



# A PLACE TO IMAGINE

MAY 2016

## Local Citizens Give Valuable Feedback at Public Meeting on the Norcross Parks Master Plan

A public meeting was held at the Norcross Cultural Arts & Community Center on March 16 to discuss the Norcross Parks Master Plan Update, specifically to provide an overview of the planning process, description of park-types and to solicit input from the public. In conjunction with the meeting, public comment cards were distributed. Over 20 interested citizens attended the meeting in addition to city staff and several elected officials.

Public feedback from the meeting included discussions on ensuring that new parks address the needs of older populations; addressing maintenance in the CIP since SPLOST funds can't be used for O&M; and coordinating with the County's parks plans so that the recommendations in the city's plan are not in conflict with the County's plans. The meeting also brought about a discussion on allowing those who live in the newly annexed areas to provide input in the planning phase as the area has a high Spanish-speaking population where outreach is needed.

The comment cards received from the public included requests for basketball courts, volleyball courts, rock climbing walls, more nature



trails and soccer fields. There was also a request to have a public meeting in Spanish or to have a translator at the next meeting.

Other general comments included a discussion on the acreage that is being developed behind the Summerour Middle School and if that would be counted in the park facilities in the plan. One resident wanted to make sure that when the 1/2-mile service radius is applied to parks planning that it doesn't include planning for parks in the commercial areas. There were also questions about the process to acquire additional park land in an area that is generally built-out. Another resident

also requested that Johnson Dean Park be considered for an urban forest and that the city work with volunteer groups to get the park classified for protection.

The City of Norcross greatly appreciates the public input on the Parks Master Plan and looks forward to continuing to work with its citizens in providing a beautiful backdrop for life in Norcross through the city's park system.

**Want to give your two cents?**  
Take the Parks Master Plan survey available on [norcrossga.net](http://norcrossga.net) home page.

# The Norcross Community Market OPENS THIS SUMMER

## Producer-Only Open Air Farmers Market



**NORCROSS**  
community market

“A place to imagine.” It’s a simple phrase that evokes emotion and a sense of pride for families living in Norcross. Beautifully maintained and passionately promoted, the City of Norcross is a community where anyone could imagine themselves happy, healthy and thriving. Those are the same feelings that Sustainable Norcross, the local nonprofit hosting the market, hopes to extend to the Norcross Community Market opening on June 4th.

Sustainable Norcross, with the support of the City of Norcross and the Norcross Downtown Development Authority, is partnering with the Georgia Farmers Market Association (a project of Project Generation Gap Inc. funded by the Foodwell Alliance) to create a farmers market that is shaping up to serve as a best practice model for markets across the state. The Georgia Farmers Market Association (GFMA) is an association of farmers markets, producers and other good food movement advocates committed to improving access to healthy foods in Georgia.

“Essentially, our goal is to make the Norcross Farmers Market a

huge success. Our experience and research have given us a good understanding of the key components of a sustainable farmers market. Our plan incorporates many of those practices here in Norcross,” said GFMA’s Executive Director Sagdrina Jalal.

It is clear that local farmers markets have an impact. In addition to increasing access to fresh, nutritious food, The Farmers Market Coalition finds that markets support healthy communities, promote environmental stewardship, support economic development and preserve America’s livelihoods and farmland.

So, what does all of this look like for Norcross? Envision a place where people of different backgrounds, socio-economic status, ages and lifestyles can connect with each other and local producers; learning more about the value of having seasonal fresh food available in their community. By working together, GFMA and Sustainable Norcross are creating a model for success. Collaborations are a big part of how it comes together. Through its double value coupon program, Wholesome Wave Georgia will work with the Norcross Community Market to incentivize Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP- formerly known as the food stamp program) customers to shop at the local market. Shoppers will double the value of their SNAP benefits by participating in the program.

Open Hand Atlanta will offer live cooking demonstrations at the



market. Volunteer food educators have been trained in their Cooking Matters curriculum and will offer sample bites of meals and snacks that use food items available for purchase at the market. Market attendees will walk away with easy and tasty menu ideas. Local chefs will also showcase their food offerings at the market, offering shoppers ways to kick their experience with local food up a notch. The market will feature entertainment and include activities geared for singles, couples and families. In addition, other local nonprofits will have an opportunity to connect with their community. The food will be fresh and the experience invaluable.

Jalal sees the future of the Norcross Community Market as bright, “Through our partnership we are making all of the key connections. However, it is important for the community to come out and support this exciting project that Sustainable



Norcross has taken on. When folks come to the market, they will see that there is something for everyone; every palate and every budget. We are clear on the correlation between successful markets and successful communities and Norcross has what’s needed for this to be a huge success.”

### Norcross Community Market

**Saturdays beginning June 4, 2016 – August 13th, 2016 (excluding July 2nd) at Lillian Webb Park from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



### Norcross Lifelong Communities Committee Announces Speaker Series on Available Senior Services

The Norcross Lifelong Communities (LLC) Committee is pleased and excited to announce the beginning of a monthly speaker series directed towards seniors (60+) and caregivers. Each presentation will be given twice within a short time frame to accommodate varying personal schedules and encourage participation. The presentations will be held at the Norcross Community Center and will last 60 to 90 minutes.

The first presentation will be led by Pat Baker, director of health and human services, Gwinnett County. She will discuss the health and human services available within Gwinnett County. The dates of the first presentations will be Tuesday, May 10 at 10 a.m. and Thursday, May 12 at 10 a.m. The second presentation in the series will be led by Jamie Cramer, Gwinnett County’s manager of senior services. She will discuss the senior services and programs available within Gwinnett County. The dates of the second presentations will be Tuesday, June 7 at 10 a.m. and Thursday, June 9 at 10 a.m.

The LLC Committee plans to continue similar presentations on a monthly basis. For additional information on the Senior Services Speaker Series, please contact *Vivian McDaniel*, [Vivianv20@gmail.com](mailto:Vivianv20@gmail.com); *Rob Girard*, [Robgirard69@att.net](mailto:Robgirard69@att.net); or *Gary Brace*, [GLB1117@hotmail.com](mailto:GLB1117@hotmail.com).

### Reserve Your Sponsorship for the Norcross Community Market

In preparation for the launch of the Norcross Community Farmers Market, a sponsorship program has been instituted to ensure the market’s success for the coming year and for many years to come. Sponsorships are available at many levels from corporate donors to individuals. Individual donors will receive a reusable shopping bag with the market logo as well as recognition on the website. Visit [norcrosscommunitymarket.com](http://norcrosscommunitymarket.com) for additional information and to donate.



## Locals Students Set to Transform Mitchell Road Wall to Work of Art

The City of Norcross approved a request to allow local students to create a mural on a brown wall that stretches down Mitchell Road. The Mitchell Road Wall Project will turn the brown wall into a canvas that celebrates community and nature and will be a public art piece intended to cultivate community awareness, strengthen relationships and develop civic pride. Led by Norcross teachers, students and volunteers, young artists from kindergarten – 12th grades will help create a mural approximately 60 feet in length, comprising of five panels depicting nature’s seasonal colors, wildlife and plants in colorful mosaics and painted images. The Norcross Public Arts Commission has approved the design and will hold the group accountable as they move forward with the Mitchell Wall Community Project. While traffic will not be affected, please be mindful if you see local artists at work. For more information, visit <http://www.gardens4growingcommunity.com/mitchell-road-mural-project>.



## City of Norcross Hosts Eggs-tra Special Easter Egg Hunt

In addition to Norcross’ traditional Easter Egg Hunt, the city also hosted an eggs-tra special Easter Egg Hunt for children with special needs and their families on Saturday, March 26 at Rossie Brundage Park. The event was wheelchair accessible and sensory friendly with special consideration for the visually and hearing impaired. The City of Norcross would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the International Association Bomb Technicians and Investigators and the Atlanta Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which provided beeping eggs for the blind and visually impaired. The city would also like to thank the Canine Assistants for their support of a service dog, Janet Johnson for providing sign language interpretation, North Gwinnett High School volunteers, the Traci Dickson family and the Easter Bunny! The event also included scooping nets for children in wheelchairs and a tent with beanbags for sensory-sensitive children.

## Be a Part of the Men and Women in Blue with the Norcross Police Department Citizens Police Academy

**DATE:** Beginning June 9th, 2016 and every Thursday night for the next 10 weeks

**TIME:** 6pm – 8pm

**Location:** 65 Lawrenceville St., Norcross Ga – Norcross City Hall in the Community Room on the 2nd floor

**Register:** Email Ofc. Yanez at [lsidro.yanez@norcrosspd.com](mailto:lsidro.yanez@norcrosspd.com)

The Norcross Police Department Citizens Police Academy is a 20-hour course where Norcross citizens or local business owners receive instruction in the day-to-day operations of the police department. The academy is an annual event and is approximately 10 weeks long with one 2-hour session weekly.

### A. SELECTION

Selection of participating citizens will be based upon the following:

1. At least 21 years of age;
2. Priority given to citizens of Norcross; and
3. Commitment to attend all sessions of the course.

### B. INSTRUCTION TOPICS

The course curriculum is instructed primarily by members of the Norcross Police Department who are certified police instructors, with guest instructors from the Gwinnett County District Attorneys and Solicitors Office. The areas of instruction include, but are not limited to:

1. Criminal Law
2. Traffic Law
3. Criminal Investigations
4. Communications
5. Domestic Violence
6. The ADVANCE Program
7. Community Relations
8. Records / Support Services
9. Patrol Operations
10. Search and Seizure
11. Police Tactics



### C. COURSE COMPLETION

The final scheduled class date is reserved for the class graduation. The mayor and council will recognize the graduating citizens on a regularly scheduled meeting date and the graduate will also receive their certificate of completion. Upon the completion of the Citizen’s Police Academy, the student will be invited to become involved with the Norcross Police Community Volunteers.

## Important Updates on the Norcross LCI Greenway Plan

The City of Norcross LCI Greenway Plan is a study that integrates regional stormwater improvements with a proposed bicycle and pedestrian network for the south side of Norcross. The recommended improvements have the potential to provide exceptional community benefits including: improved connectivity between neighborhoods and community destinations, greater recreational opportunities, reduced automobile traffic congestion, increased economic vitality and better public and environmental health. The City of Norcross was awarded a Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) grant to help fund the planning of this vision. The planning process included a web based survey and three public meetings.

Stormwater improvements include a network of detention ponds, constructed wetlands and stream restoration along Beaver Ruin Creek and its tributaries. The goal of the recommended stormwater improvements include: reduce flooding, improve water quality, decrease erosion of stream channels, increase biodiversity and meet state and federal requirements imposed on Norcross.

The final plan provides a comprehensive network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, totaling 9.5 miles. The network consists of a variety of facilities, including off-road multi-use trails along Beaver Ruin Creek, off-road multi-use trails within power easements, sidepaths (multi-use trails adjacent to existing roadways) and sidewalks with shared bicycle lane markings.

The central spine of the greenway system is a north/south route that primarily follows Mitchell Road, but also connects to downtown Norcross (at Holcomb Bridge Road) and Pinnacle Center (at Beaver Ruin Road and Pinnacle Way). Several spur trails and connective sidewalk/sharrow routes provide additional connectivity between the neighborhoods and the greenway’s central spine.

Primary destinations that are accessible by the proposed greenway network include: Summerour Middle School, Pinnacle Center, Norcross City Hall, Downtown Norcross, Cemetery Field, Pinnacle Park and the future Beaver Ruin Road Multi-use Trail.

This planning study has been adopted by the city council. Currently, no funding has been allocated for the construction of recommended plan improvements. The city is currently filing for a CDBG grant that, if successful, will provide initial funding for the first parts of the trail system. The first phase will be the development of on-road bike lanes for Mitchell Rd. and Price Place providing a safe bike route for the neighborhoods that are served by Summerour Middle School and the new Norcross Elementary, currently under construction.



## GET TO KNOW CITY OF NORCROSS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, UTILITIES & PARKS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, MELISSA ZEIGLER



With duties entailing maintaining the infrastructure for the City of Norcross, the Department of Public Works, Utilities & Parks Department is the backbone of a well-run city. The responsibilities of the department include the maintenance of utilities, such as power and sewer, along with roads, stormwater, sanitation, parks, and recreation. Working diligently behind the scenes within this department is Melissa Zeigler. In her role as executive assistant, Melissa provides technical and administrative support to the Department of Public Works, Utilities, & Parks. And while Melissa is new to Norcross’ government offices, having only been with the city offices since March 2016, she is not new to the Norcross community and all of its wonderful amenities. Here, she shares why she loves her job and the City of Norcross.

### Q. What is your favorite aspect of your job?

I love working with the community. I have a heart to help others and enjoy supporting the vision of the City.

### Q: Why do you love the city of Norcross?

I’ve lived in Norcross since I moved here from Kansas in 2003. My husband and I liked the area so much, we’ve only moved within a mile of our first apartment. The location is very convenient with easy access to the interstate, local restaurants and entertainment. As Andrae Crouch would say “We love it here”.

### Q: What are your passions beyond serving the citizens of Norcross?

I’m very passionate about mentoring women. I have been an active volunteer for Out of Darkness for over the past two years. Out of Darkness is a ministry of the Atlanta Dream Center. Their mission is to reach, rescue and restore women who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation so that the glory of God will be made known.

## City of Norcross Conducts Water Audit and Encourages Citizens to Do the Same

In response to applying for Platinum Level Green Communities through the Atlanta Regional Commission, the City of Norcross conducted an internal water audit. The audit includes an inspection of the city-owned water fixtures to ensure they meet the required efficiency requirements such as gallons per flush (GPF) on the toilets and gallons per minute (GPM) on the faucets. In addition, these water audits give the opportunity for the city to check for any leaks or issues with the plumbing fixtures on a regular basis.

The result of this investigation ensures that the city is doing their part to conserve one of its most valuable resources—water. Citizens are invited and encouraged to conduct their own water audit by looking for the following:

- **Toilets:** Federal plumbing standards specify that new toilets can only use up to 1.6 GPF, and there are high efficiency toilets that use up to 1.28 GPF. If your toilet was installed prior to 1992, then it likely uses 3.5-7 GPF
- **Faucets:** Federal Plumbing Standards specify that kitchen faucets use no more than 2.5 GPM and bathroom faucets use no more than 2.2 GPM.
- **Shower heads:** A flow rate of less than 2.5 GPM is recommended.

If you do decide you need to replace a plumbing fixture, be sure to look for the WaterSense label. This ensures you are saving water without compromising performance. Don't forget to check your outdoor plumbing fixtures for leaks as well.



## Norcross Summer Camps: Nature, Drama & Digital Fun for All Ages!

Registration is now open for summer camps in Norcross! This June through July, Lionheart Theatre and Gardens4GrowingCommunity are filling the calendar with low-cost, high-fun day camps centered around performing arts, digital filmmaking, and Nature Camps combining outdoor play with nature-based science education activities. The choices for your child (or grandchildren!) are exciting and varied, all focused on growing young minds while keeping them happily entertained.

To learn more about Lionheart's talent shows, improv, musical and digital filmmaking camps, please visit [www.lionhearttheatre.org/camps](http://www.lionhearttheatre.org/camps) (you'll discover there are some fun sessions for grown-ups, too!) The Nature Camps will take on the role of naturalist, scientist, and adventurer in the city's forest and parks. Older kids will even help create the City of Norcross' official Forest and Tree Tours, practicing digital and research skills. Information and registration for this learning-based fun is online at [www.gardens4growingcommunity.com/camps](http://www.gardens4growingcommunity.com/camps)



## Norcross Celebrates Earth Day with A Tree Planting

In commemoration of Earth Day, the City of Norcross planted a "goldenraintree" in Thrasher Park on April 22 to replace a tree that was removed due to lightning damage. The tree, which was planted just inside the entrance to Thrasher Park at Park Drive and Buchanan Street, also represents the City of Norcross' continued commitment to the city's designation as a Tree City USA. The tree planting was co-sponsored by the Tree Preservation Board and the Department of Public Works, Utilities and Parks.

As described by the Arbor Day Foundation, the goldenraintree lends grace and charm to the landscape throughout the entire year—rare yellow tree blossoms in the late spring and summer, graceful paper lanterns dangling from the branches in autumn and winter. But this tree is more than just looks. Goldenraintrees are hardy, thriving in the tough urban environment and an astonishingly wide range of soil conditions. The combination of beauty and durability makes for an enchanting sight near patios, in parks, in street rights-of-way and in planters.

"The tree planting showcases the city's continued commitment to the environment as well as maintaining a beautiful tree canopy," said Mary Beth Bender, director, Public Works, Utilities & Parks/ACM, City of Norcross. "The goldenraintree is a wonderful addition to the city's treescape that we hope our citizens and visitors will enjoy for years to come."

Coinciding with the tree planting, Norcross Mayor Bucky Johnson established "Garden Week in Norcross" which echoed a proclamation recently signed by Governor Deal that designated the third week in April as "Garden Week in Georgia." This year's inaugural Garden Week included several events and Earth Day activities including the tree planting and involvement with students at Summerour Middle School.

The City of Norcross extends its sincere appreciate to all who helped celebrate Earth Day and Garden Week in Norcross!

## Interested in Supporting the New Discovery Garden Park? We've Got You Covered!

Good news Norcross citizens—the city will be breaking ground on the Discovery Garden Park in May! Even better news is that citizens can take advantage of the park before it opens! Check out the following events and happenings designed to support and build momentum for the new park:



### NORCROSS DISCOVERY GARDEN PARK

- **Invite a Monarch to Lunch:** Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center ballroom
- **From Garden to Table BBQ:** May 22, Skin Alley, 6 p.m.
- **Brick Campaign:** City of Norcross residents are invited to purchase a permeable brick with their name, or that of a loved one, on it to help support the new Discovery Garden Park.



## CONGRATULATIONS

to five students from Summerour Middle Scholarships who were awarded soccer scholarships from the United Futbol Academy. Way to go!



## Skin Alley ArtWay Gets its First Mural

The Norcross Skin Alley ArtWay project received an unexpected and welcomed jump start. Last month, local muralist Peter Ferrari completed a dynamic mural called "Verb" on The Norcross Masonic Lodge and Publix Credit Union buildings on Skin Alley for a viral commercial for the Toyota Prius.



May 6 • Community Center • 10 College Street Norcross, GA • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Contact Cate Kitchen for table reservations  
678.421.2049



**MAY 2** - City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers

**MAY 6-22** - Lionheart Theatre, You Can't Take It With You

**MAY 9** - Movie Monday, Steve Jobs, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

**MAY 14** - Classic Car Show, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Downtown Historic Norcross

**MAY 14** - Food Trucks and Film Night, Minions, 5 p.m., Lillian Webb Park

**MAY 15** - Porsche Car Show, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Lillian Webb Park

**MAY 16** - Policy Work Session, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

**MAY 23** - Movie Monday, The Intern, 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., Norcross Community Center

**MAY 26** - Norcross Business Appreciation Night, The South Bay Project Band, 6:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

**MAY 27** - Summer Concert Series, The Rupert's Band, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Thrasher Park

**MAY 30** - Memorial Day Celebration, 313 Army Brass Band, noon, Thrasher Park

## CITY NUMBERS

- Business Licenses 770.448.2122
- Community Center 678.421.2024
- Court Services 770.448.2173
- Economic Development 678.421.2023
- Yard Debris Pick-up 678.421.2069
- Code Enforcement 770.448.7327
- Parks 678.421.2010
- Permits & Signs 678.421.2027
- Police 770.448.2111
- Property Tax 770.448.2122
- Street Lights 678.421.2069
- Streets & Paving 678.421.2069
- Trash/Recycling Pick-up 770.448.2122
- Utilities Billing 770.448.2122
- Downtown Manager 678.421.2049
- PR/Marketing 678.421.2033

NORCROSS



# Sweet Summer Fun!

## Food & Movies

## Music

## FESTIVALS

## Car Shows



### Movie Monday

Come in from the summer heat and enjoy movies and popcorn all summer long with a great line-up of feature films!



### NORCROSS COMMUNITY MARKET

Bringing farm, food and friends together every Saturday June-August 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Lillian Webb Park!



### BLUESBERRY FESTIVAL

On June 18, enjoy craft beers and some of the best blues musicians in the region!



### Car Shows

One weekend, Two great car shows MAY 14 & 15



### MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Picnic in the park and bebop along to the beats of the 313 U.S. Army Brass Band on May 30th at Noon in Thrasher park.



### RED, WHITE & BOOM

Come celebrate America with us! Enjoy traditional hot peanuts, festival funnel cakes, music and more—July 3 in Lillian Webb Park.



### FOOD TRUCK AND FILM NIGHT

Family fun night in the park with the best food trucks in the metro area and fun films under the stars! First one will be the Minion movie, May 14 at 5 p.m. in Lillian Webb Park.



### Summer Concert Series

Tune in for live music in every genre—ALL SUMMER LONG! May 27th in Thrasher Park, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.



### Jazz in Alley

Jazz at its best in Betty Mauldin Park. Bring chairs, a cooler (no glass, please) and come chill. Starting July 16th!

For a complete listing of events, visit [www.aplacetoimagine.com](http://www.aplacetoimagine.com)

