

Greenspace

the living legacy.

Rapid growth coming up the 985 corridor will bring great change to our community. Growth is good. But it also can take a toll.

As parents, our greatest hope is for the health and welfare of our children, and we want to leave a community to the next generation that is at least as good as we have had. Leaving a legacy of greenspace will help assure that.

What is Greenspace?

In essence, "greenspace" means permanently protected land and water, including agricultural and forestry land, that is in its undeveloped state, or land that is developed to an extent consistent with natural resource protection or informal recreation.

Why is it Important?

Greenspace is healthy space! It is good for our mental, physical and spiritual well-being. It is good for our economy. Parks, trails and open spaces encourage active life-styles and boost property values.

What is the Greenspace Initiative?

As a part of Vision 2030, its purpose is to promote the permanent protection of greenspace in Hall County and its municipalities now and for generations to come.

Long Term Goals

For Hall County and its municipalities to have a comprehensive greenspace network of at least 20% of its land area that is permanently protected based upon its recreational, ecological, environmental, aesthetic, cultural, historic, or agricultural value.

Now is the time to begin treating greenspace as infrastructure. We won't be able to go back and do it when it is too late!

All of our land is destined to be put to some use. If any of it is to be preserved in its natural condition, it must be as a deliberate setting aside of it for our human use.

EVERYBODY
NEEDS BEAUTY
AS WELL AS
BREAD, PLACES
TO PLAY IN
AND PRAY IN,
WHERE NATURE
MAY HEAL AND
GIVE STRENGTH
TO BODY AND
SOUL ALIKE.

JOHN
MUIR



THE FUTURE IS OURS TO SEE

TOP 3 REASONS TO PRESERVE GREENSPACE

Greenspace is Healthy Space.

- Health studies show that contact with nature provides a range of medical benefits: lower cholesterol and blood pressure, lower stress, more rapid recovery from surgery and fewer minor medical complaints.
- Parks, trails and greenways provide environments for physical activity to combat a national epidemic of obesity.
- In children and teens with attention and behavior disorders, contact with nature results in significant improvement.
- Trees reduce air and water pollution and keep cities cooler. In Hall County, 1900 acres of tree cover has been lost each year over the past 20 years.

Greenspace is Good for the Economy.

- Greenspace increases neighboring property values. Greenways, parks and trails are economic engines for community revitalization and development; essentially "green infrastructure."
- Greenspace decreases the cost of public infrastructure and public services such as storm water run-off management and water treatment systems.
- Studies show that every \$1 invested by Georgia in land and water conservation returned \$5 in economic value of natural goods and services.

Greenspace Enhances Quality of Life.

- Quality of life is a determining factor in real estate values and economic vitality.
- Parks, trails and open spaces are attractive amenities to homebuyers, businesses and corporations looking to relocate and are the foundation of a highly desired community.
- 92% of Georgians agree that protecting water quality and land is critical to the strength of the state's economy, and more than 80% believe conservation should be funded even in times of budgetary difficulty.
- Gainesville-Hall County citizens identified preservation of greenspace as one of the top "15 big ideas" of Vision 2030 to create a "culture of wellness" for generations to come.