 2004 after moms, dads, grandparents, churches, businesses, and community organizations worked together for five days! The result is a 10,000-square-foot one-of-a-kind wonderland featuring a magical bus, castle, log cabin, boat, elephant, rocket, climbing wall, bridges, slides, swing sets, and more.

"The five days I spent working on the PlayTown Suwanee project were among the most satisfying," said former mayor **Nick Masino**. "I was overwhelmed by how our community came together and all that we were able to accomplish."



PLAYTOWN SUWANEЕ

by the NUMBERS



1,200
volunteers



10,000
total hours

2,831 pieces of lumber



5 days

14

tons of
sand



94

gallons of paint



1642 pounds
of nails

55

drills



saws



56,788 screws



kids in our community

What's your **FAVORITE** Suwanee Park?



"My favorite park in Suwanee is Sims Lake Park because it has a fun playground and a pretty lake with ducks and turtles swimming. We like to take pictures there."

Aliya Gandhi

Level Creek ES, 4th grade



"Sims Lake Park is my favorite park because there's a lot of things to hide behind to play hide-and-seek!"

Sawyer Sampey

Riverside ES,
kindergarten

"My favorite park is Suwanee Creek Park because I can play disc golf with my family!"

Logan Nelson
Roberts ES, 4th grade





“My favorite park is Settles Bridge because it has good equipment, awesome trails, and I love the skateboard park!”

Ollie Davis

Riverside ES, 3rd grade

Settles Bridge Park is actually a Gwinnett County park with a Suwanee address, but we love it too!

“As a soccer player, I love going to Suwanee Town Center and practicing soccer. If it’s hot enough, I take a quick cool off at the splash fountain afterwards!”

Summer Smith

Richards MS, 8th grade



“Town Center is my favorite park because all of the flat space for playing soccer. My family likes to go to the Farmers Market every Saturday!”

Will Baker

Level Creek ES, 5th grade

Want to be featured in a future issue of Suwanee Adventures?

Ask your parents to email **your favorite pirate joke**, along with your name, photo, school, and grade to abby@suwanee.com!

WHAT CAN WE SAY EXCEPT,

You're Welcome!

BROADWAY *in the* park

PRESENTS

Moana & The Pirates of Penzance

Suwanee Performing Arts is bringing adventure on the high seas to Town Center for their annual Broadway in the Park event! The family-friendly show features *The Pirates of Penzance* at 7 pm, followed by Disney's *Moana*, on July 30 and 31.

The Pirates of Penzance is a musical comedy that will make you laugh out loud. *Moana* follows the story of an adventurous young girl as she sets sail across the ocean to save her village and discover the truth about her heritage.

The amphitheater will be transformed into a Broadway-style stage with professional lighting, sound, costumes, sets, and our community's most talented student actors and actresses.

Reserved, socially-distanced seating should be pre-purchased at SuwaneePerformingArts.org or 678-482-6333.



What Do You Do?

CITY OF SUWANEES *Public Works* DEPARTMENT

By Luis Lopez



Luis Lopez from Suwanee Public Works and his kids

From **keeping the water on to keeping parks clean, removing fallen trees** to changing toilet paper rolls,

filling potholes to salting the roads, the public works department keeps our city running smoothly and efficiently.

The City of Suwanee's public works department maintains **15 buildings, eight parks, 8.71 miles of greenway/trails, and**



approximately 63 miles of streets, curbs, and sidewalks. Public Works also maintains a drinking water system in the historic Old Town Suwanee area. We have to make sure there is the right amount of chlorine, fluoride, and phosphate in the water to make it safe for people to drink.

The public works department is in charge of **“waking up” the parks every day (weekends too!).** Beginning with Town Center Park at 6 AM, we refill toilet paper and soap and mop and clean the park bathrooms. We take out the trash, blow off the sidewalks, sanitize the drinking fountains, and pick up litter. Then we move on to the next park

until we’ve tidied up all eight city parks.

One of our **biggest jobs is maintaining the Big Splash fountain in Town Center Park.** Every day we test the chlorine, change the filters, blow off the surface, and clean the grates. Every two weeks, we drain the entire fountain and replace it with 1,400 gallons of fresh, clean water!

Public works employees also work at over 40 events that take place every year in Town Center Park. We keep the trash cans empty, put up cones and barricades, and keep the greenway free of dead animals for races, among other jobs. Be sure to wave and say hi when you see us!





GRAB THE CAKE AND BALLOONS: EVERYONE'S FAVORITE FOUNTAIN IS TURNING 15 THIS YEAR!

Located in Town Center Park, **Big Splash Fountain is one of Gwinnett County's largest interactive fountains** and features 43 jets using 1,400 gallons of (recycled) water every minute!

The Big Splash grand opening on June 17, 2006 served as a fundraiser for Suwanee's adopted sister city of Long Beach, Mississippi. The Suwanee community raised more than \$25,000 for Long Beach's recovery from Hurricane Katrina.



"We expected that the fountain would bring more people to Town Center Park," said former Suwanee City Manager Hardin Watkins. "The draw dramatically exceeded our expectations. It's been overwhelmingly popular."

While the City encourages splashing, delighted squeals, and fun in the fountain, several rules are necessary to ensure the safety of splashers, as well as keep the fountain in tip-top shape:

- **NO FOOD, GUM, BEVERAGES, OR GLASS CONTAINERS IN THE FOUNTAIN AREA**
- **NO PETS IN THE WATER**
- **NO WATER BALLOONS, WATER GUNS, OR OTHER TOYS**
- **PLEASE KEEP ROCKS, STONES, AND OTHER SMALL OBJECTS OUTSIDE THE FOUNTAIN AREA**
- **NO SKATES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, OR BICYCLES**

“It’s important to follow the rules in order to protect everyone’s safety and the integrity of the fountain,” said Luis Lopez from the Suwanee Public Works department. “We hate to close the fountain for repairs when kids put rocks, trash, or socks down the jets.”



LEAVE THIS **world** A LITTLE **BETTER** THAN YOU FOUND IT.

The City of Suwanee has benefitted from multiple scout projects throughout the years! Here are the highlights of just a few of these projects – and hundreds of volunteer hours – that have greatly enhanced our community.



Benjamin Stewart of Scout Troop 827 built hammock stands at the Orchard at White Street Park for his Eagle Scout project. The NGHS senior chose the idea in 2020 because he wanted “something that people in Suwanee could enjoy being outdoors and could hang out with their friends and still social distance.”



Brendon Hagler of Troop 846 built bee habitats for solitary bees at the Orchard at White Street Park. Solitary bees actually do way more pollinating than the multi-tasking honey bees, because they don’t spend time making honey. Just 250 solitary bees can pollinate the entirety of our one-acre orchard. (It would take 100,000 honey bees to accomplish this same task!)



Girl Scout Troop 2440 completed eight months of work at Harvest Farm towards a Bronze Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. The scouts focused on rehabilitating Harvest Farm's butterfly garden. The troop also created and installed folk art of the United States flag after noticing that Scouts frequently hold ceremonies in these areas and that there was no flag present.



Scott Eyre designed and created an orienteering course at Suwanee Creek Park for his Eagle Scout project. Using a compass, hikers turn to the azimuth listed on the map until they have discovered all 19 markers on the one-mile course. You can print the map at Suwanee.com!



Connor Burrell's Eagle project included repainting the barn chalkboard and building and painting child gates for Harvest Farm Community Garden at White Street Park.



Jack Bedard completed a "Chimney Swift tower" as his Eagle Scout project in 2020. The Chimney Swift is an endangered bird that often inhabit old chimneys in the area during their migratory pattern. The tower is located in the Orchard at White Street Park.

Additionally, Sims Lake Park is home to many Scout projects, including the duck houses, a concrete ping pong table, and a human sundial!

love Suwanee Parks **BINGO!**

Walk
the
Greenway

Take a photo at
the photo station
by the lake
Sims Lake Park

Try your
hand at
disc golf
**Suwanee
Creek Park**

Show your LOVE
for Suwanee!
Take a pic with
the LOVE art

Spot a
butterfly in the
pollinator
garden
**White Street
Park**

Shoot hoops
(it's BYO ball!)
Main Street

Take a video
dancing across
the stage!
Town Center Park



Grab a treat
**Town
Center Park**

Climb the
rock wall
PlayTown

Try out the new
orienteeering course
**Suwanee
Creek Park**



Nature scavenger hunt!
Find an acorn, sweetgum ball, and leaf!
Any park or trail

Explore a soft surface trail
Suwanee Creek Park

Visit the
Suwanee Welcome Center

Discover the Wizard of the
Brushy Creek Trail

Have a picnic in **any park!**

Play a game of duck, duck, goose (and spot one!)
Sims Lake Park

Visit the Parks page at **suwanee.com** for more info



Snap a pic at the Red Caboose and post it
Main Street

#SuwaneeSpringBreak

Slide on over to the Orchard for a FAST slide!
White Street Park

Town Center Park

Draw on the barn chalkboard
White Street Park

Make music on the playground
PlayTown

Visit 9/11 Remembrance piece
Town Center Park



Borrow or leave a book at a Free Little Library
PlayTown or Suwanee Creek Park

I spy!
Which veggies can you spot?
White Street Park

Bring your chalk and decorate the sidewalks
Town Center Park

SUWANEE.COM

explore Suwanee

The City of Suwanee has eight distinctive parks, miles of greenway and trails, and so many options, it's hard to choose where to go and what to do. Here are some fun ideas.

ME, MYSELF, & I



A QUIET PLACE TO READ... WHITE STREET PARK

Nestled in the historic Old Town district, White Street is home to Harvest Farm community garden and the orchard.

FRIEND TIME



FRIENDLY COMPETITION... MAIN STREET PARK

Challenge your BFF to a game of pick-up basketball and bring your boards and show off at the skate park.



RUN FREE... MARTIN FARM PARK

This park provides access to the approximately five-mile Suwanee Creek Greenway.

AN ACTIVE ADVENTURE... SUWANEE CREEK

Home to an 18-hole disc golf course and orienteering course, Suwanee Creek Park also serves as the trailhead for the Suwanee Creek Greenway.

AND #FINDYOURPARK

and a grand total of over 325 acres of greenspace! With so many ideas to get you started on your next Suwanee parks adventure!

QUALITY TIME WITH THE 'RENTS



FAMILY FUN



PARENT DATE NIGHT... TOWN CENTER PARK

Let your parents have a quiet meal to themselves while you run and play in the park!

THE PERFECT PLACE TO PLAY... PLAYTOWN SUWANEE

It's the kind of playground that kids' dreams are made of! Take a ride on a magical bus, storm the castle, set sail – if you can imagine it, it can be done at PlayTown!



I CHOO-CHOO-CHOOSE YOU... STATION PARK

This newly-renovated pocket park by the police station is an excellent spot watch the trains go by.

GET BACK TO NATURE... SIMS LAKE PARK

The 62-acre park includes a seven-acre lake with a dock and 1.2-mile looping trail.

VISIT SUWANEE.COM FOR MORE IDEAS!

UPCOMING EVENTS



CHOA Superhero Sprint
JUNE 8 | 8:00 AM



Georgia Swarm Fan Fest
JUNE 12 | 2:00 PM



Suwanee Summer Porch Jam
JUNE 18 | 6:00 PM (OLD TOWN SUWANEE)



Movies Under the Stars
JULY 17 | 6:00 PM



Broadway in the Park
JULY 30 & 31 | 7:00 PM

Join us in
Town Center
Park for these
**awesome
open air
events!**

MAYOR

Jimmy Burnette

COUNCIL

Pete Charpentier
Heather Hall
Beth Hilscher
Linnea Miller
Larry Pettiford

CITY MANAGER

Marty Allen

POLICE CHIEF

Cass Mooney

EDITOR

Abby Wilkerson



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