

Improvements invest in public fun

Cobb County continues to improve its playing fields and more through the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program.

Residents can expect to witness more construction at Cobb parks and recreation facilities during the coming year, with ongoing renovations to improve the function and look of 50 locations throughout the county.

"The 2011 SPLOST program gives the parks department the ability to do much needed renovation," Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director Eddie Canon said. "This will give our user groups better quality facilities and we're very pleased with the way the projects are moving forward."

A few of the sites include Harrison Tennis Center, Central Aquatic Center, Wild Horse Creek Park, The Art Place, Al Bishop Park, East Cobb Park, Silver Comet Trailhead at Floyd Road, Mable House Arts Center, South Cobb Recreation Center and Sewell Park.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department Senior Project Manager Tom Bills said architects and engineers have been busy since January designing many of the improvements.

"There is a lot that is happening," he said. "We're working as fast as we can."

While 12 percent are completed, 61 percent of the planned projects are in the design and engineering phase, according to



Special

The Mountain View Aquatic Center's air quality improvements and architectural upgrades were completed last year. The changes were funded through the 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

the August SPLOST progress report. Six percent remain in the construction phase and 21 percent have not started.

For instance, replacement of the Harrison Tennis Center started in August, while most of the new scoreboards for various parks have already been installed. Paving at Al Bishop Park was completed in August as preliminary design for other improvements are underway for the location.

Other projects include repairs and interior improvements at Ward Recreation Center to prevent water leaks. The replacement of cross-tie retaining walls at many parks is ongoing, while new concession buildings are planned for Oregon, Fullers and Sewell parks.

Bills said the work is all centered on replacing, repairing or improving existing facilities and equipment.

"There's nothing new in anything we're talking about," he said.

County officials have also coordinated with various volunteer sports associations to reduce disruption of their programs and games.

"We're trying to minimize interruptions," Bills said.

The volunteer groups are deeply involved with the projects, officials said. They helped develop the lists of improvements in their individual parks and are even looking at the plans before they are built.

"We're getting very positive feedback from the public," Canon said of the renovations. "We believe this will improve everyone's experiences at the parks."

More information about Cobb County recreational facilities and SPLOST is available at prca.cobbcountyga.gov.



Special

An expansion was recently added to the basketball courts at Hurt Road Park, removing the existing cross tie and slate dust borders. The park also received replacement fencing for its tennis courts.

Participate in transportation plan

Cobb County has launched the 2040 Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update. This update will assist the county and its cities in designing, planning and funding transportation investments through the year 2040.

Public participation is a significant and important part of this process. The same careful planning that made Cobb County robust today is now needed for the future. Every citizen's opinion counts as the public identifies countywide goals, priorities, policies, programs, strategies and projects to maintain Cobb's quality of life while keeping Cobb in motion.

Get involved. Share your thoughts about where we're going. To participate, log onto www.cobbmotion.com.

Jazz festival to bring smooth notes

The Sixth Annual Atlanta Smooth Music Festival is scheduled for Saturday, **Sept. 14**, at the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre. The festival features international, national and local smooth jazz recording artists. Smooth jazz fans will enjoy performances by guitarist Nick Colionne, keyboardist Alex Bugnon, saxophonists Eric Darius and Jeff Sparks, flutist Kim Scott and bassist Julian Vaughn. Tickets are now available at ticketmaster.com, any Ticketmaster outlet or at the Mable House Barnes Box Office. For more information, please visit www.mablehouse.org.

Fall house cleaning easier through shredding event

Residents have the opportunity to have their household documents securely shredded and donate gently-worn shoes to help people in need. Keep Cobb Beautiful will host Document Shredding Day and Shoe Collection 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, **Sept. 14**. The event will be held at:

Piedmont Church
570 Piedmont Road, Marietta

Powder Springs City Hall
4484 Marietta St., Powder Springs

Wolfe Adult Recreation Center
884 Church St., Smyrna

Marietta Power
591 N. Marietta Parkway, Marietta



This event is in partnership with Keep Marietta Beautiful, Keep Powder Springs Beautiful and Keep Smyrna Beautiful. Only paper products will be accepted.

Plastics, CDs, floppy discs, electronics, cardboard and large binders with metal rings or clips will not be accepted. People are also asked to bind or tape shoes in pairs. For more information, call 770-528-1135.

The Cobb County Board of Commissioners honored the county's Fleet Management Department after it was recognized as one of the top fleet management groups in North America. The honorable mention it earned was part of Government Fleet Magazine's "100 Best Fleets in North America." The publication sent more than 19,000 applications to public fleet managers for the contest. From left, Truck Equipment Tech Keith Marks, Fleet Tech Anderson Cook, Business Manager Ahsan Rafay, Fleet Truck Shop Supervisor Sam Evans, Commissioner JoAnn Birrell, Fleet Director Al Curtis and Fleet Car Shop Supervisor Gary Towns.

Special



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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