



BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

The 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program continues to make improvements possible at Cobb County's PARKS facilities.

More than 80 percent of the PARKS projects are complete, according to the March SPLOST progress report issued by Moreland Altobelli Associates. About 14 percent have construction underway and 4 percent have design or engineering underway. This work has encompassed 172 projects in 50 county parks throughout Cobb.

• Officials are planning to hold a grand reopening of the newly renovated Cobb County Civic Center in mid-summer. Interior work in the existing building and the addition is moving forward with the final touches on interior finishes, equipment start up and clean up.

"You're not going to believe it when you walk in," PARKS Director Eddie Canon said, describing the civic center's renovations to the Board of Commissioners in April. "It's an amazing facility."

• Construction of the new tennis center buildings at Fair Oaks Park and Sweetwater Park is substantially complete and open to the public. The buildings are both larger and more energy efficient, officials said. Repairs were scheduled to start in April at Fair Oaks.

• Field renovations at Big Shanty Park have started. Due to the tight schedule of field use, a portion of the fields have been laser planed. Work will resume later in coordination with the association's schedule. The existing building has been painted and new floors have been installed in the restrooms. New picnic tables have been ordered.

• Renovations to the upper hub building at Lost Mountain Park are currently bidding. The work includes renovations to the concession area, upstairs renovations, new roof and exterior painting. Renovations to the existing restrooms were completed under a separate contract.

• Work is underway at the storage building at Oregon Park. Interior demolition is complete and framing of new interior walls is underway. The bulk of the work is being completed by PARKS staff as time allows.

• Renovation of the Walker House adjacent to Hyde Farm is nearing completion. A new roof and gutters along with new air conditioning units and a new water heater have been installed, and electrical work is nearing completion. The interior work in the house is complete. A new roof was installed at the Hyde Farm Welcome Center. The new deck is complete.



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The Cobb County Civic Center is nearly complete and set to open in mid-summer.

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• Field renovation improvements at Bells Ferry Park are complete. New sidewalks and a driveway at the maintenance building have been constructed. Sports field lighting fixtures are complete. New floors and toilet partitions have been installed in the restrooms and the building has been painted. Additional building improvements are underway including installation of a new metal roof and rearrangement of the maintenance area of the building.

• The roof replacements at Floyd Road and Florence Road Silver Comet Trailhead restroom buildings are complete. Additional interior restroom work at Floyd Road has been priced and the contract for the work has been issued. Work scheduled includes new toilet fixtures, toilet partitions, epoxy floors, rotted wood replacement, painting and replacement of an existing window with a door.

• The replacement of the campground restroom/shower building and the construction of a new restroom building near the arena are underway at Jim R. Miller Park. Block fill has been applied, columns, including caps, have been installed, ice and water shield is installed, HVAC, electrical and plumbing rough-ins are underway, and exterior concrete work is underway at both buildings. The replacement of the midway estroom was previously completed under separate contract. The renovations to the Exhibit Hall A restrooms, breezeway, and pegboards is underway with the restrooms demolished, new insulation, walls and ceiling in the breezeway and the pegboard repair/replacement underway.

For additional information about PARKS SPLOST projects, go to cobbcounty.org.



Artist source

Skipp Spann Connector open

Cobb County opened its first lighted bridge on April 27. The 416-foot long bridge spans Interstate 75 just north of Chastain Road in Kennesaw and is part of the Skip Spann Connector, a community improvement project to increase access to Kennesaw State University and other local destinations. It is expected to reduce traffic congestion at the I-75 and Chastain Road interchange by nearly 20 percent.

In addition to the lighted bridge, the Skip Spann Connector project includes four lanes of new connecting roadway and 11.5-foot-wide sidewalks, bike lanes, benches, planters and pedestrian lights on both sides of the bridge (refer to Bridge Specifications for data). It also realigns TownPark Lane and adds a roundabout at the intersection of and TownPark Lane and Busbee Drive. The Town Center Community Improvement District, Kennesaw State University, Cobb and state Departments of Transportation contributed to the project.

Find a friend to last a lifetime

Cobb Animal Control will be hosting its semi-annual FURever Fest under the big tents 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, **May 14**, from on the front lawn of the animal shelter at 1060 Al Bishop Dr, Marietta. This fun, free, family event features animal related businesses, services and organizations that provide education and information on responsible pet ownership.



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The event will also feature a K-9 demonstration. There are special adoption rates available during the event. And, if you adopt during the event, you will be entered in a drawing for a special gift. You can also help make a difference for less fortunate dogs and cats in Cobb by bringing a dog or cat food donation (unopened and unexpired) that will help a local pet food pantry provide temporary food assistance to those in need. For more info, visit: please visit cobbanimalcontrol.org, facebook.com/CobbAC and twitter.com/CobbAC.

New farmer's market to open in May

Cobb County Farm Bureau and Cobb County PARKS are partnering to bring a new farmer's market. Starting **May 24** and running 3-7 p.m. every Tuesday through October, local farmers will have booths set up at Lost Mountain Park, 4845 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs.

The event will feature food trucks, pony rides, face painting and balloons, fire trucks, live music, bounce houses and more. Customers will be able to shop and eat locally-grown items from vendors providing eggs, meat, breads/baked goods, jams/jellies/preserved items and produce.

Free fun for everyone at symphony

The Cobb Wind Symphony Adult Community Band invites you to its annual Young Person's Concert on Sunday, **May 15**, at the Lassiter Concert Hall, 2601 Shallowford Road, Marietta. Children's activities are 2-3 p.m.

There will be face painting, an instrument petting zoo, Scout badge activities and more. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted. To learn more visit cobbwindsymphony.org or call 678-305-7148.

Join the Summer JAM

As one of Cobb County's largest networking events for small and corporate businesses, Business Expo with Summer JAM presents exhibitors and attendees the opportunity to collaborate with more than 1,300 attendees and 160 exhibitors. The event offers the opportunity to meet chamber members and each of the county's 10 business associations.

The Expo will be held 3-7 p.m. Thursday, **May 19**, at the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Pkwy, SE, Atlanta. Register to attend for free at cobbchamber.org.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

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