



# 2007

City of Sandy Springs Annual Report

## Committed to Our Community

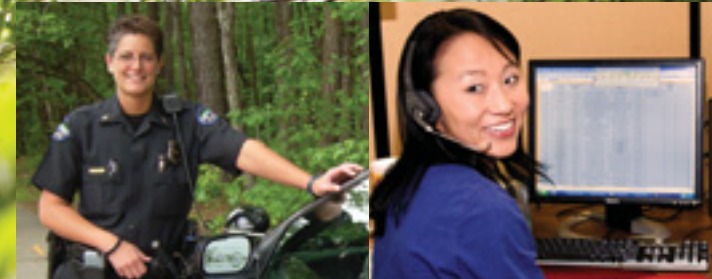


**SANDY SPRINGS**  
GEORGIA





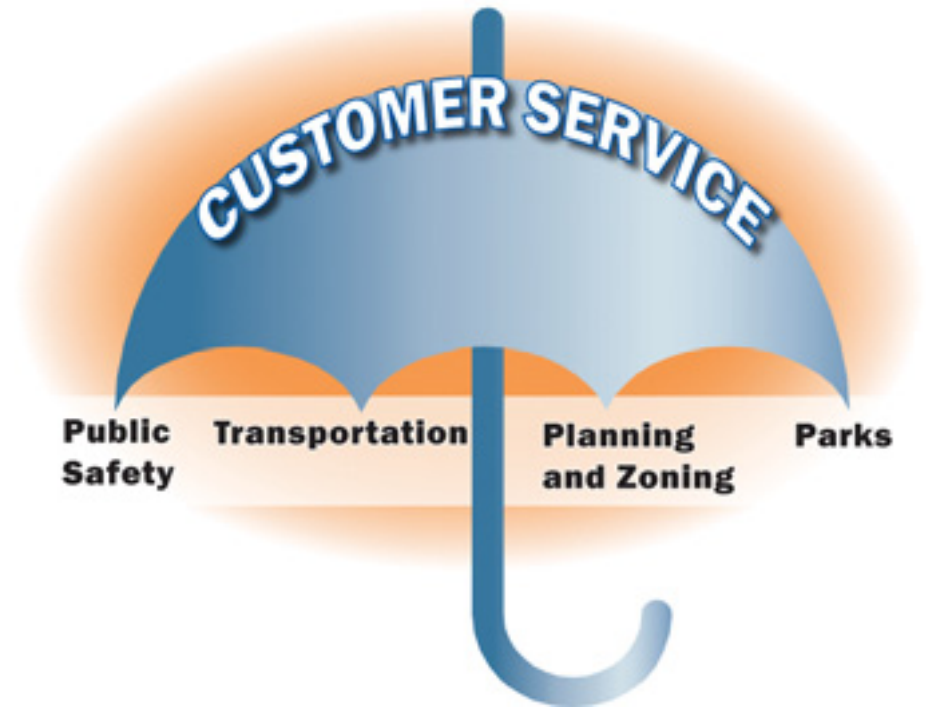
# customer service





# Contents

Your City Council.....	3
Greetings from the Mayor.....	5
A Message from the City Manager.....	7
Public Safety.....	9
Transportation.....	13
Planning & Zoning.....	21
Parks.....	29
Financials.....	33



## Sandy Springs Customer Service

The City of Sandy Springs believes in empowering its staff to be creative and innovative thinkers, which improves productivity, the bottom line and most importantly, internal and external customer satisfaction. In the City model, an umbrella of services is provided based on the Mayor and City Councilmembers' four priorities for fiscal year 2007 with an overarching goal of excellence in customer service. Priorities include: public safety, transportation, planning and zoning and parks. The City is committed to the community through customer service.





# coalesce

# Your City Council



Eva Galambos, PhD  
Mayor



Dave Greenspan  
City Council District 1



Dianne Fries  
City Council District 2



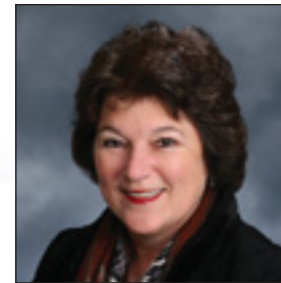
Rusty Paul  
City Council District 3



Ashley Jenkins  
City Council District 4



Tiberio "Tibby" DeJulio  
City Council District 5



Karen Meinzen McEnerny  
City Council District 6





civic-minded

# Greetings from the Mayor

In completing our first two years as a city, Sandy Springs has achieved several notable milestones. With tremendous community input, the first Comprehensive Plan was enacted and then gained approval from the regional and State authorities. This plan is a clear road map of the community's aspirations in terms of land use, neighborhood preservation, redevelopment along Roswell Road, park and recreation needs and a transportation system to alleviate our traffic problems.

The City enhanced the provision of public services. The Fire Department has exceeded all expectations in delivering state-of-the-art emergency medical services as well as rapidly containing fires to minimize life and property losses. The Police Department was successful in reducing major crimes and continues its emphasis on containing thefts and break-ins.

The accomplishments of the Public Works Department are readily apparent in the rapid attention given to potholes, to continued improvement of traffic light synchronization, to road paving according to a scientific schedule and to the appearance of our streets. When one enters the City limits of Sandy Springs from Atlanta, one is immediately aware of a more aesthetic environment that speaks to the quality of life in Sandy Springs.

Various capital improvement projects were started to add sidewalks and streetscapes. Design plans are underway on a number of transportation projects to alleviate congestion.

The Recreation and Parks program has enjoyed a full schedule and stands ready to add more classes and activities to meet the community's needs. The Dog Park is underway, and development has begun on the park at Morgan Falls.

The Planning and Zoning Division of the Department of Community Development has guided new construction as well as redevelopment. Its dual mission of assisting developers and builders as well as protecting the environment by strict enforcement of all codes and ordinances is readily apparent as one drives through the community. Although the lending crisis at the end of 2007 has had its effect on construction in Sandy Springs, this is a temporary slow down that will be overcome as the many proposed developments already approved or on drawing boards move forward.

I am pleased to report that the City Council of Sandy Springs has worked with great cohesion and care to improve services by the City while at the same time safeguarding our fiscal future. The City of Sandy Springs will end this fiscal year with a reserve of approximately \$13 million, which attests to the fiscal conservatism of your elected officials.

Finally, our Call Center takes ever more calls from our constituents who seek help or information. The monthly total averages 17,000 calls. By calling a single number-770.730.5600-one may access the entire City. We strive to respond to these calls on a timely basis.

It is with great thought that the Councilmembers and I consider each decision we make; it is with great pride that we serve this City; and it is with great peace of mind that we do this job to the best of our abilities. We hope you agree.

Sincerely,



Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD  
City of Sandy Springs



# collaboration





# A Message from the City Manager

As we complete our second year as a city, I would like to provide you several highlights of the past year and share some of our major initiatives going forward.

The transition from Fulton County to self-governance has given us the opportunity to focus on providing a superior level of customer service and to develop our priorities. The top priorities established by City Council include: public safety, transportation, planning and zoning and parks. Together we have made significant progress. Our accomplishments reflect the hard work and dedication of our elected leadership and our outstanding staff.

Recognizing the high expectations of our residents, we have placed special emphasis on the importance of customer service. In addition to enhancing the capabilities of our 24/7 Citizen Response Center and Web site, we also made significant improvements in the areas of community appearance. A full-time litter and graffiti crew was added to ensure Roswell Road and other high travel areas are well kept. In early 2007, we undertook a major overhaul of our Municipal Court Operation. Those efforts led to significantly shorter court sessions and reduced wait time to pay fines. In the area of permitting and land disturbance we assigned a permit coordinator to help customers with the review process, created a fast-track permit for small renovations and eliminated unnecessary plan reviews.

We have seen significant improvements in all areas of public safety since assuming responsibility for police and fire/rescue services. Our formula for successfully starting these two new departments was simple: Identify and hire the best, most experienced police officers and firefighters, provide them with outstanding leadership, enlist community support, furnish them with the best equipment and employ cutting edge practices in law enforcement and firefighting.

In the area of transportation, we have focused on three primary areas: maximizing the efficiency of our existing transportation network, improving pavement condition and planning for intersection improvements. We have 29 Capital Improvement Projects in various stages including: road widening, streetscape and sidewalk installations. They are all in various stages of development totaling more than \$152 million in targeted investment.

In the area of planning and zoning, we saw several significant accomplishments in 2007. Under the leadership of our citizen-led Comp Plan Committee and City Council, we completed our first Comprehensive Plan and in our quest to continue to improve service, the Department was reorganized in two major areas: building/permitting and land disturbance. This reorganization resulted in improved efficiency and customer service.

The City Council approved funding in the fiscal year 08 budget to make initial improvements to stabilize the highest use parks including: Hammond Park, Sandy Springs Tennis Center and Morgan Falls ball fields. Many improvements are complete. The past year has also seen record numbers of participants enroll in both youth and adult recreation programs. In January 2008, we will begin the master plan process for the entire Morgan Falls Complex and start construction on Phase I improvements at Bull Sluice that will include a Dog Park, dock and boat house.

By working together and sharing a vision for the future of Sandy Springs we have accomplished a great deal in a very short time. Many of our programs are receiving national and international attention for their innovative approach in providing outstanding service to our residents.

Looking ahead to 2008, we will be focusing on: Capital Projects implementation, E-911 service planning, ambulance service improvements, water system assessment, stormwater utility implementation and finding a permanent home for our Police Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your City Manager.



John McDonough, City Manager  
City of Sandy Springs

# courage





# Public Safety



Public Safety continues to be a top priority for the City of Sandy Springs. The Mayor and City Councilmembers continually focus on public safety and how to improve it to make the city a safer place for residents and visitors. As the City celebrates the first anniversaries of both the Fire and Police Departments this year, a look back shows considerable accomplishments and notable service and steadfast courage among our first responders.

## Fire/EMS

As with any new fire/rescue venture, unknown tasks can often be daunting. Not for the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department. They met each task, big and small, with a steady determination and smiles. Nothing was out of the realm of possibility. The Fire Department has several notable achievements this year.

- The first recruit class began at the Fire Academy on November 6, 2006. Classes took place from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. for six weeks. There were 15 graduates. Battalion Commanders went through a one-week orientation, and Crew Chiefs had a two-week training that encompassed Fulton County communications, basic firefighter review/EMS basic skills review, Paramedic ALS review, driver's training assessment, NIMS review and fire strategies and tactics.
- Seventy-nine full-time firefighters were hired. They include: six battalion chiefs, 18 crew chiefs, 12 firefighter/paramedics and 43 firefighters. There are 49 part-time firefighters.
- Training for firefighters continues on a monthly basis. This year's trainings include: apparatus familiarization with Pierce Manufacturing, maker of the City's fire trucks, firefighter safety and survival, Scott Airpack familiarization, fire hose deployment, territory training, high rise training, MARTA training, EMT training and tools and equipment training. There is a Training Center located at Station 4, where training for all companies is held. All firefighters have completed state firefighter competency training for 2007.
- The Fire/EMS response rate has significantly improved due to new equipment. The fire department has four quints, two engines, two brush trucks and four quick response vehicles that handle a multitude of emergency calls. They break down as follows (FY07):
  - EMS: 3,500
  - FIRE: 4,100
  - SERVICE: 600
  - HAZ MAT: 32
  - TOTAL: 8,232

## Sandy Springs Fire Departments

### Station 1 • 1425 Spalding Drive

- Quint
- Engine
- Quick Response Vehicle

### Station 2 • 135 Johnson Ferry Road

- Quint
- Engine
- Quick Response Vehicle
- Battalion 1 Car

### Station 3 • 6025 Heards Road

- Quint
- Brush Truck
- Quick Response Vehicle
- Battalion 2 Car

### Station 4 • 4697 Wieuca Road

- Quint
- Brush Truck
- Quick Response Vehicle



- The average time from dispatch to on scene is 5 minutes 30 seconds. Due to having more services, such as EMS capabilities, response times have significantly improved. There are now Quick Response Vehicles, or QRVs, at all four Sandy Springs fire stations, whose personnel are trained EMTs. QRVs are smaller and in many cases cut out the need for the large fire engines to respond to medical cases.
- The Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department had three fires this fiscal year in addition to sending personnel to south Georgia for six weeks to assist with the massive forest fires this spring.
- The single most important accomplishment in the community was to train 1,126 people in CPR and using Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). With the help of the American Heart Association and local businesses, churches, synagogues and civic organizations, the Department was able to achieve this goal and looks forward to training more people next year. Cardiac arrest saves are up to 13 percent from 3 percent prior to Sandy Springs Fire Department taking over.
- The Fire Department participated in 200 community services responses such as parades and visiting schools, churches and civic organizations, hosting birthday parties at the stations and appearing at public events. They performed 4,000 blood pressure checks and 100 child safety seat checks. The Department also removes power lines and trees when they are down and installs smoke detectors.
- The Fire Marshal's Office conducted eight fire investigations. They also play an instrumental part in the safety of new and existing buildings in the City. They
  - Carried out 1,122 inspections.
  - Issued 234 certificates of occupancy.
  - Reviewed 389 building plans.
  - Evaluated and drilled on eight business fire exits.
  - Reviewed 55 zoning cases.
  - Coordinated the Fire and Life Safety for the Vice Presidential visit.
  - Coordinated the Fire and Life Safety for the Atlanta Symphony Show House.

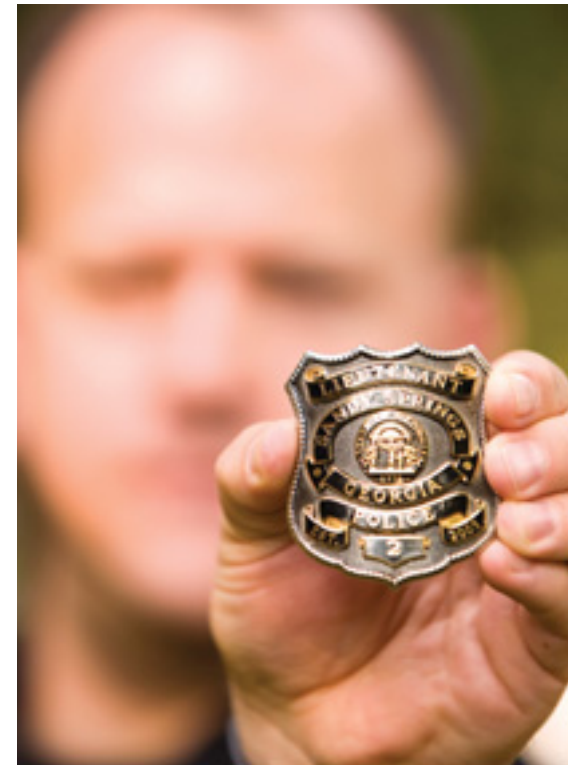
- The City was awarded one of eight "American City & County" magazine's 2007 Crown Community Awards for the start up of the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department. Launched in December 2006, the department was started in just under six months. The awards honor cities where more than raw materials and money are used to provide services to residents. The magazine showcases cities who demonstrate leadership and creativity from government officials, especially when budgets may be stretched.

## Police

The Police had an equally accomplished year reducing crime and answering more calls in the community. The force operates under the Computer Statistics (COMPSTAT) and Community Oriented Policing (COPs) models.

COMPSTAT focuses on department accountability. By aggressively analyzing data and using computer mapping, the Department shows crime trends and patterns in addition to complaints and calls for service from residents. This information is then used to aid commanders in deploying resources in the most efficient manner.

COPS focuses on community involvement by soliciting the community's involvement through listening to the concerns of residents and learning what is important to them in order to help identify and solve problems.





- Under these crime-fighting models, overall Part 1 crimes have fallen from an average of 349 per month for fiscal year (FY) 2006 to 277 for FY 2007. This is a 20.63 percent decrease.
- The Department averaged 7,160 calls per month with a peak of 7,734 calls for the month of May 2007. The Department goal is to provide an arrival time of six minutes or less (from dispatch to arrival) for Priority One calls. Police officers achieved this goal by responding within six minutes 92.3 percent of the time.
- A public service effort was conducted for thefts from cars. Officers averaged eight-15 thefts from cars each day. A campaign was launched to communicate the most effective ways to prevent motor vehicle burglary. Theft of items from cars are one of the top categories of crime in Sandy Springs.
- A Police officer traveled to Israel as part of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). This two-week training program focused on counterterrorism, emergency management and other types of policing strategies. The officer traveled throughout Israel learning the history of the country, security measures, communications procedures, counterterrorism tactics and other law enforcement techniques that the officer has put into practice. The officer's specialty is terrorism and identifying "soft targets."
- The Department has moved to 12-hour shifts. While still in a trial period, overall the results have been favorable from both the public and the officers. There is a noticeable increase in visibility of officers on the streets; the public constantly comments on how they like seeing more cars. The other benefit is quick response times.
- The Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) renewed the Department's Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) grant, which is a major public safety partnership. This year, two officers averaged 15 DUIs a month. Funded by the grant, these officers have 251 DUI arrests, 920 speeding tickets and 728 other tickets, which resulted in 272 physical arrests. The primary goals of the HEAT project are to: reduce impaired driving crashes; reduce excessive speeding; increase the safety belt usage rate; and educate the public on traffic safety matters.
- There are now 85 neighborhood watch programs, seven of which are new this year.
- Through a partnership with St. Jude's Catholic Church, more than 125 teddy bears were collected and given to the Department. Every patrol car now has a teddy bear. Teddy bears are used to comfort children in stressful situations.
- The entire department pitched in to compete for Special Olympics. More than \$19,000 was raised for the non-profit organization. A special Torch Run was held down Roswell Road from City Hall to the Police Department headquarters raising funds for the charity. Calendars, coffee cups, t-shirts and hats were sold. SSPD was awarded "Rookie Department of the Year" by Special Olympics.



## Sandy Springs Police Department

### 5995 Barfield Road

- Police Interceptors (patrol cars) and detective fleet
- Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Van
- Jail Transport Van
- Suburban, fitted for SWAT capabilities
- SUVs assigned to the chief and each of the two majors
- Two Harley-Davidson motorcycles



connection



# Transportation



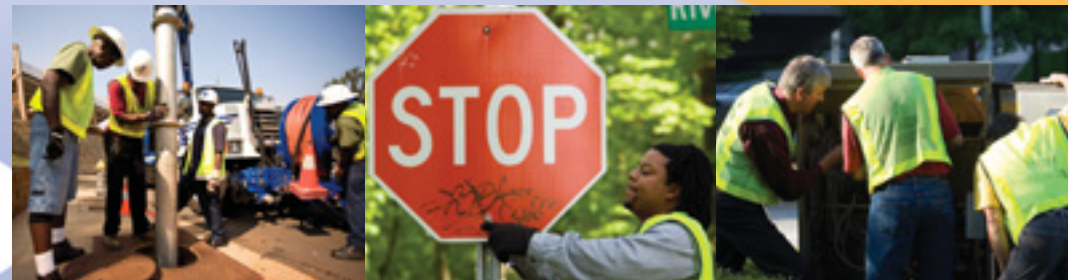
Transportation provides a vital connection in the City of Sandy Springs. One of the priorities of the Mayor and City Council from its first days of operation was a premium placed on customer service and listening to the needs and desires of our residents in the area of transportation. Since its inception, the community has been vocal about their desire to see improved roads, fewer traffic backups, better coordinated traffic signals and cleaner rights-of-way. The Sandy Springs Public Works Department performed considerable work in fiscal year (FY) 2007 to provide for safer and cleaner pedestrian and vehicular environments in Sandy Springs.

The Transportation Planning Division, which oversees the City's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program, implemented a public meeting process to ensure residents have the opportunity to provide input on each project. Planned CIP projects span the City and, in total, represent millions of dollars that will be invested in improving congested traffic corridors and helping motorists arrive at their final destinations with greater ease and less frustration.

The Field Services Division works diligently to make the City a cleaner, more attractive place to live and visit, thus making roadways and thoroughfares easier to travel on for motorists. Thanks to the help of residents who reported litter and graffiti through the City's Citizen Response Center or Web site-based "I Spy" feature, the department was able to locate and remove 3,000 bags of unsightly debris this year. With our community functioning as "eyes and ears" and communicating concerns, these issues are being tackled.

The Traffic Services Division plays a critical role in the movement of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the City. This Division is responsible for the maintenance of the City's traffic signal system, traffic signs and pavement markings. While also improving the transportation network within the City, staff install equipment that keeps maintenance costs and delays to the traveling public at a minimum.

Serving the Sandy Springs community by making transportation improvements, keeping motorists and pedestrians moving safely and keeping our City clean is at the center of this Division.



*A study reveals that signal retiming on Roswell Road has saved motorists nearly \$11 million in fuel and time during the past year. Drivers going south during the afternoon rush and north during the morning rush hour are cutting their travel times up to 40 percent.*

# coordination

A photograph of construction workers in a misty, wooded area. Two workers in the foreground wear hard hats and safety vests, holding long-handled tools. In the background, another worker is visible near a piece of machinery. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, creating a misty atmosphere.



# Transportation Planning Division



The Transportation Planning Division of the Sandy Springs Public Works Department is responsible for roadway and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning, administration of Citywide transportation projects, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)—such as pavement management systems and street sweeping maps—and plan review in coordination with the City's Community Development Department with regard to new developments.

By planning ahead, staff ensures the City's transportation system will keep residents and visitors moving in a safe and efficient manner. The City, along with other regional and state agencies, is working diligently to find solutions to our regional transportation problems and to improve the planning process for future transportation networks. The Division also worked to coordinate the overall master transportation plan as part of the City's Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

The CTP is a tool for improving the City's transportation infrastructure and meeting our fast-growing community traffic challenges over the next 20 years. The plan uses detailed analysis and projects to develop a strategic list of capital improvements designed to meet the City's future transportation needs. Fully multi-modal, the plan addresses vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and transit mobility.

Below are the FY 2007 highlights from the Transportation Planning Division:

- The Division participated in approximately 80 development permit reviews (land disturbance plans, final plats and other miscellaneous permits), 65 zoning cases and 125 zoning variance requests. These reviews are conducted to ensure compliance with the overall transportation plan as part of the overall City Comprehensive Plan and assure City construction details are implemented into proposed designs.
- The Division oversees approximately 29 projects that make up the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). One of these projects is the Abernathy Greenway Linear Park, which will be a signature community park in the coming years. Among the park's amenities will be playgrounds, plazas and well-lighted trails. This project is being constructed in conjunction with the widening project for Johnson Ferry/Abernathy Road, which will improve the traffic flow from Johnson Ferry along Abernathy Road. Other projects include the River Valley Road sidewalk and bike lane project, the Mount Vernon traffic calming and sidewalk program and numerous other projects that are in the initial study phases. All of these projects are in coordination with the overall master transportation plan and are an effort to reduce traffic congestion "hot spots," improve mobility within the City and extend alternative transportation options to our customers.
- The Division has helped facilitate a grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be used for the extension of a trail at Island Ford National Park. This project will extend the existing trail network by more than one mile and will add to the existing natural pedestrian paths. This multi-modal form of transportation furthers the provision of alternative forms of transportation.
- The Division continued its relationship building and planning coordination with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and others. This cooperative effort is carried out to seek funding sources for capital improvement and capital transportation projects and to communicate the City's transportation needs to the highest levels within the state.

# commitment





## Field Services Division

The field Services Division is committed to responsible maintenance and upkeep of the City's rights-of-way. This includes pavement resurfacing and reconstruction, a pavement management system, pavement repairs, curb and gutter repairs, sidewalk maintenance, right-of-way trash and litter pickup and cleaning and maintaining right-of-way stormwater structures within in the City.

The first phase of the City's resurfacing program started in 2007 in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT's) Local Area Resurfacing Program (LARP). Eleven miles of roadways were resurfaced this year through this program.

In a City Council meeting, Mayor Eva Galambos instructed the Field Services Division to "Pave On." Therefore, the name "Operation Pave On" was coined as the moniker for the City's Pavement Management Program. The second phase of the Pavement Management Program started in the last quarter of 2007 with the Capital Paving Project. This project includes more than 18 miles of roadway resurfacing and focuses on the arterial and collector roadways in the City.

Other highlights of the year included:

- As of mid-October, in excess of 530 cubic yards of concrete and more than 2,000 tons of asphalt were used for additional infrastructure repair in the rights-of-way. Field Services implemented a preventative maintenance program to identify maintenance needs. An additional 250 work orders were initiated and completed through this process.
- Field Services is committed to customer service and keeping the City of Sandy Springs looking beautiful and well maintained. The Division manages the Street Sweeping program initiated in July 2007. The program is designed to clean the arterial and collector routes throughout the City twice per month on a rotating basis. More than 850 lane miles were swept and in excess of 40 tons of debris were collected through October 2007.



- This Division also manages the Sign Removal Program, launched this year, to remove illegal signs from the City's rights-of-way to help keep improving the City's appearance. Through this program, Field Services crews remove illegal signs from the transportation rights-of-way on a weekly basis. In the initial six-month period, more than 1,500 signs were removed. This action assists drivers by improving sight distance and eliminating distractions.
- Field Services crews also help keep the City clean and safe by picking up litter and trash in the rights-of-way on a daily basis and maintains the trash receptacles at MARTA bus stops. To date, more than 3,000 bags of trash and debris have been removed. Also, clean bus stops promote the use of multi-modal transportation.
- Additionally, the Field Services Division cleans and maintains the storm drain structures within the City's rights-of-ways. Many drainage structures have been repaired and rebuilt to facilitate the flow of water. The Division also manages the program to clean drainage structures on a regular basis. This year, 1,800 structures have been cleaned, and if drains are clean, water will flow into them and not pond on the roadway. This creates a safer driving environment for residents and visitors alike.



# cohesion

A photograph of a busy city street with multiple lanes of traffic. In the foreground, a dark grey Chevrolet SUV and a black Mercedes-Benz sedan are prominent. Further back, a red fire truck is visible. The background shows a cityscape with a McDonald's restaurant and other commercial buildings. The word "cohesion" is overlaid in a large, elegant serif font.



## Traffic Services Division

Traffic Services plays a critical role in the movement of vehicles and pedestrians throughout the City. This Division is responsible for the maintenance of the City's traffic signal system, traffic signs and pavement markings. Through a cohesion of proactive and preventative maintenance, Traffic Services has a positive impact on the community.

Following are some of the accomplishments for 2007:

- In FY 2007, the Division completed 150 signal preventative maintenance tasks; more than 250 traffic signal bulbs were replaced and 250 general maintenance tasks were completed.
- In June of 2007, an independent consultant completed a travel time study along the Roswell Road corridor. This study compared the results to last year's study and revealed that the motorists traveling along this corridor saved an estimated \$11 million due to the increased efficiency of the traffic signals. The Traffic Division is also looking at expanding this program to include other corridors throughout the City.
- The Traffic Division completed 75 work orders related to graffiti on traffic signs, installed in excess of 350 new signs, improved the visibility of 750 sign locations and removed another 125 unnecessary or repetitive signs.
- The Traffic Division completed improvements at the intersections of Spalding Drive and Nesbit Ferry Road and Spalding Drive and Trowbridge Road. The improvements at Spalding and Nesbit Ferry improved sight distance. The Division added new signs for curves and signal flashers. At Spalding and Trowbridge, handicap ramps and cross walks were added. Left turns southbound in the morning and left turns northbound in the afternoon were restricted.
- The Traffic Division completed improvements at the intersection of Johnson Ferry and Roswell Road, which increased capacity for westbound and eastbound traffic and added a right turn arrow in the eastbound direction to allow twice as much green time on this arrow.



- The Traffic Division completed improvements at the intersection of Johnson Ferry and Glenridge Connector by adding capacity to the left turn lanes, making it a dual left turn.
- The Traffic Division inspected two new signalized intersections in the City, bringing the total number of traffic signals operated and maintained by Sandy Springs to 120. The signal system continues improving the transportation network within the City.
- Six intersections were upgraded to Extended-View Light Emitting Diodes (EV-LED) signal indications, bringing the total number of EV-LED intersections to 51 percent. LEDs increase sight distance in all weather conditions due to brighter lights. An effort is being made, with the help of Georgia Department of Transportation, to upgrade signals to the LEDs lights because it saves power, maintenance costs and delays to the traveling public.



# catalyst





# Planning & Zoning



Within the Department of Community Development is the Planning and Zoning Division. The Department has many customers including: the residents of Sandy Springs, the development community, the Planning Commission and elected officials. The Division has a variety of methods for achieving exceptional quality of life, including managing current and long-range planning activities and processing permit applications for residential, commercial and other uses. The Division walks a fine line between being a catalyst for change and maintaining rules and regulations.

Planning and Zoning initiatives are an area of particular focus for the residents of Sandy Springs because of its importance in preserving and enhancing the City's quality of life. This area has overarching implications on other areas within the Division and because of that, they had several notable achievements for fiscal year 2007.

The City submitted its first Comprehensive Plan to the Atlanta Regional Commission and Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Approval set the City's zoning requirements for the natural and built environments for the next 20 years.

Because of the Comprehensive Plan, the City will be able to participate in a variety of initiatives including the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program through a partnership with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDBG funds will help support public facilities, infrastructure, economic development and other planning and zoning initiatives that meet the eligibility requirements of the CDBG program.

The Mayor and City Council adopted the City's first Tree Conservation Ordinance and Administrative Guidelines. Enforcement of the ordinance has resulted in a surplus of more than a quarter million dollars in the Tree Fund for planting trees in public areas, habitat restoration projects and other similar uses. This is one of the ordinances the Community Development Department reviews to ensure the planning principles adopted by the Mayor and Councilmembers are being followed.

The Division executed an agreement with the Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District that allows department staff to perform certain permit reviews that can reduce application process timelines by three-to-four weeks. This is another planning and zoning ordinance the Community Development Department reviews to ensure the water quality standards adopted by the State are being followed.

Of the apartment units inspected last year, 96 percent were compliant with building codes. The City works in collaboration with private apartment owners and the Atlanta Apartment Association to hold these inspections. Full compliance of all apartment units is expected in 2008. Code Enforcement officers uphold zoning ordinances, which ensure protection of property, built environments and that no nuisances, such as junk cars, trash or debris are on properties.





The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of numerous large rolls of white paper, likely for printing or manufacturing. The rolls are stacked and arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and texture. A large, bold, yellow 'X' is superimposed over the image, dividing it into four quadrants. The word 'continuity' is written in a black, serif font across the center of the image, overlapping the 'X' and the paper rolls.

continuity



## Planning and Zoning Division



Diving deeper into Planning and Zoning, one will find the Division continues its commitment to the residents of Sandy Springs to achieve a livable city by working to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all City residents. The Division works to achieve these goals through its management of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, current and long-range planning, review of zoning applications and procedures and implementing policy that complies with the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. The Division oversees this work in collaboration with the Design Review Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission.

Over the past year, the Planning and Zoning Division has worked at streamlining many of its operational procedures to ensure it applies the requirements of the ordinances approved by Mayor and City Council in a fair, consistent and efficient manner.

To that end, here are more of the highlights accomplished in 2007 by the Planning and Zoning Division:

- Revisions were completed in March to the Perimeter Community Improvement Design (PCID) District Ordinance to clarify development requirements that will result in more consistent application of design standards in the PCID. This will ensure the design aesthetics are consistent between the City and PCID's streetscape, sidewalks, landscape and furniture.
- The Division processed the first rezoning petition in the City for a Development of Regional Impact (DRI) in May. The results should improve traffic flow and pedestrian access in the I-285/Roswell Road area.
- A streamlined review process for permit applications was implemented, and most are completed in two-to-three days.
- The Division worked more closely with the Code Enforcement Division to better enforce temporary sign permits to reduce the presence of illegal signs.

The Division is now participating in the business license application review process to ensure that City businesses remain in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance requirements.

*According to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Sandy Springs now has more than 98,000 residents.*





collective vision



## Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan has been a focal point of citizen involvement since the City began the process of developing the plan in July 2006. The City was required to complete a Comprehensive Plan to obtain its Qualified Local Government status by December 1, 2007, and implement a Development Impact Fee program and ordinance in early 2008. The Comprehensive Plan is a collective vision that has been narrowed down to a specific document from which planning and zoning ordinances have been developed.

On June 19, 2007, the Mayor and City Council adopted a draft Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda, which described the future vision and policies for Sandy Springs, as well as established a five-year Capital Improvement Element (CIE). The Community Agenda was submitted to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for state review on July 6, 2007. To develop the Community Agenda, the Community Development Department held a total of 26 advisory committee meetings that included public hearings and visioning workshops from July 2006 to June 2007 to ensure the process had an abundance of opportunity for public comment from the residents of Sandy Springs.

The department received preliminary comments on the Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda in September from the ARC and DCA. Final revisions to the Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda were submitted to the Mayor and City and adopted in November.

As part of the development of the Community Agenda, the department facilitated a series of meetings to specifically focus on updates to the City's Future Land Use Map (FLUM). More than 40 changes were made to the FLUM, consistent with the policies adopted by the Mayor and City Council, to ensure the protection of established neighborhoods, spur the redevelopment of the Roswell Road corridor and create a clearly defined, walkable Town Center.

As a result of the work done on the Comprehensive Plan since July 2006, the department has seen considerable interest from residents, community groups and the development community in implementing the vision for the City embodied by the Comprehensive Plan. All development in the City of Sandy Springs is guided by this plan. At its root level are the planning and zoning ordinances, which guided its development.

*During the past year, the City Council approved Sandy Springs' first Comprehensive Plan, designed to guide the development of the community's economy, infrastructure, transportation, environment and vision for the next 20 years.*



# cooperation



## Code Enforcement



Code Enforcement promotes and maintains a safe and desirable living and working environment by upholding all zoning ordinances. By maintaining and improving the quality of our community and by administering a fair and unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of municipal codes, land use requirements and planning and zoning ordinances, our customers will live in a much safer environment. Officers also work in cooperation with residents, neighborhood associations, public services agencies and other City departments to facilitate voluntary compliance with City laws and codes; empower community self-help programs; develop public outreach programs; and establish community priorities for enforcement programs.

In 2007, the Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department adopted the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code to include language that incorporates the vision of the City of Sandy Springs regarding Property Maintenance within the City limits. Since

City incorporation, Code Enforcement brought more than 2,700 properties into compliance either through voluntary means or through the Municipal Court system.

In fiscal year 2007, the Code Enforcement Division conducted 11 full sweeps of apartment complexes. This program included the coordination and assistance of the Building and Development Division, Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department and the Sandy Springs Police Department. All apartment complexes were inspected based on property maintenance issues, building and fire codes and zoning ordinances. Each sweep resulted in a comprehensive report that included Notices of Violation, photographs of all violations and required steps necessary for compliance. As of October 1, 2007, 12 of the 17 complexes (71 percent) are in full compliance. Code Enforcement Officers continue to inspect the remaining complexes on regularly scheduled dates to monitor the progress of each Notice of Violation and to ensure the properties are moving toward compliance in a reasonable length of time.

In October 2007, the Citizen Deputy Program underwent a change and expanded the participation of residents with the Code Enforcement Officers that resulted in a more supportive, interactive relationship between the Citizen Deputies and the Code Enforcement Officers. The Citizen Deputies have been successful in assisting Code Enforcement by providing information regarding property maintenance and zoning issues, as well as helping identify areas where the preservation of trees is being violated.

Enforcement of the Sandy Springs Noise Ordinance is a Division priority. Code Enforcement Officers are on duty from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., to ensure that construction sites are in compliance with the work hours, and the construction noise provisions of the ordinance are being followed. However, code or noise violations outside of these hours should be reported through the City's Citizen Response Center at 770.730.5600 for assistance. To date, approximately 1,000 environmental citations have been issued, and over 2,500 Notices of Violation were issued to code violators.





A scenic view of a river flowing through a forest with autumn foliage. The river is in the foreground, reflecting the light. The banks are covered with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange. The sky is a pale blue.

captivating



# Parks



In 2007, the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department made great strides toward delivering extended program offerings to a record number of participants in improved facilities. Since the City's official purchase of its parks on December 6, 2006, the City proudly took ownership.

Park signs installed in 2007 brand City facilities and bolster their overall appearance. Delivering quality programs to participants in captivating greenspace and well-maintained facilities is the department's mission.

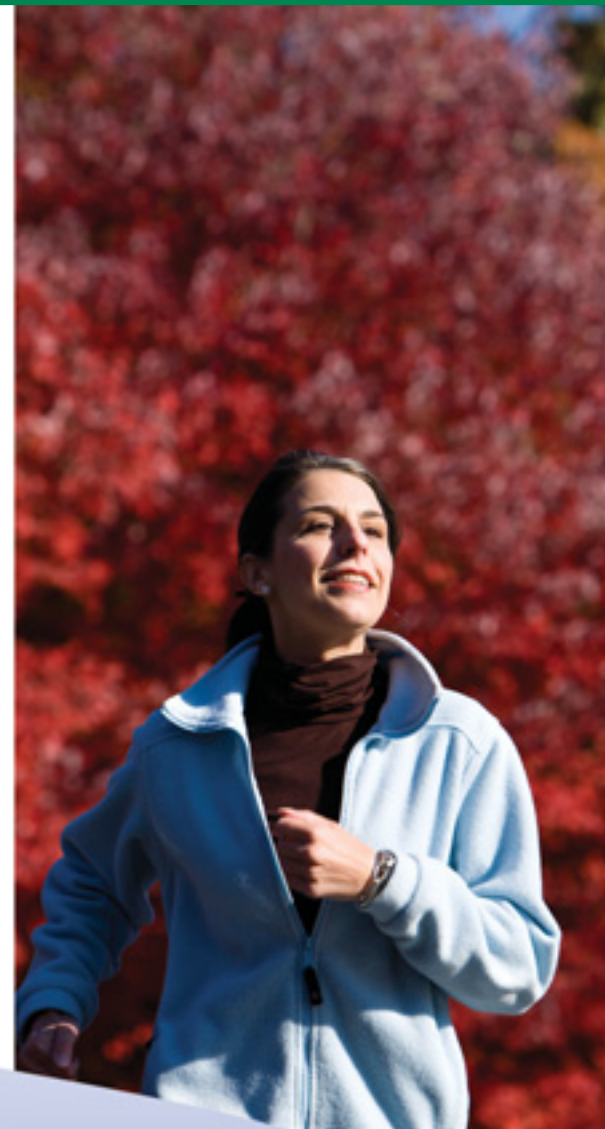
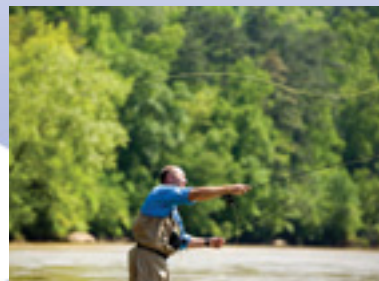
This year saw the beginning of a comprehensive improvement plan for Hammond Park and the Hammond Park Gymnasium. In the interest in resident safety, a new security camera system was added for both the gym and the park areas. The gymnasium floor was refinished early in the year and now bears the City of Sandy Springs logo. Continuing plans call for installation of an air-conditioner in the gymnasium, new lighting in the gymnastics area and improved parking lot lighting.

This year saw the beginning of a comprehensive improvement plan for the Sandy Springs Tennis Center, formerly known as the North Fulton Tennis Center. Completed improvements include the repair of the facility's elevator, exterior power-washing, replacement of all tennis

court lamps, installation of a new air conditioner, repair of parking lot lights and installation of a new security camera system to allow staff to monitor the grounds and parking lot. Design renovations are also being planned for the Tennis Center's administration building, which will update the facility and improve the interior layout.

In addition to the ongoing capital improvements at these facilities, the City is looking at long-term improvements by beginning the Master Plan process. The Morgan Falls Park will be a phased design and construction project at Morgan Falls in the vicinity of the dam. This project, when complete, will have involved the partnerships with the Sandy Springs Conservancy, Georgia Power, The Department of Natural Resources as well as the City.

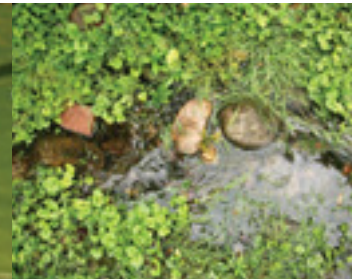
Almost 300 participants of all ages and backgrounds enrolled in Fall 2007 class sessions - the department's largest enrollment ever. Along with gymnastics, classes in martial arts, dance and arts and crafts are popular recreational offerings. New gymnastics equipment was purchased and received early in the year and is an added benefit. The department continues to put out a captivating bi-annual recreational program guidebook that lists all facility hours, offerings and a map of parks throughout the City.





Volunteer time and dollars from many organizations contribute significantly to the department. It could not function without this significant investment. Of the 12 parks in the City system, Big Trees Forest Preserve, Sandy Springs Tennis Center, the Sandy Springs Historical Site/Williams Payne House and Morgan Falls Athletic Fields are managed by independent organizations. The City has entered into two agreements with the Fulton County School Board to manage and maintain school-park sites at Spalding Road Charter School and Sandy Springs Middle School.

Sandy Springs is a City that understands the positive value of recreation and strives to bolster customer service in this area. While it has only been a year since the City parks were purchased, staff is hard at work to expand recreational offerings and make our facilities the best they can be for residents and visitors of all ages.





## **Sandy Springs' City Parks**

### **Abernathy Park**

254 Johnson Ferry Road  
404.252.6310

### **Allen Road Park**

5900 Lake Forest Drive  
404.252.6310

### **Big Trees Forest Preserve**

7645 Roswell Road  
770.673.0111  
[www.bigtreesforest.com](http://www.bigtreesforest.com)

### **East Conway Pocket Park**

approximately 4811 East Conway

### **Hammond Park Gymnasium**

705 Hammond Drive  
404.705.9154

### **Hammond Park Offices Community Building**

6005 Glenridge Drive  
404.252.6310

### **Island Ferry Park**

8850 Roberts Drive (yet to be completed)

### **Johnson Ferry Road Greenspace**

254 Johnson Ferry Road

### **Morgan Falls Park/Bull Sluice**

450 Morgan Falls Road

### **Ridgeview Park**

5200 South Trimble Road  
404.252.6310

### **Sandy Springs Tennis Center**

500 Abernathy Road  
404.303.6182  
[www.northfultontennis.com](http://www.northfultontennis.com)

### **Sandy Springs Historic Site and Park**

6075 Sandy Springs Circle  
404.851.9111  
[www.heritagesandysprings.org](http://www.heritagesandysprings.org)



cumulative



# Financials

## Governmental Funds 6/30/2007

	General Fund	Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10,539,066	\$ 1,258,361	\$ 7,312,375	\$ 58,223	\$ 19,168,025
Accounts receivable	220,685		15,000		235,685
Taxes receivable	4,877,178	358,640			5,235,818
Intergovernmental receivable	307,263			40,581	347,844
Due from other funds	648,999				648,999
Prepays	202,977				202,977
Total assets	\$16,796,168	\$1,617,001	\$7,327,375	\$98,804	\$25,839,348
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Accounts payable	3,054,132	283,248	1,428,258	9,878	4,775,516
Accrued liabilities	13,000				13,000
Deferred revenue	735,155				735,155
Due to other funds		188,802	410,766	49,431	648,999
Due to component unit		917,926			917,926
Total liabilities	\$3,802,287	\$1,389,976	\$1,839,024	\$59,309	\$7,090,596
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
Reserved for:					
Capital projects	3,697,018				3,697,018
Prepays	202,977				202,977
Unreserved, reported in:					
General fund	9,093,886				9,093,886
Special Revenue Fund		227,025		37,377	264,402
Capital Projects Fund			5,488,351	2,118	5,490,469
Total fund balances	12,993,881	227,025	5,488,351	39,495	18,748,752
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$16,796,168	\$1,617,001	\$7,327,375	\$98,804	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in government activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Some revenues are not available in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

82,949,292

(10,050,407)

735,155

Net assets of governmental activities

\$92,382,792

## Governmental Funds For The Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2007

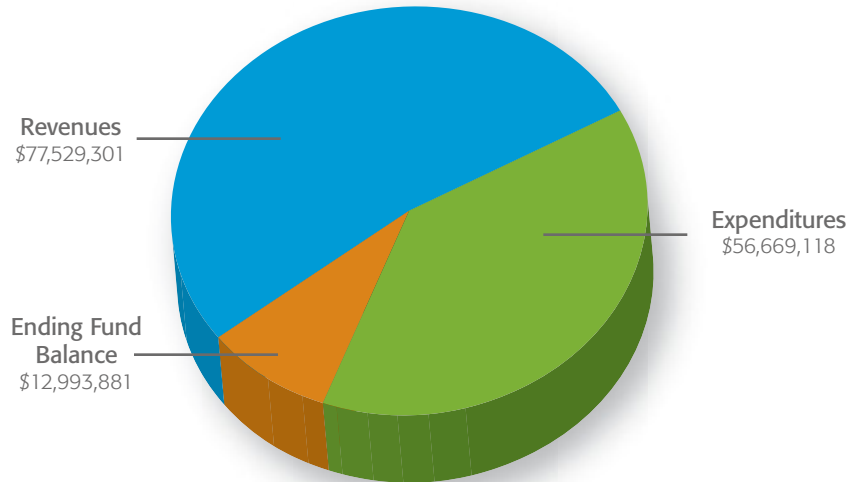
	General Fund	Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>					
Property taxes	\$ 27,004,750				\$ 27,004,750
Sales and use taxes	24,795,033				24,795,033
Hotel/Motel Taxes		4,319,717			4,319,717
Franchise taxes	7,603,326				7,603,326
Business taxes	9,796,751				9,796,751
Licenses and permits	3,498,289			370,645	3,868,934
Intergovernmental	228,623			73,107	301,730
Charges for services	332,247	1,280			333,527
Fines and forfeitures	3,447,820				3,447,820
Contributions	2,044			170,025	172,069
Interest earned	734,079				734,079
Miscellaneous	86,339		30,000		116,339
Total revenues	\$77,529,301	\$4,320,997	\$30,000	\$613,777	\$82,494,075
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Current:					
General government	14,662,914				14,662,914
Judicial	784,594				784,594
Public safety	21,112,163		6,721,226	189,965	28,023,354
Public works	9,613,149		1,271,637		10,884,786
Culture and recreation	894,601	3,087,286	229,722	15,790	4,227,399
Housing and development	7,236,048				7,236,048
Debt service:					
Principal	1,843,437				1,843,437
Interest	522,212				522,212
Total expenditures	56,669,118	3,087,286	8,222,585	205,755	68,184,744
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	20,860,183	1,233,711	(8,192,585)	408,022	14,309,331
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>					
Issuance of long term debt			7,500,000		7,500,000
Transfers in	1,233,711		6,180,936		7,414,647
Transfers out	(5,812,409)	(1,233,711)		(368,527)	(7,414,647)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(4,578,698)	(1,233,711)	13,680,936	(368,527)	7,500,000
Net change in fund balances	16,281,485	0	5,488,351	39,495	21,809,331
Fund balances (deficit), beginning of period	(3,287,604)	227,025	0	0	(3,060,579)
Fund balances, end of period	\$12,993,881	\$227,025	\$5,488,351	\$39,495	\$18,748,752

The accompanying notes are integral to these financial statements.



## General Fund

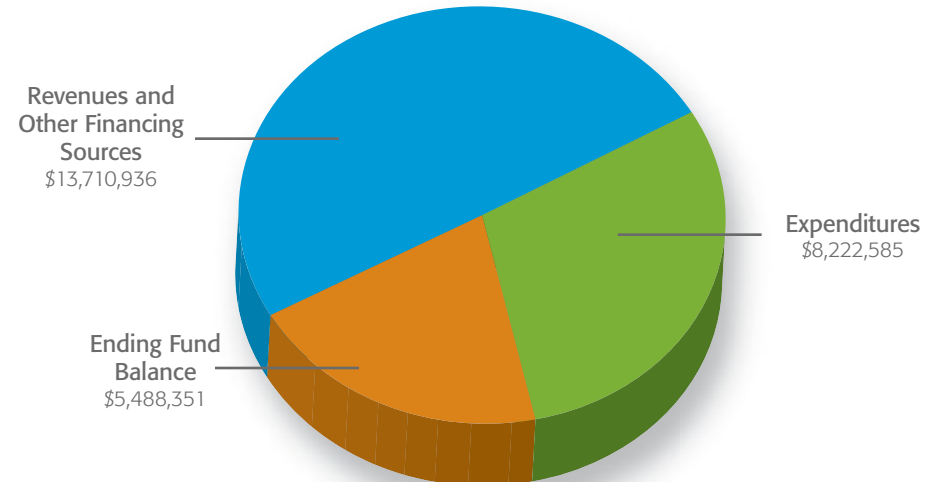
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and  
Changes in Fund Balance as of June 30, 2007



*Note: Ending Fund Balance is net of other financing uses and beginning fund balance.*

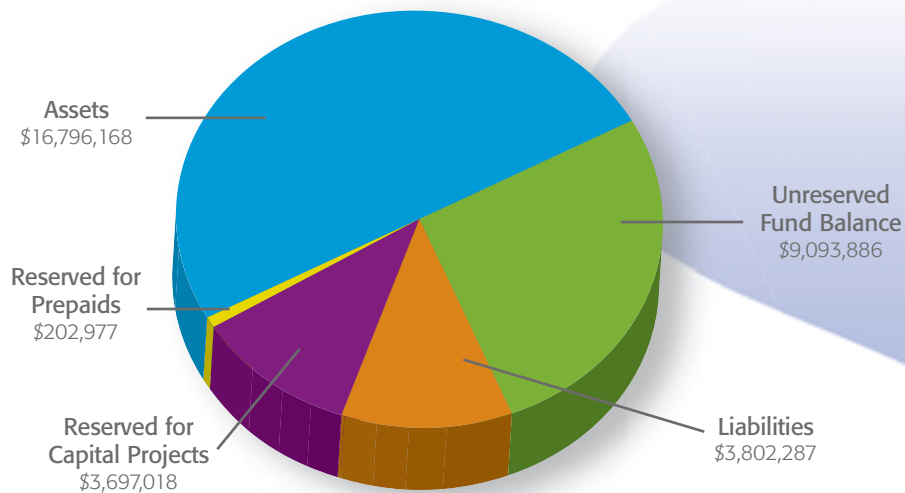
## Capital Projects Fund

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and  
Changes in Fund Balance as of June 30, 2007



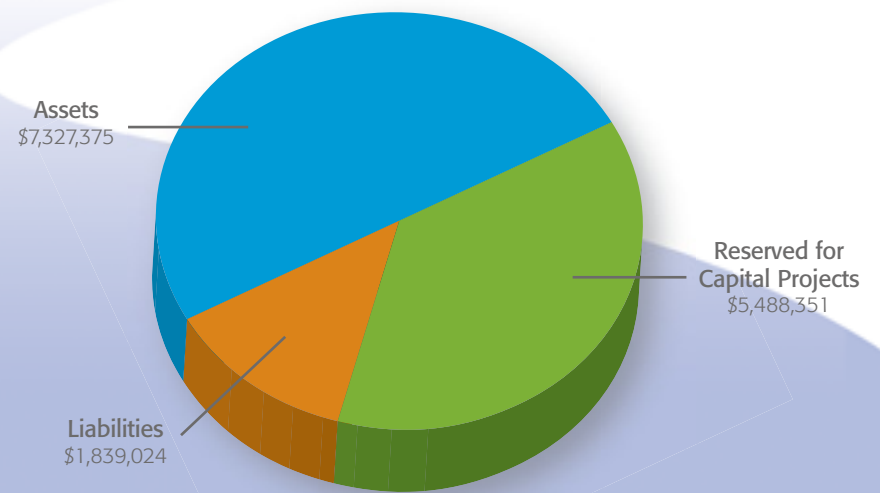
## General Fund

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2007



## Capital Projects Fund

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2007



## Sandy Springs Facts



- During the fiscal year 2007, the Sandy Springs Web site logged about 400,000 visits from nearly 170,000 Web surfers.
- The Sandy Springs Police Department appeared in a poster for Glock Inc. as part of that company's international advertising campaign.
- Teams registering for Hammond Park's 2007 fall adult volleyball leagues grew to 36, compared to only 21 in 2006.
- During the fiscal year 2007, the Call Center fielded 101,800 phone calls.
- This year, the Fire Rescue Department received and began using small oxygen masks designed for dogs and cats overcome by smoke.
- Sandy Springs City Hall played host to several visitors from China in 2007, including Miss China Universe, Ningning Zhang.
- Sandy Springs received the 2007 Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
- Fire Rescue Medical Director Dr. Ian Greenwald traveled to Mozambique in March to help the World Health Organization set up an EMS/Fire service in the country's capital of Maputo.
- Sandy Springs' first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award went to Nancy McCord for her philanthropic work on behalf of the homeless through Sandy Springs United Methodist Church.
- In June 2007, Public Works undertook its first street-resurfacing project, which included 11 roads. Three months later, with the second project, they paved seven more, for a total of 18 miles between both projects.





- The Georgia Municipal Association granted Sandy Springs the Certified City of Ethics designation in 2007. The designation means Sandy Springs has agreed to hold itself to a strict set of ethical principles and conduct.
- Sandy Springs has placed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at City Hall and Police Headquarters, and also in all Fire Rescue and Police vehicles, to help save the lives of heart attack victims.
- The City of Sandy Springs was honored as a Crown City Award winner from "American City & County" magazine for starting the Fire Rescue Department in six months and offering services above and beyond what is normally available.
- The City's Communications Department won an International Association of Business Communicators Bronze Flame and a national MarCom award for its 2006 Annual Report.
- The top 10 employers in the City employ 12,200 people.
- According to the US Census, 72 percent of the households in Sandy Springs contain one or two people, and 44.6 percent of the houses built in the City were built before 1979.
- Sixty percent of the residents of Sandy Springs have earned a bachelor's degree and/or a master's degree.
- The median age for a Sandy Springs resident is 34.





7840 Roswell Road, Building 500  
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350  
770.730.5600  
[www.sandyspringsga.org](http://www.sandyspringsga.org)