



Suwanee

Adventures

SUMMER 2023

IN THIS ISSUE



LET'S BUILD A
PLAYGROUND



PARKER'S
PASSPORT



WOULD YOU
RATHER?



ARE YOU READY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY?

PLAYTOWN SUWANEES V2.0

PLAY IT FORWARD 2023

We're Building a Brand-New PlayTown Suwanee!

In 2004, more than 1,000 people from our community came together to build PlayTown Suwanee. It was a huge success, and now we're going to do it again! After almost 20 years of fun, it's time to update PlayTown Suwanee for a new generation.

The city determined that instead of fixing up the old playground, it makes more sense to build a brand new one with modern materials and cool new features. The new playground will be in the same place as before, and it will be a similar size. It will have

some elements that remind us of the old playground, but it will also meet new standards so that everyone can play together. The playground will be made from recycled materials that are good for the Earth and will last a long time without needing much maintenance.

Playgrounds have changed a lot in the past 20 years. With the new park, Town Center on Main, being built, it's the perfect time to give PlayTown a makeover. It's also a chance for parents to be part of a really important project!

PlayTown SUWANEES COMMUNITY BUILD

Want to play on a playground that YOUR parents helped build? Tell them to scan this QR for more information about building the playground and signing up to volunteer! We need volunteers of ALL abilities and interests! Whether your Mom is a construction expert, your grandma is a little bit handy, or your Dad has never even held a hammer – we've got a job for everyone!

OCT. 9-15, 2023



 MORE INFO



Do You Want to Build a Playground?



Building a playground takes a LOT of work and a LOT of people! Luckily, our friends at Leathers Playgrounds are helping. This is the same organization that helped design and build the first PlayTown back in 2004!

Planning for the PlayTown Suwanee 2.0 community build began in February. In addition to many people from the city staff, we also have two volunteer co-chairs who are helping lead the entire project, a volunteer committee, and HUNDREDS of volunteers will help during the actual build!

When it came to designing the playground, we hosted design brainstorm sessions with the ultimate playground experts: kids! We visited select classrooms in elementary schools within the city limits to gather ideas. Kids were also invited to share their ideas on Suwanee.com.



We're looking for adult volunteers who aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty (or covered in paint, or cement, or whatever else we may need). Encourage your parents to get involved – not only will they get to help create something amazing, they'll also meet some pretty cool people from your community! P.S. – Kids as young as 11 years old can help (with a parent)!



 MORE INFO

The five days I spent working on the PlayTown Suwanee project were among the most satisfying. I was overwhelmed by how our community came together and all that we were able to accomplish.

– Former Suwanee Mayor Nick Masino



The Mayor, Police Chief, AND Deputy Police Chief all helped build the original PlayTown Suwanee!



- 1,200 volunteers +
- 5 days +
- 10,000 total hours +
- 2,831 pieces of lumber +
- 14 tons of sand +
- 94 gallons of paint +
- 642 pounds of nails +
- 56,788 screws +
- 55 drills +
- 11 saws =

A 10,000-square-foot one-of-a-kind wonderland!

PlayTown 2004 BY THE NUMBERS

Would you RATHER...?

1.



Who Let the Dogs Out?
by Jim Collins

Play with dogs in Town Center Park?

← **OR** →

Sing on the Town Center Stage?



Let Your Voice Be Heard
by Jason Dozer

2.

Have a car that can **drive underwater** in Sims Lake?

← **OR** →

Have a car that can **fly over** Sims Lake?

3.



Griffin
by Jonathan Bowling

Meet a mythical **GRIFFIN?**

← **OR** →

Meet a real life **DEVIL FISH?**



Devil Fish
by Todd Kappes Frahm

4.



Core Red
by Adam Walls

Swim in the ocean with this sea creature?

← **OR** →

Explore underground with this balled up bunny?



Tangled Hare
by Todd Kappes Frahm

5.

Hang out in Town Center Park at **Movies Under the Stars** with all your friends?

← **OR** →

Hang out in Town Center Park in your **ENO hammock** with a good book?

6.



Sit on a bench in Sims Lake Park with **THIS GUY?**

Audubon Watcher
by Jim Collins

OR



Sit on a bench in Town Center with **THIS LADY?**

Harriet Tubman Bench
by Gary Lee Price

GET outside



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

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.) And it doesn't count the BRAND NEW parks that are coming soon!

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 improving the city's greenway trail.

Citizens voted to allow the city to buy hundreds of acres of land 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!

The city broke ground in fall 2022 on Town Center on Main, expanding Town Center Park across Buford Highway. The park will include a large bridge over a water feature, sand volleyball courts, and art pieces, all in the front yard of the Suwanee library! And this fall, our community will come together to build PlayTown Suwanee v2.0 (read all about it on pages 2 and 3!).

P A R K S T I M E L I N E



PARKS AND TRAILS & GREENWAYS

Oh My!



Harvest Farm at White Street Park has been at **100%** capacity since it opened in 2010! With 76 plots, it is Georgia's largest organic community garden.

Suwanee park pavilions average 61 reservations annually – that's a lot of birthday parties, family reunions, and other get-togethers!

50,000

Suwanee Fest brings 50,000 visitors to Town Center Park in just one weekend – that's more people than the Atlanta Braves' stadium can hold!

The City's Public Works department spent **921 hours** removing litter last year – in that same amount of time, they could have watched the entire *Star Wars* movie series nearly 58 times.

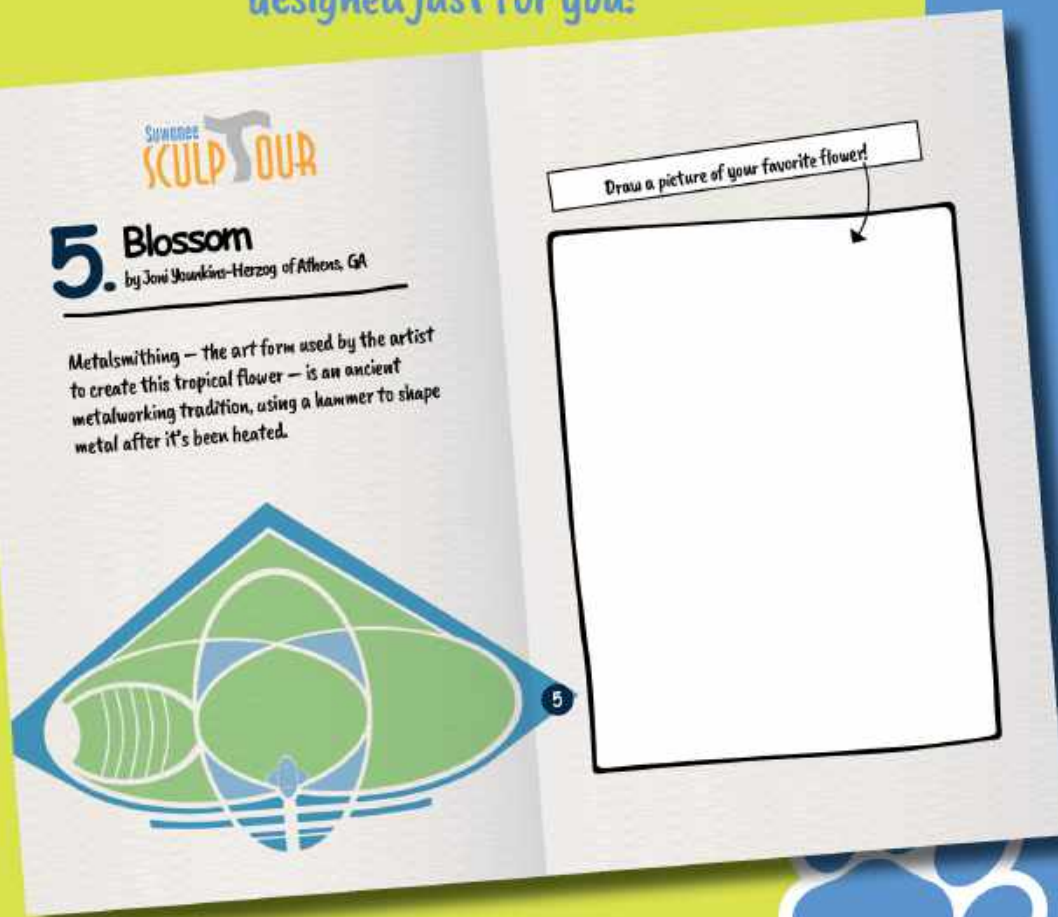
Nearly **8 million** inches of toilet paper are used at the city's parks and municipal buildings annually – enough to stretch from Suwanee to Asheville, NC.



At 85 acres, Suwanee Creek Park is the City of Suwanee's **LARGEST** park.

Parker's PASSPORT

A super fun guide to the SculpTour exhibit,
designed just for you!



SculpTour is the City of Suwanee's recurring temporary sculpture exhibition. While there are many pieces of art all around the city, SculpTour primarily takes place within Town Center Park.

The city currently has 17 pieces in its seventh SculpTour exhibit, including a magical Griffin made out of old parts, a bench where you can sit with one of history's greatest figures, and a sculpture created from a drawing by a kid your age! You can learn more about the pieces in SculpTour with Parker's Passport.

Named for the Suwanee's oversized canine mascot, Parker's Passport provides a tour of the art, kid-friendly information, and an activity to complete at each piece. Public art is for EVERYONE - including our youngest citizens!

fun fact!

Parker's Passport was inspired by EPCOT's Festival of the Arts passport, which offered multiple things to do in each "country" relating to the festival.

Download and print your very own Parker's Passport

a super fun guide to the SculpTour exhibit, designed just for you! You can also stop by City Hall or the Welcome Center between 8 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday to pick one up.



SCAN ME

What Do You Do?

CITY OF SUWANEES *Environmental Services Manager*

By Bill Stinehart



I might have the best job in all of Suwanee! I am the city's **arborist**. I am an experienced and certified tree expert, and my job is

to take care of the trees in our community.

Trees are super important! They give us oxygen to breathe, help stop erosion and water runoff, save energy by providing shade, make the air cleaner, and give homes to animals.

Every year, I plant **more than 150 trees in neighborhoods and public places** to make sure we have enough shade. I also remove harmful plants and teach people about trees through seminars.

I'm not just planting trees, though: I'm also protecting the land around Suwanee to keep natural areas safe. Suwanee has over **325 acres of parks and greenspaces, plus 160 acres of preserved lands, and more than 630 acres of protected wetlands and streams.**

Suwanee has been working hard for a long time to make sure our trees stay healthy. The city requires people who build new buildings to set

aside areas for trees and plants. Sometimes, we even ask for small parks for everyone to enjoy. We also work with builders and developers to protect big, special trees during construction.

I'm here to make sure Suwanee's trees are happy and healthy, and I'm doing my best to keep our community beautiful and full of nature.



Suwanee Parks **BINGO!**

Walk the
Greenway

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

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

Take a video
dancing across
the stage **Town
Center Park**

Watch the
train go by at
Station Park



Take a photo at
the photo
station **Sims
Lake Park**

Show your LOVE
for Suwanee!
Take a pic with
the LOVE art
**Town Center
Park**

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

Grab a treat
**Town Center
Park**

Try out the
orienteeing
course **Suwanee
Creek Park**



Borrow or leave
a book at a Free
Little Library at
**Sims Lake or
Suwanee Creek
Park**

Draw on the
barn
chalkboard
**White Street
Park**

Visit the Parks
page at
suwanee.com
for more info

Ride something
with wheels on
the **Greenway**

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



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

Make music at
the Orchard at
**White Street
Park**

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

Have a picnic
in **any park!**

Explore a
soft surface
trail
**Suwanee
Creek Park**

Bring your
chalk and
decorate the
sidewalks
**Town Center
Park**

Visit 9/11
Remembrance
piece
**Town Center
Park**

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

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

Visit the
**Suwanee
Welcome
Center**

explore Suwanee and #FindYourPark

The City of Suwanee has eight distinctive parks, miles of greenway and trails, and a grand total of over 325 acres of greenspace! With so many options, it's hard to choose where to go and what to do. Here are some fun ideas to get you started on your next Suwanee parks adventure!

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.

QUALITY TIME WITH THE 'RENTS



Parent date night... Town Center Park

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

FAMILY FUN



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.



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.



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.



The perfect place to play... PlayTown Suwanee

We're building it! Check out the story on pages 2 and 3!

Upcoming EVENTS



**August Concert
featuring Sister
Hazel**

AUGUST 12 | 6:30 PM



**African American
Arts & Culture
Festival**

AUGUST 26 | 2:00 PM



**Annandale Extra
Mile 5k**

AUGUST 26 | 7:30 AM



Suwanee Fest

SEPTEMBER 16-17 |
9 AM/NOON

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

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