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Brookhaven

GEORGIA

2014

Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Prepared by:



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Citizens of the Community



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Consultants:



Lose & Associates, Inc., is a multi-disciplinary design firm with offices in Nashville, Tennessee, and Lawrenceville, Georgia. Our firm, who specializes in park and recreation planning, was selected to conduct this master plan. Throughout the Brookhaven 2014 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Lose & Associates team is also referred to as the researchers and/or the planning team.

Using demographics, population projections, assessments of current facilities, national standards and public input, Lose & Associates has developed a 10-year master plan. This document serves as both a strategic plan and an action plan, providing the City of Brookhaven with guidelines for future program planning efforts and capital improvement projects.





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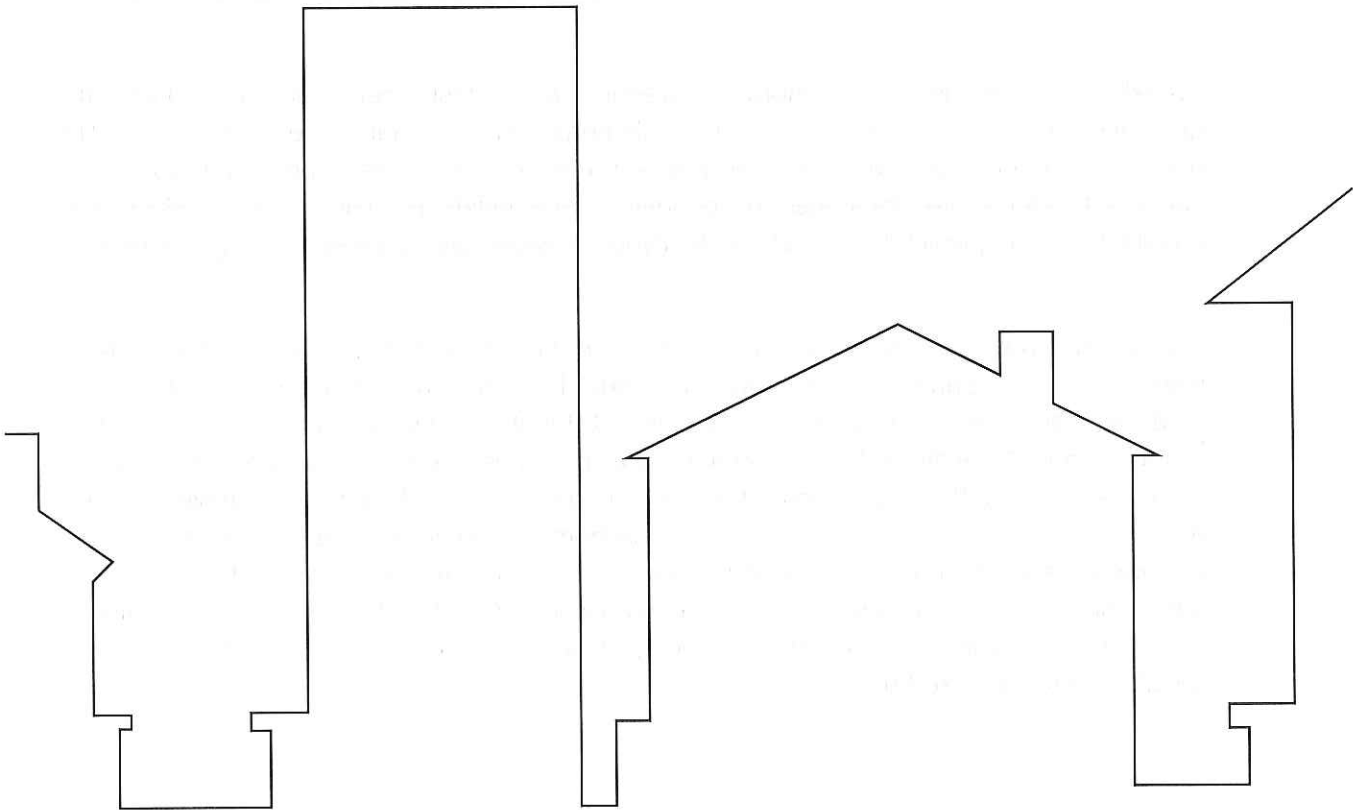
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01

Introduction



01 Introduction

Brookhaven, Georgia is located in DeKalb County, Georgia, between Interstates 285 and 85. It is an area of just over 12 square miles and is the largest city in the county. Brookhaven became a city on December 17, 2012, following a referendum to become a city passed on July 31, 2012. Brookhaven has a population of approximately 50,000 residents and is home to a MARTA station that runs to downtown Atlanta. Commercial and office development are located primarily along the interstates with a mix of residential land uses, making up the core of the city. (Source: www.census.govorg/history.htm)

Like many suburban communities around the Atlanta Metro Region, the early settlers were plantation owners who were farming the land outside of Atlanta. The first plantation was settled around 1810, by John Evins, a European settler. Other settlers continued to move to the area and a train station was constructed in the late 1800's. Development continued in the 1900's and following World War II. (Source: www.historicbrookhaven.org/history.htm)

Brookhaven is home to Oglethorpe University, which first opened in 1835 under the guidance of the Presbyterian Church. Oglethorpe closed during the Civil War. The university reopened following the Civil War and moved to its present location in 1915. The campus buildings are dominated by beautiful stone buildings built in the Gothic revival architectural style, which houses students. (Source: www.oglethorpe.edu/about_us/History)

Today, Brookhaven is surrounded by several other newly created cities in the Metro Atlanta Region including Sandy Springs and Dunwoody. Brookhaven is dominated by residential land uses, but has a few commercial districts distributed throughout the city. The Buford Highway and Peachtree Road corridors are the most heavily developed commercial corridors through the city. Each of these corridors run northeast to southwest cutting diagonally through the city. These corridors are home to major retail developments, car lots, big box stores and a mixture of restaurants and other businesses. Major office parks and other vertical developments are located primarily at interstate interchanges. For example, Peachtree Summit at Ashford Dunwoody Road and Interstate 285 have vertical development and mixed-use.



01 Introduction

Brookhaven, as a new city, has taken over the operation of parks in the city from DeKalb County. The city has started hiring city staff and contract staff to operate and maintain the parks. Upgrading parks and offering more recreation opportunities was a major focus of the referendum to form the city. At the time of the study, the parks and recreation department had grown to five full-time employees and had three separate contracts in place for park maintenance, operations at the Blackburn Tennis Center and a contract for the operations of three city swimming pools. Agreements were being renewed with youth sports providers who have operated in the parks for many years, along with developing new agreements with other providers. Summer camp programs were planned and initiated as part of the goal of offering more programs in the community.

