



Annual Report 2010



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Contents

Mayor’s Message.....2

City Councilmembers.....3

City Manager’s Message4

Public Safety6

Transportation.....14

Code Enforcement.....18

Recreation and Parks20

Financials24



Mayor's Message



It's only been five years since Sandy Springs became a city, and it is amazing what has been accomplished! We continue to focus our efforts on you, our customers, and hope that we have had favorable results and have made your quality of life better in Sandy Springs. There are numerous improvements this year that this report showcases. It's been a tremendous five years.

Our Police Department sprang to life in six months, and we gradually went from 40 officers to Sandy Springs' full force of 125 officers. Our crime statistics show a drop in property crime by 10 percent. Our Fire Rescue Department, also four years old, receives new accolades for its innovative initiatives regularly. Recently, Sandy Springs was named a "Crown Community Award"

winner for our heart safe program from "American City & County" magazine.

The physical improvements to our roads and traffic system are unparalleled. The Public Works Department has paved 94 miles of streets and seven miles of sidewalks are constructed. In every area you now encounter more sidewalk and intersection construction and improvements. While the widening of Abernathy and Johnson Ferry Roads by the state is certainly not complete, we can see progress, and we have begun work on the linear parkway that will grace both sides of this artery. Traffic lights are synchronized along Roswell Road and other arterials. This required the installation of 94 miles of fiber optic cable. The effect is the Traffic Management Center in City Hall can react instantly when a traffic back-up occurs, and the traffic lights are adjusted automatically from City Hall.

Until we became a city, the stormwater system in the ground was totally neglected. The City now has an active stormwater inspection and maintenance program. To date, more than 120 capital projects are complete. We are making steady progress toward the repair of the public stormwater facilities to prevent flooding of private properties.

This has been done without raising your property tax rate. It is capped in our charter, and only residents may vote to change it. In addition, our property tax assessments are capped for city tax purposes, so they cannot increase over the rate of inflation. This was important in the years when property values were sky rocketing. Despite the reduction of City revenue due to the recession, our current annual budget still allocates 20 percent to capital improvements. In other words, we are still improving our infrastructure.

Please visit Overlook Park on Morgan Falls Road if you have yet to go. It opened in July, and you are in for a treat. It is so beautiful that Sandy Springs won first place from Keep Georgia Beautiful in recognition of this added public facility. Our recreation programs are bursting with activities, with new programs added each season. The recreation activities include fee paying as well as scholarship youngsters to serve the entire community.

We have much to be proud, and we thank you for your input, your dedication and your attention to making Sandy Springs great.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs

City Councilmembers



John Paulson
Councilmember
District 1



Dianne Fries
Councilmember
District 2



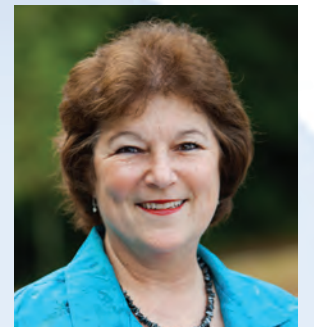
Chip Collins
Councilmember
District 3



Ashley Jenkins
Councilmember
District 4



Tiberio "Tibby" DeJulio
Councilmember
District 5



Karen Meinzen McEnery
Councilmember
District 6



City Manager's Message



Sandy Springs prides itself on our customer service. To accomplish this goal, it is important that we receive feedback from you. While the following information was received after our fiscal year ended, I felt it appropriately reflected our customer service theme this year.

The City of Sandy Springs participated in the 2010 National Citizen Survey to assess our progress. The survey is a collaborative effort between the National Research Center, Inc. and the International City/County Management Association. The City received a \$5,000 grant to fund our participation.

Most Sandy Springs residents rated their quality of life as excellent or good and gave high rankings to our public safety services. Our ambulance service provider, Rural/Metro, ranked number one out of 47 comparable cities.

Highlights from the survey results include:

- Fire Services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 94 percent of respondents making us #2 of 50 comparable cities*);
 - Of 10 percent who had contact with the Fire Department in the past year, 86 percent reported a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Police Services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 89 percent of respondents (#3 of 56 comparable cities*);
 - Of 37 percent who had contact with the Police Department in the past year, 88 percent had a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Overall Direction of the City: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 76 percent of respondents (#3 of 41 comparable cities*);
- City Employees: 79 percent of respondents rated their overall impression of employees as either “excellent” or “good” (#6 of 53 comparable cities*);
- Cleanliness of Sandy Springs: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#8 of 27 comparable cities*);
 - Only 5 percent of respondents see rundown buildings, weed lots and junk vehicles as a “major” problem—3rd lowest of comparable cities); and
- Public Trust: Overall image of Sandy Springs rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#9 of 35 comparable cities*).

As your City Manager, it is gratifying to see these positive results. The feedback we received from residents validates the direction in which the City is moving. However, we always have room for improvement, and the survey provided valuable information on areas that need additional attention.

If you participated in the survey, please accept my thanks.

If you are interested in reading the results of the survey, please visit our website at www.sandyspringsga.org/citizensurvey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. McDonough". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John McDonough, City Manager
City of Sandy Springs





For the past five years, Public Safety has played a major role in the life of the residents of the City of Sandy Springs. Public Safety continues to be at the forefront of the Mayor and City Councilmembers' list of priorities.



Public Safety

For the past five years, Public Safety has played a major role in the life of the residents of City of Sandy Springs. Public Safety continues to be at the forefront of the Mayor and City Councilmembers' list of priorities. At the outset of the Fire Department's launch, one of their primary goals was to increase the out-of-hospital survival rate of cardiac arrest. The Police Department had a similar goal of reducing Part 1 crimes. These goals are achieved because the Mayor and City Councilmembers provide the vision for the safety and security of the City's customers—the residents, businesses owners, visitors as well as for the infrastructure and natural resources. This year, both the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department (SSFRD) and the Sandy Springs Police Department achieved numerous accomplishments.

Fire Rescue Department

This fiscal year, the Department provided 12,668 responses to 9,948 calls for service, of which approximately 75 percent were emergency medical calls. In operation since December 29, 2006, SSFRD has attained many goals. Here are their highlights of an incredible year:

- As one of the first fire departments in the Metro Atlanta area to utilize advanced intervention in the pre-hospital environment, such as induced hypothermia after cardiac arrest, the SSFRD went a step further this year with the addition

of its Emergency Medical Services Credentialing Program. Every new Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic that works for the Department undergoes additional evaluation of competencies beyond state and national certifications. Once the new Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics fulfill their competencies, they are required to complete an initial 120-hour observation and have a personal interview with SSFRD's medical director. He or she will continue to be evaluated for six months.

- An Automatic Aid Agreement with the City of Roswell allows the Department to post an engine at Roswell station #7 on Holcomb Bridge Road and Spalding Drive, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. This allows SSFRD to cover the panhandle section of Sandy Springs in a more effective manner.
- Training goals provide the most effective and efficient preparation to the Department's personnel to stay on the cutting edge of technology and technique. During this fiscal year, SSFRD personnel completed nearly 15,000 hours of continuing education. This includes the development/implementation of



a National Professional Qualification course for the Fire Apparatus Drivers. SSFRD is the first department in the State of Georgia to offer such a program. The course includes 50 hours of driving time and 50 hours of classroom time. The Department has 35 fire rescue technicians now nationally certified as Fire Apparatus Operators. The benefit is a safer, more prepared operator of vehicles, which also helps reduce wear on the apparatus.

- The SSFRD was the Host Facilitator for nine classes that certified more than 200 individuals from the Metro Atlanta Area in the National Incident Command System 200 and 300 courses for Intermediate and Advanced Incident Command and Control at Emergency Incidents. These participants will be better equipped in handling large-scale emergencies as a result.
- SSFRD expanded its Fire Hydrant Inspection program from once per year to twice per year. This program ensures all municipal fire hydrants in the City are in working order. There are nearly 3,300 fire hydrants in our City.

- During this fiscal year a six-wheel multi-purpose vehicle was added in a cooperative effort with the Sandy Springs Police Department. Also, a Water Response boat was acquired to help assist in providing emergency services on and along the Chattahoochee River.
- Fire Chief Jack K. McElfish was awarded the Alan Brunacini Fire Service Executive Safety Award sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs Safety Health and Survival Section. This award is given to the fire rescue chief executive officer that has demonstrated a unique commitment to the fire service in health and safety, as well as the overall health and safety of their own organization and the fire service as a whole.
- The Fire Marshal's Office conducted 20 fire investigations, which included: 19 structure fires and one vehicle fire. It is the Fire Marshal's job to determine the fire's cause.

- A total of 495 Community Events were held with 85,683 participants, which included fire station birthday parties, career day programs,

fire safety education programs (community and schools), community service events (festivals, block parties, parades) and boy and girl scout merit badge programs.

- SSFRD trained 545 residents in CPR and AED use for this fiscal year with a total of 1,342 during the calendar year.
- SSFRD established a Child Car Safety Seat Training Program. Seven new car safety seat technicians were trained, which made the service more accessible throughout the City. The technicians installed 166 car seats.
- The SSFRD has also enhanced the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program with a new CERT coordinator and has actively engaged the community to train additional CERT team members. The City currently has 27 members on its team from various community organizations.



Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Partners With Corporate Giant for Emergency Training

Throughout the past year, nearly two dozen employees of UPS, Inc. have teamed up with the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department to learn emergency preparedness. “UPS employees were involved in two separate training programs: one for general CPR and then the series of four training classes for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT),” said Eddie LeBlanc, UPS Business Continuity Manager. “Participants included employees from business continuity management, security, facilities, human resources and the UPS Capital business unit.”

“Our employees enjoyed the training and appreciated the Sandy Springs Fire Department's desire to provide quality training,” LeBlanc added. “Like many of our health and safety programs, UPS emphasizes training and access to information to benefit employees in the workplace with their families and to share in the community.”

LeBlanc added that UPS participated in the training because the company has a business continuity strategy that includes providing employees with the resources necessary to restore operations as quickly and efficiently as possible and to manage contingencies in an emergency. The SSFRD program could help achieve these goals. “Emergency response training not only enhances employee skills in the workplace but adds value to [employees’] personal lives and to community involvement,” LeBlanc added. “Recurrent training reinforces our preparedness and response to ensure UPS business continuity in the local workplace and with support to our global operations.”



Police Department

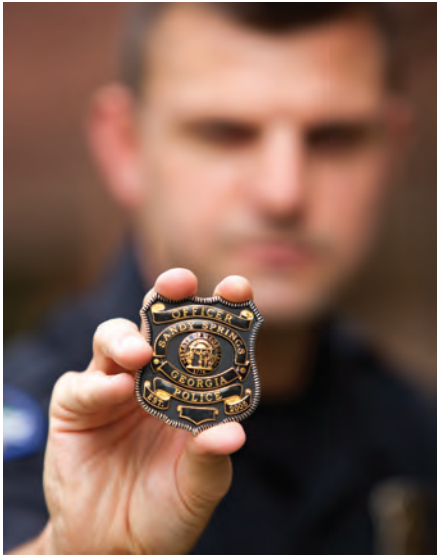
With 125 sworn officers, Sandy Springs Police Chief Terry Sult reported to the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) that Part 1 crime numbers in the City of Sandy Springs declined 10.03 percent in 2010. Sandy Springs Police Officers answered 96,473 calls, averaging 8,739 calls per month. Officers issued 5,618 speeding citations, worked 5,908 vehicle accidents, 390 DUI cases and made 4,497 arrests. Sandy Springs Police continued in their tradition of providing impeccable customer service while also having a noteworthy year.

- In 2010, Sandy Springs Police Department became the first police agency in Georgia to take the entire sworn staff of officers to the Chief Academy in Forsyth, Ga., for Advanced Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). This course has two areas of training: It is not a pursuit course. The first area is the urban driving course. This course puts officers through scenarios similar to urban driving with sudden stops, obstacles and lane changes. The second area is a

rural course with driving at high speeds. This course simulates the winding roads of Georgia, with short straight-aways and sudden turns and dips in the roadways or what is commonly referred to as “thrill hills.” The driving emphasizes looking down the road and reacting to the danger. The course builds the skills and confidence necessary to drive a police vehicle in an emergency response mode.

- SSPD began revising their written directives with the assistance of Randy Means, national law enforcement police expert and attorney, in 2010. Sgt. Melanie Rowand, accreditation manager, stated, “The new General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures, due in 2011, will be nothing like our current policy manual. These policies, which still meet national accreditation standards, are organized in such a way that make them user-friendly for the officers on the street—the backbone of our police department. We’re excited to get this year-long project launched in 2011.”

- Sandy Springs Police continued to build the joint SWAT team with Johns Creek and Dunwoody Police Departments. There are 35 officers with the North Metro SWAT Team. Of those 35 members, 21 are from the Sandy Springs Police Department. The expanded unit will increase response flexibility and shorten response times to tactical situations. The North Metro SWAT team had eight call outs and more than 195 hours of training.





- Also in 2010, the Department expanded its Community Affairs Unit. A new position was created to build the Sandy Springs Police Volunteer program, or VIPS, and that officer will maintain the Sandy Springs Police and social networking sites.
- Special Olympics continue to be a favorite fundraiser for Sandy Springs Police. This year the Sandy Springs Police Department raised more than \$10,000. The Department worked as wait staff at the Flying Biscuit, participated in the Polar Plunge and presented awards to the athletes during the Summer Games.
- This year saw the formation of the Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund (SSPBF). This fund was established to help Sandy Springs public safety personnel and their families in times of need and hardship. The Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund hosted its first Black Tie Gala at the historic Glenridge Hall and raised more than \$30,000. Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund is a non-profit organization.
- The Sandy Springs Police Department conducted three Citizen's Police Academies with an average of 22 persons per class this year. An additional Citizens Police Academy geared toward the Hispanic community was conducted also. The Citizens Police Academy has been such a successful venture that anyone who wants to be a volunteer with the Sandy Springs Police Department must successfully complete the academy.
- Sandy Springs Police Crime Prevention Unit conducted more than 15 Women's Self Defense Classes and 10 Firearms Safety Classes. Other successful programs this year included: Table Top Crime Prevention presentations, the Business Watch program, Construction Watch program, Gun Lock program, Waste Watch program and the introduction of the North Metro Crime Prevention Association in partnership with the Alpharetta, Roswell, Milton and Dunwoody Police Departments.



Volunteer Programs Popular at Police Department

Forging and maintaining community partnerships is an important goal for the Sandy Springs Police Department (SSPD) in their effort to both solve and prevent crime. The community outreach function directly addresses the importance of partnerships within the Sandy Springs community. Sandy Springs Police utilizes volunteers to assist in many functions within the Department. Volunteers are essential to the successful day-to-day operation of the Sandy Springs Police.

"As a Sandy Springs resident, I was thrilled when we became a city and had our own police force," said Joan Pressman. "When I found out that they were going to offer CPA classes, [Citizens Police Academy] I ran to get into one of the classes. I have never regretted it. The Sandy Springs Police Department is by far one of the best." To volunteer for the SSPD, one must attend and complete the CPA classes as Pressman did.

"I have enjoyed every single minute of it," Pressman continued. "As a volunteer, we do scores of things to support the police officers and the Department on a regular basis."

Pressman added the group helps by distributing awareness brochures during the holidays in the City's busiest parking lots to remind people not to leave anything valuable inside vehicles. They also help with the fundraisers for Special Olympics and the Sandy Springs Police Benevolent Fund. The group was involved with the Traffic Unit's class to help teens and parents to become more informed drivers.

"Soon the Department will start VIPS. This program allows selected Volunteers to patrol neighborhoods in a Citizens Patrol Vehicle. This vehicle is clearly marked 'Citizens on Patrol,' so the public does not get us confused with an actual police vehicle. Lastly, I'd like to mention the officers share with you as much as they can, like friends—it is not about them and you—it is more about us," Pressman concluded.





911 (ChatComm)

Having answered its first emergency call on the night of August 31, 2009, the Chattahoochee River 9-1-1 Authority (ChatComm) has served the Cities of Sandy Springs and Johns Creek for nearly a year and a half. Since its conceptualization, ChatComm's focus has been on its customers—those who dial 9-1-1 for assistance, as well as the public safety personnel who rely on it as their lifeline.

ChatComm continues to meet the established performance standards: 90 percent of calls are answered within 10 seconds and 90 percent of calls are processed within 60 seconds. ChatComm handled 87,000 calls for emergency services in Sandy Springs. In addition, ChatComm processed an additional 31,268 officer-initiated calls from the Sandy Springs Police Department. These high levels of performance are achieved by staffing the center with a motivated and talented workforce.

While delivering consistent and rapid access to emergency services continues to serve as the foundation of ChatComm's mission, ChatComm is also beginning to distinguish itself as a leader in the area of providing interactive services to the community. In 2010, ChatComm became the first 9-1-1 center in the state to offer access to Smart911. This secure, web-based solution allows residents and others to create profiles containing information such as medical history, family and pet information, as well as upload photographs of family members. Should an individual with a profile call 9-1-1, all of this information becomes immediately accessible to ChatComm's call takers and

emergency responders. For example, in the case of a missing child, responding officers will have instant access to a recent photograph of the child. In the future, this same solution will allow callers to converse with ChatComm via SMS text messaging once a 9-1-1 call has been placed. This technology will be beneficial for the hearing impaired, as well as in situations where the caller is unable to verbally communicate.

ChatComm continues to pursue innovative technologies and services to provide the most effective and customer-focused emergency response to the residents, businesses and visitors of Sandy Springs.



ChatComm call takers provide excellent customer service and surpass their goals of answering calls to meet their performance standards. Last year ChatComm call takers:

- Answered 93 percent of incoming calls in 10 seconds or less;
- Processed 92 percent of calls in one minute or less;
- Handled more than 65,000 calls for Sandy Springs Police and more than 11,500 calls for Sandy Springs Fire Rescue; and
- Served as the central point of communications for Sandy Springs Police and Fire Rescue, Johns Creek Police and Fire and Rural/Metro Ambulance.



Delivering Excellent Service and More



Chattahoochee River 9-1-1 Authority Communications Training Officer Gina Clines was at her workstation on the night of May 6, 2010. It was a routine night, and then the phone rang. "The caller said he was on I-285, and his wife was in labor; they were on the way to the hospital," said Clines. "He didn't think they'd make it. I got the location and told them to pull over. We would send help immediately."

Immediately wasn't soon enough. "I was trying to keep him calm. We started going through the emergency medical dispatch protocol for pregnancy," she added. "I was asking him questions—and he was answering: are there any high risk issues with the mother, can you see any part of the baby, is there any bleeding? And he said, 'The baby is out!'"

"He got so excited he reverted to his native language of Spanish. Once that happened, I had to get the language service on the line. It was just a matter of minutes when the paramedics got there," Clines said. "I have never done anything like this before. It was my first time. I asked if it was a boy or a girl, and the medics said it was a boy. I was excited."

"My training helped me stay calm. We have to stay calm. We have to get the information to those that need it—that's what we do in an emergency," she added. "That's part of our training." Clines has been in dispatch since 2003, working in Phoenix and then joining ChatComm when it launched on August 31, 2009. She said she has been in much more stressful situations like when officers are chasing suspects on foot or are in armed situations. "This was a very happy event, and I was glad to be a part of it," Clines concluded.





The City of Sandy Springs Public Works Department is charged with fine tuning a transportation system based on customer feedback. Their innovative actions are derived from studies, partnerships and careful consideration.



Transportation

Moving people through the City of Sandy Springs has been a consistent goal of the Mayor and Councilmembers for the past five years. To that end, the City of Sandy Springs Public Works Department is charged with fine tuning a transportation system based on customer feedback. Their innovative actions are derived from studies, partnerships and careful consideration. This year saw numerous accomplishments, improvements and system upgrades for the traveling public.

Bridge Maintenance Management Program

Six months after floods ravaged the City of Sandy Springs and shut down two of the city's major arterials—Peachtree Dunwoody Road and Riverside Drive because of washed out bridges—the roads were open to the traveling public. The bridge over Nancy Creek at Peachtree Dunwoody Road opened in March and the bridge over Marsh Creek at Riverside Drive

opened in April. The Public Works Department worked with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and was able to get the bridges reconstructed in a remarkable 180 days with Federal Highway funding of approximately \$2,000,000. This unique grant was received through the Emergency Repair Program.

Traffic Management Center Program

Improving service to travelers with the City's Traffic Management Center (TMC) included installing two miles of fiber and operating traffic cameras at multiple locations throughout the City. Enhancements to the Roswell Road corridor continue to show travel time



benefits beyond previous years' studies with an additional \$1,400,000 in savings this year. Additionally, approximately 80 percent of the City's signals were retimed and optimized, on eight major corridors or intersections, thus enhancing the overall efficiency of the system.

Capital Program Project Construction

More than \$3,000,000 was initiated in capital construction and included the following projects:

- Windsor Parkway sidewalks and drainage improvements
- Peachtree Dunwoody Road at Spalding Drive intersection improvement
- Dunwoody Place Phase 1 widening
- The Abernathy Greenway utility relocation

Widening and construction on Johnson Ferry and Abernathy Roads (\$20,000,000 construction) continues in conjunction with GDOT.

Intersection Improvement Program

Three major intersection improvements and numerous smaller scale intersection improvements included the following:

- Spalding Drive at Pitts Road – installed new curb, poles, mill and inlay and striping and loop cutting
- Dunwoody Place at Roberts Drive – upgraded the cabinet and installed mast arms, overhead street name signs, pedestrian and signal facilities and ADA ramps
- Roswell Road at Ison Road/Pitts Road – realigned the intersection and installed mast arms and ADA facilities
- Northridge Road and Roberts Drive – initiated design
- I-285 and Riverside Drive – initiated design
- Replaced more than 1,800 incandescent signals with LEDs
- Installed more than 20 school zone beacons

Sidewalk Program Construction

Pedestrian needs were met with more than 6,000 feet of sidewalk construction this year. Design and/or construction occurred at the following locations throughout the City:

- Roswell Road – Dalrymple Road to City Limits
- Dalrymple Drive (North Springs High School)
- Pitts Road/Ison Road (Ison Springs Elementary)
- Mt. Vernon Highway at the Library
- Abernathy Road at the Tennis Center
- Hammond Drive – Mt. Vernon Highway to Lake Forrest Drive
- Glenridge Drive – Hammond Drive to Johnson Ferry Road
- Glenridge Drive – Mt. Vernon Highway to Abernathy Road
- Spalding Drive – Mt. Vernon Highway to Nesbitt Ferry Road
- Glenridge Drive – Roswell Road to Northland Drive
- Mount Paran Road – Long Island Drive to Powers Ferry Road
- Long Island Drive – Roswell Road to Mount Paran Road

- Glenridge Drive – Royervista Drive to High Point Road
- Peachtree Dunwoody Road, South Trimble Road to Glenridge Connector
- Lake Forrest Drive – Northwood Drive to Hammond Drive
- Dalrymple Road and Brandon Mill Road

Pave On



The Pavement Management Program consisted of 30+ miles of street resurfacing or reconstruction, which provided better riding surfaces to the residents of Sandy Springs and the traveling public. This was accomplished in six major phases. Resurfacing included several miles of Roswell Road through the City.



FEMA and the City Aid Flood-Prone Residents



The rains on September 21, 2009, caused flooding on the Chattahoochee River rated by the United States Geologic Survey as having a likelihood of happening once in 500 years. During the flood and in the days following the event, Sandy Springs received 327 reports involving stormwater problems and an additional 128 calls regarding debris. This compared to 266 reported stormwater problems during the 12 months prior to the flood. Ninety-six new stormwater projects were added to the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list, which only had 88 projects on the list when the storm hit. More than 120 tons of debris was removed during the storm.

The City requested public assistance funds under the Disaster Declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and expects more than \$515,000 in federal aid. City staff spent many hours coordinating with FEMA staff to determine project eligibility. Sixty-five stormwater projects were identified as being eligible for FEMA funding, and 41 are complete.

Residents of 98 homes in Sandy Springs reported flooding. Some suffered flooded basements, while others experienced more severe damage.

A federal disaster was declared and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding became available. Hazard Mitigation is sustained action to reduce or eliminate risks to life and property from natural or man-made disasters. The purpose of the HMGP is to provide funds to State agencies and local governments in the aftermath of a disaster for projects that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property. The federal share of the HMGP funds cannot exceed 75 percent to purchase property and remove the dwelling. The non-federal share may be met with cash, contributions, certain other grants, such as Community Development Block Grants or with in-kind services. In addition, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) offered a 10 percent match, which reduced the local match to 15 percent. In the November 17, 2009, Mayor and Council Work Session, the Sandy Springs City Council determined they would pursue the purchase of properties located in the floodplain that receive recurring flood damage. The acquired properties could be converted to open space after acquisition.



Applications were made to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for the acquisition of 25 properties on January 19, 2010. Six of the properties were substantially damaged (damages exceeded 50 percent of the value of the structure). These houses were approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a grant for these properties was accepted by the City. The grant applications for the remaining 19 properties are being reviewed by FEMA and GEMA.

FEMA and GEMA have approved a grant award of \$2,749,364, with a federal share (75 percent) of \$2,060,023, state share (10 percent) of \$274,936 and local share (15 percent) of \$412,405. This award covers those properties determined to be substantially damaged. Each of the owners of the properties approved for purchase have voluntarily agreed to participate and understand they are responsible for providing 15 percent of the cost of demolition and purchase.

The City accepted the grant in their November 16, 2010, City Council session and work began to acquire these properties. Titles of the properties have been obtained and appraisals are underway. Soon these residents will receive offers for their property. After acquisition of the properties, the houses will be torn down and the property converted to open space. The program benefits the public by removing residents from harm's way and over time the accumulation of open space will reduce the effects of flooding on downstream property owners.



Stormwater Permitting and Maintenance

The water collected in the transportation system flows into the stormwater system. Therefore, it is imperative for the system to be in working order at all times. Public Works executed more than \$1,000,000 in stormwater maintenance projects at 77+ locations and completed the inventory and assessment of more than 32,000 stormwater structures. Additionally, 80 outfall locations and 60 detention ponds were inspected. Federal Emergency Management Agency funds in excess of \$500,000 were secured for repair of stormwater facilities damaged in the flood of September 2009.





Sandy Springs Code Enforcement division advises and directs efforts toward the toughest compliance issues. As a trendsetter in the state, the team continues to bring a sense of fair but firm enforcement to the customers in this community.



Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement officers have investigated more than 10,000 cases since the City's inception on December 1, 2005. Effective use of code enforcement techniques and strategies are the key technique to a successful program. Although voluntary compliance is the goal, enforcement efforts have brought several properties and entities into compliance for neglecting ordinances.

In 2010, Community Development's Code Enforcement Division continued to make a major commitment to upgrade processes and to develop new and innovative approaches to existing programs. The code enforcement division recorded 3,163 violations during onsite inspections during this fiscal year. Code enforcement personnel received and responded to 1,082 complaints and generated 613 cases by patrolling neighborhoods. Of all the violations inspected, 8 percent resulted in the issuance of a citation for appearance in Sandy Springs Municipal Court. The total amount of fines and penalties

collected during the fiscal year for code-related violations was \$110,416.

Code Enforcement officers receive regular customer service training that explores the fundamentals of communicating with customers, whether face-to-face or over the telephone. Understanding the fundamentals of great customer service in the municipal setting is one of the keys to building a relationship with a community.

As of January 2010, the Code Enforcement Division assumed complete responsibility for the monitoring and regulatory compliance of all solid waste hauler activity within the City limits of Sandy Springs. The current non-exclusive contract grants approved waste haulers the authority to use the public streets, alleys, roads and thoroughfares within the City.

The Code Enforcement Division strives to achieve voluntary compliance with the business community through a process of notification and

education. To serve the residents of Sandy Springs with progressive and responsible code enforcement services, a collaborative venture with the Revenue Department was started to collect business occupation and excise tax funds. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve and maintain the relationship between the City and business owners, and as such, these efforts have brought more than 250 businesses into compliance.

In 2010, a total of 25 blighted houses were demolished without the use of City funds for abatement, saving the city more than \$500,000. The Vacant Property Enforcement Program (VPEP), started in 2006, addresses foreclosed, blighted and vacant properties. VPEP was recognized by the American Association of Code Enforcement as an innovative program. The program has proven extremely effective and as of July 2010, more than 135 properties throughout Sandy Springs were identified as vacant but in full compliance.

As of July 2010, Code Enforcement staff completed inspections at 45 of the 75 multi-family apartment complexes within the City limits. The goal of the Apartment Sweep Program is to ensure that all multi-family rental dwellings and units are in compliance with City codes and ordinances. On a monthly basis, Code Enforcement officers lead teams of building, land development and fire inspectors on an exterior sweep of a property. Shortly thereafter, a comprehensive report depicting all conditions on the property that require abatement is prepared and delivered to the property owner/manager. Code Enforcement staff monitors the property until all conditions reach full compliance.

These streamlined procedures were implemented during 2010. They make the Community Development Department an innovative and service oriented Department that exceeds customer expectation.

Code Enforcement Collaborates with Revenue Department

The City collected \$266,670 in outstanding business license revenue through a collaborative effort between Sandy Springs Code Enforcement Division and its Revenue Department. This progressive venture was undertaken to collect business occupation and excise tax funds.

"The Code Enforcement Division strives to achieve voluntary compliance with the business community," said Marcus Kellum, assistant director of Code Enforcement. "These efforts have brought more than 250 corporate citizens into compliance."

"We had four different lists that we worked from. We confirmed whether a business had a license—if not, we wrote them a citation," said Isaac Lewis, Code Enforcement officer. Code enforcement officers conducted 243 inspections and issued 86 citations.

"This was a very good program. In this economy businesses come and go," added Lewis. "The next step is to find more businesses that don't have licenses," Lewis said.

Brandon Branham, the City's Revenue supervisor agreed, "We started with 300 businesses that had delinquent renewals. The year before, we mailed the notices and didn't have a very good rate of return. This year, we teamed up with Code Enforcement and because of our proactive and innovative approach to collecting delinquent renewals, we had a high rate of return."

Branham added Sandy Springs is the second largest city for businesses in the state, only behind Atlanta, with almost 6,000 businesses in the city. "We are definitely ahead in how we approach business revenues and enforcement. Another innovative approach is that we will be using e-mail to inform businesses that their taxes are due by March 31. No one else does that." Branham concluded.





The Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department strives to make the customer number one. From online registration to numerous class offerings to recreation guides in multiple languages, the Department makes residents and visitors always feel welcome.



Recreation and Parks

In just five years, Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department has made great strides in multiple areas. This year, the Department had the largest gymnastics program in the region. Continue to look for innovative and expanded opportunities throughout the year along with old favorites to keep fit and have fun.



Morgan Falls Overlook Park

The \$3.5 million project to construct a new Morgan Falls Overlook Park on the Bull Sluice area of the Chattahoochee River began in October 2009 and was completed in summer 2010. The City of Sandy Springs received the state's top beautification award for the design and development of Morgan Falls Overlook Park in the Community Improvement category by Keep Georgia Beautiful, a part of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The new 30-acre riverside park features a boat dock, playground, walking trails, restrooms, a large picnic pavilion, handicap accessible swings, an historic chimney and spectacular views from the bluff.

Morgan Falls Athletic Complex

The \$5 million project for renovation of the Morgan Falls athletic complex, which broke ground in July of 2009, was completed in March of 2010. The project included a complete upgrade of 10 baseball/softball/football fields. It also included new fencing, dugouts, bleachers and a three-story press box with concession stands, dressing rooms, a public address system and restrooms. Four new pavilions were added to provide shade on sunny days. The sewer system was replaced, security parking lights, pedestrian lights and cameras also were added to enhance safety for athletic visitors.

Hammond Park Turf Field

Hammond Park saw many changes and upgrades in 2010, but the most customer-friendly was resurfacing the athletic field. The 200-foot by



360-foot field was in desperate need of maintenance and upkeep, as grass

surface athletic fields often are. Seeking a way to mitigate many maintenance issues, City officials and the Recreation and Parks Department staff decided to install artificial turf on the 72,000-square-foot field.

The goal of installing the artificial turf, which could last up to 15 years, was to provide a top-quality playing surface. The turf field, with a price tag of \$454,630, will pay for itself in 10 years by eliminating issues encountered with a grass surface, such as wear on the grass, frequent re-seeding of the field and staff time used to water, fertilize and line the field.

The turf field is used the entire week, year round, from early morning to night, for a variety of activities including jogging and boot camp to organized sports such as soccer, lacrosse, wiffle ball, kick ball, rugby, semi-professional football, flag football and ultimate Frisbee.

Expanded Summer Camp Program

The Recreation Department was able to expand its summer camp program delivery through partnerships with area schools. The Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGA) with the Fulton County Board of Education allowed the Department to use school facilities during the summer months and conduct tennis, wrestling, soccer, sports and day camp programs.

- *Lake Forest Elementary* school hosted a five-week summer day camp for ages six-11 and a one-week soccer camp for grades 2nd-5th.
- A sports day camp (grades 2nd-5th) was held for two weeks and took place at *Ison Springs Elementary School*.
- The 12-week tennis program for ages five-15 was held at *Sandy Springs Middle* school along with a month-long hangout camp for middle school age kids and a three-week 31 Stories Discover Me camp for ages five-13.
- *Riverwood International Charter High School* hosted a one-week wrestling camp for ages four-12.

In addition, the Recreation and Parks Department included more than 300 qualified youth in its 2010 summer camp program through scholarship funds provided by the Friends of Sandy Springs. The scholarships were made possible in part through a \$30,000 donation from Cox Enterprises.

The camp scholarships were awarded to students in public schools, who received free or reduced price meals at school, lived in Sandy Springs and had a parent or guardian who requested the scholarship. Sandy Springs schools have a total of 53 percent of its student population receiving free or reduced lunches.

In total, more than 2,300 youth ages three-15 participated in the Department's 2010 summer camp program, which also included gymnastics and pre-school gymnastics camps held at the Hammond Park Gymnastics Center.

Grant Programs

In 2009, a \$6,500 matching grant was awarded to the Recreation and Parks Department to provide a Kids & Arts program during the 2009-10 school year at several public elementary, middle and high schools located in Sandy Springs. Funding for this arts program was provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council and the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department. The grant was used to provide art assemblies, workshops and residencies booked through Young Audiences, Woodruff Art Center.

During the 2009-10 school year, 21 hours of assemblies, 37 hours of workshops and 20 hours of residencies were conducted and introduced more than 7,000 students to a variety of artisans working in visual and literary mediums.

Through the Sticks For Kids program, 30+ elementary school age children participated in free, eight-week golf clinics held after-school at Lake Forest and Ison Springs Elementary Schools.

The program sponsored by the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) was made available to the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department through a grant awarded to the Friends of Sandy Springs. The GCBA's Sticks for Kids program is centered on the philosophy that every child, regardless of socioeconomic status, should have the opportunity to play golf.

Blue Ribbon Partnership and Partners Award

The Recreation and Parks Department was the recipient of the Fulton County Schools 2010 Blue Ribbon Partnership and the Prestigious Partners Award. Each year, schools nominate partners for the Blue Ribbon Partnership Award to recognize outstanding relationships between schools and their partners. The Prestigious Partners are chosen from the pool of Blue Ribbon Partnership Award recipients.

The Recreation and Parks Department was nominated as a Blue Ribbon Partnership by the Sandy Springs Middle School to honor their beneficial relationship

throughout the last three years. Initially, Sandy Springs, as a new city, did not have the luxury of undeveloped land to build recreational facilities. Because Sandy Springs Middle School is located on a large piece of convenient property, the school was able to offer the City use of the facility.

After gaining approval from the school system, the Recreation Department scheduled adult and student sports leagues and camps, which take place on campus after school hours. In return, Recreation and Parks built an irrigation system for the soccer field, fenced and gated the property and provided free activities for students during the summer months. The school has benefitted by having residents on the grounds during evenings and weekends, thus increasing security. Residents of Sandy Springs have benefitted from having access to the space.

Out of a pool of the final 28 Blue Ribbon Partnership Award recipients, the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department and Sandy Springs Middle School partnership was chosen to receive one of three Fulton County Schools 2010 Prestigious Partners Awards.

Kids and Art Shows Art to Thousands

The Recreation and Parks Department hosted the Kids and Arts program during the 2009-10 school year. Funding for this arts program was provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council and the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department.

The \$6,500 matching grant provided art assemblies, workshops and residencies booked through Young Audiences, Woodruff Art Center. The Kids and Arts Program presents a way into the arts for children who may never be inclined to the arts. The students were exposed to dance, drama, mask making workshops, puppeteers and many other artistic endeavors in 21 hours of assemblies, 37 hours of workshops and 20 hours of residencies.

Several studies point to the fact that children perform better when exposed to the arts. The major findings of the GE Fund/MacArthur Foundation report, Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning (1999) include:

- Students with high levels of arts participation outperform their peers with little or no arts.
- Sustained involvement in particular art forms—music and theatre—is highly correlated with success in mathematics and reading.
- The arts have a measurable impact on students in high-poverty and urban settings.
- Engagement in the arts nurtures the development of cognitive, social and personal competencies.

"Due to the economy, school arts programs across the nation, state and the local school districts have been cut. Without the support of our community, students would not

have the opportunity to experience cultural arts that are vital enrichments to the curriculum," said Principal Dara Wilson of Lake Forest Elementary School. "The arts teach students to become critical thinkers in ways that have an impact on all academic subjects. Without the support of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks, students at Lake Forest would not be afforded those opportunities that are so critical for helping students build background and make connections to what they are learning." The state of Georgia spends .24 cents per capita for the arts. In a report entitled, "The Georgia Project: A Status Report on Arts Education in the State of Georgia," stated the average staffing level in middle school was one art teacher to 1,200 students and one music teacher to 1,841 students.

"The more opportunities that are given to young people, the more they will grow into those possibilities," said Denise Kent, dance teacher at North Springs Charter High School. [This] serves as spark to ignite dreams. Those dreams were originally planted by the kind of opportunities that this grant provided. Skills developed from experience in student directed/owned works, critical analysis and working with abstract content are inherent in the creative process. These skills are so important in increasing student success in core areas of study and throughout life."

The program took place at Woodland, Lake Forest, Ison Springs, Dunwoody Springs and High Point Elementary Schools, Sandy Springs Middle School and North Springs Charter High and Riverwood International Charter High Schools in Sandy Springs.

City of Sandy Springs Recreation Centers and Parks

Abernathy Park
254 Johnson Ferry Road
404.252.6310

Allen Road Park
5900 Lake Forest Drive
404.252.6310

**The John Ripley Forbes
Big Trees Forest Preserve**
7645 Roswell Road
770.673.0111
www.bigtreesforest.com

East Conway Pocket Park
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

Johnson Ferry Road Greenspace
595 Johnson Ferry Road
(undeveloped)

Lost Corner Preserve
99 Dalrymple Road
(undeveloped)

Morgan Falls Athletic Fields
450 Morgan Falls Road

Morgan Falls Overlook Park
200 Morgan Falls Road

**Sandy Springs Historic
Site and Park**
6075 Sandy Springs Circle
404.851.9111
www.heritagesandysprings.org

Sandy Springs Tennis Center
500 Abernathy Road
404.303.6182
www.northfultontennis.com

Ridgeview Park
5200 South
Trimble Road
404.252.6310





The Finance Department is responsible for financial accounting and reporting, treasury management, preparing the City budget, preparation of an annual audit with the City auditor, administering the processing and preparation of the City's payroll and payments to City vendors.



Financials

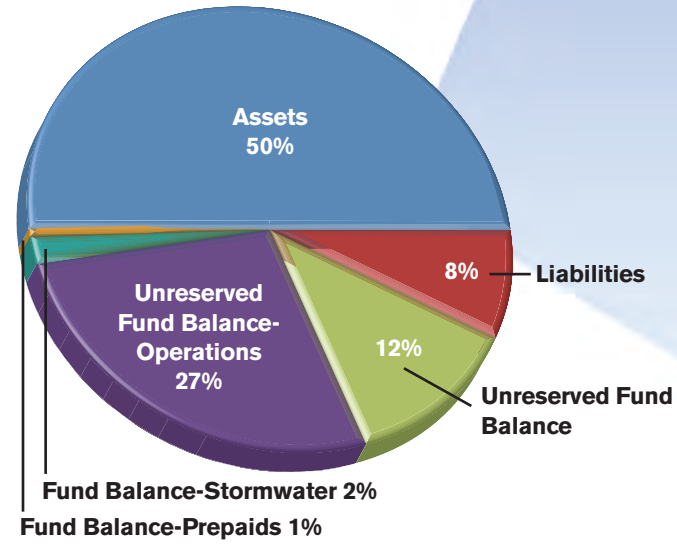
As attested to by the financial data in this Annual Report, the Mayor and Council of Sandy Springs subscribe to a conservative approach in running the City. We project revenues by taking into account all possible scenarios: will the economy grow or shrink and how will this affect our various revenue sources.

These policies resulted in a combined ending fund balance of \$49,456,230 as of June 30, 2010. Of this balance, \$13,636,649 is designated for general fund operations and \$34,516,510 is considered unreserved and can be used to meet the near term operating needs of the City. The unreserved fund balance has remained virtually unchanged despite a difficult economy and maintains the City's adopted 25 percent designated fund balance reserve policy.

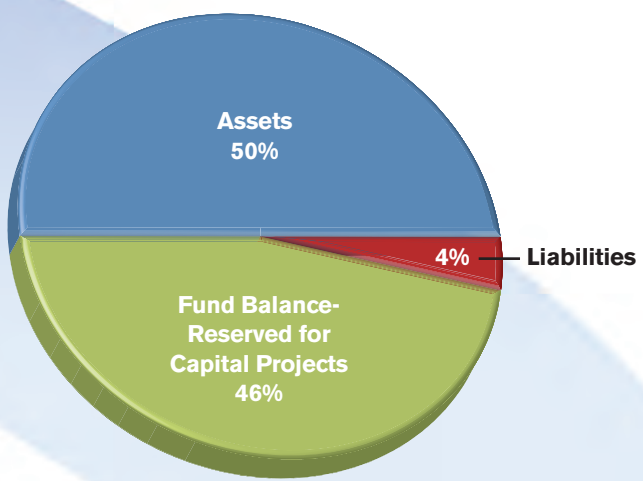
Prudent spending on operating costs has enabled Sandy Springs to undertake various capital projects and to acquire a site for an eventual City Hall. It is heartening that these investments can be made without borrowing or new taxes. The elected officials of Sandy Springs are keenly aware that they are spending the taxpayers' funds, requiring the utmost prudence in their decisions.

A. General Fund Balance Sheet		
Assets		25,319,966
Liabilities		4,116,609
Unreserved Fund Balance		6,263,637
Unreserved Fund Balance Designated for Operations		13,639,649
Fund Balance Reserved for Stormwater Projects		921,221
Fund Balance Reserved for Prepaids		378,850
B. Capital Projects Balance Sheet		
Assets		30,111,678
Liabilities		2,360,264
Fund Balance Reserved for Capital Projects		27,751,414
C. General Fund Revenues		
Property Taxes		32,100,781
Sales Taxes		22,439,282
Other Taxes		23,035,852
Licenses and Permits		1,346,983
Charges for Services		1,304,531
Intergovernmental		120,796
Other Revenues		4,899,582
D. General Fund Expenditures		
General Government		15,623,042
Judicial		859,627
Public Safety		27,054,970
Public Works		11,285,291
Culture and Recreation		2,579,889
Housing and Development		6,985,097
Debt Service		131,721

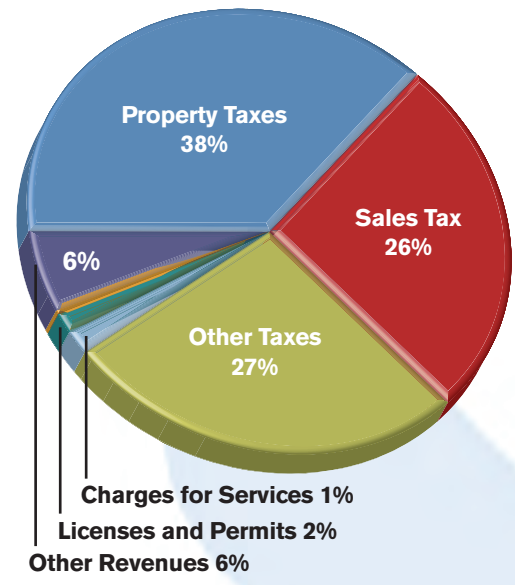
A. General Fund Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2010



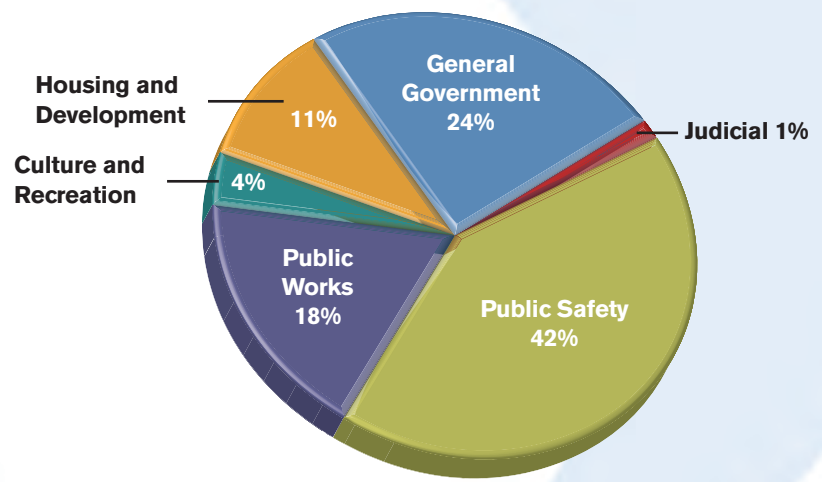
B. Capital Projects Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2010



C. General Fund Revenues
As of June 30, 2010



D. General Fund Expenditures
As of June 30, 2010



Balance Sheet-Governmental Funds

JUNE 30, 2010

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Federal Grant Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	*4,072,957	29,442,401	-	1,589,033	35,104,391
Investments	15,681,426	-	-	-	15,681,426
Taxes receivable	1,140,947	-	-	291,111	1,432,058
Other receivables	251,362	-	-	375,934	627,296
Intergovernmental receivables	2,749,339	669,277	190,949	-	3,609,565
Due from other funds	933,744	-	-	-	933,744
Due from component unit	111,341	-	-	-	111,341
Prepays	378,850	-	-	-	378,850
Total Assets	25,319,966	30,111,678	190,949	2,256,078	57,878,671
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	3,022,107	1,598,878	58,214	435,680	5,114,879
Accrued liabilities	10,035	614,019	-	343,693	967,747
Deferred Revenues	1,084,467	147,367	-	-	1,231,834
Due to other funds	-	-	221,227	712,517	933,744
Due to component unit	-	-	-	174,237	174,237
Total Liabilities	4,116,609	2,360,264	279,441	1,666,127	8,422,441
FUND BALANCES					
Reserved for:					
Stormwater Projects	921,221	-	-	-	921,221
Prepays	378,850	-	-	-	378,850
Unreserved:					
Designated for operations	13,639,649	-	-	-	13,639,649
Undesignated, reported in:					
General fund	6,263,637	-	-	-	6,263,637
Special revenue funds	-	-	(88,492)	456,352	367,860
Capital projects fund	-	27,751,414	-	133,599	27,885,013
Total fund balances (deficit)	21,203,357	27,751,414	(88,492)	589,951	49,456,230
		-			
Total liabilities and fund balance	25,319,966	30,111,678	190,949	2,256,078	

*All funds are listed in US dollars.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2010

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Federal Grant Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Property Taxes	*32,100,781	-	-	-	32,100,781
Sales Taxes	22,439,282	-	-	-	22,439,282
Hotel/ Motel Taxes	-	-	-	3,322,710	3,322,710
Franchise Taxes	8,208,152	-	-	-	8,208,152
Business Taxes	10,071,235	-	-	-	10,071,235
Insurance Premium Tax	4,756,465	-	-	-	4,756,465
Licenses and Permits	1,346,983	-	-	-	1,346,983
Intergovernmental	120,796	2,925,505	588,743	520,837	4,155,881
Charges for Services	1,304,531	49,934	-	2,501,736	3,856,201
Fines and Forfeitures	4,290,960	-	-	190,247	4,481,207
Contributions	125,100	-	-	21,973	147,073
Interest Earned	297,918	-	-	2,233	300,151
Miscellaneous	185,604	-	-	-	185,604
Total Revenue	85,247,807	2,975,439	588,743	6,559,736	95,371,725
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General Government	15,623,042	151,567	-	-	15,774,609
Judicial	859,627	-	-	-	859,627
Public Safety	27,054,970	352,620	179,529	2,626,486	30,213,605
Public Works	11,285,291	10,110,297	324,251	516,114	22,235,953
Culture and Recreation	2,579,889	8,334,224	117,747	2,405,255	13,437,115
Housing and Development	6,985,097	4,800	-	395	6,990,292
Debt Service:					
Principal	109,891	-	-	1,631,048	1,740,939
Interest	21,830	-	-	141,605	163,435
Total Expenditures	64,519,637	18,953,508	621,527	7,320,903	91,415,575
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	20,728,170	(15,978,069)	(32,784)	(761,167)	3,956,150
Other Financing Sources (uses)					
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	7,912	-	-	-	7,912
Transfers in	928,595	23,647,716	36,377	1,763,116	26,375,804
Transfers out	(25,406,389)	-	(40,820)	(928,595)	(26,375,804)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(24,469,882)	23,647,716	(4,443)	834,521	7,912
Net Change in Fund Balance	(3,741,712)	7,669,647	(37,227)	73,354	3,964,062
Fund Balance (deficit), beginning of Year, restated	24,945,069	20,081,767	(51,265)	516,597	45,492,168
Fund Balance (deficit), end of year	21,203,357	27,751,414	(88,492)	589,951	49,456,230

*All funds are listed in US dollars.
The notes found in the comprehensive annual financial report are an integral part of these financial statements.





The Sandy Springs Storm, the 10-year-old All Star team, was the Georgia Dizzy Dean State Tournament Champion in 2010. They participated in the Dizzy Dean World Series in Mississippi, where they came in 3rd place.



Sandy Springs Facts

- ◆ During the fiscal year 2009, the Sandy Springs Web site logged 385,332 visits from more than 162,475 Web surfers. The average time each web visitor spent on the site was 7:20, which is more than three times the amount spent last year.
- ◆ SSPD has 12 registered police volunteers who serve in a variety of positions including bookkeeping in the traffic unit, administrative assistants for the Citizens' Police Academy, Table Top Crime Prevention details, which are a meet and greet with the public and handing out crime prevention material to the public.
- ◆ The Recreation and Parks Department enhanced the summer camping experience by adding two weeks of sports variety camp. They also expanded the Day Camp from two weeks to eight weeks and added an 11-week Tennis Camp.
- ◆ Using US Census Data, the median household income grew from \$60,493 in 2000 to \$76,378 in 2010. The median home value in 2010 was \$328,624.
- ◆ Sandy Springs hosted several visitors in 2009-10, including guests from Ireland, China and one from out of this world—NASA astronaut Dr. Robert L. Satcher, PhD, MD.
- ◆ Sandy Springs received the 2009 Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
- ◆ Sandy Springs' fourth Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award went to Carolyn Axt for her philanthropic work with Leadership Sandy Springs, the Sandy Springs Education Force, Sandy Springs Conservancy Board and her work with children.
- ◆ Sandy Springs is a Certified City of Ethics as designated by The Georgia Municipal Association. The designation means Sandy Springs has agreed to hold itself to a strict set of ethical principles and conduct.
- ◆ The LUCAS Chest Compression System assists Fire Rescue personnel with quality chest compressions according to the American Heart Association Guidelines. It also helps maintain vital blood circulation in cardiac arrest patients. This equipment was placed on all Rescues' and Quint 3—the City's Advance Life Support units.
- ◆ The City's Communications Department won two International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Atlanta Silver Flame awards, a National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Award and several international MarCom and AVA Platinum and Gold awards for the Annual Report and a social media campaign.
- ◆ According to the US Census, the average household size in Sandy Springs 2.5 people, and the median age for a Sandy Springs resident is 35.2.
- ◆ Sixty-one percent of post college-aged residents in Sandy Springs have earned a bachelor's degree and/or a master's degree.
- ◆ SSPD purchased a SWAT vehicle for tactical response, which includes situations where the SWAT or CST teams can assemble and then be transported in one vehicle. It holds 15 SWAT members.
- ◆ Sandy Springs Fire Rescue trained 1,342 people in CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) use. The program is a benefit for residents and continually meets the City's goal of training more than 1,000 people yearly in this life-saving skill.
- ◆ Portfolio.com ranked Sandy Springs 9th on AOL's financial "U.S. Wealth Centers." The website, WalletPop.com, also rated the City as having the safest neighborhood within one of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. The Sandy Springs neighborhood of Spalding Drive and Jett Ferry Road was named the safest in the Atlanta area.
- ◆ Public Works executed the installation of 10,000+ feet of fiber optic cable for traffic management systems.
- ◆ Public Works worked with the Georgia Department of Transportation on the replacement of two flood-damaged bridges. The City received a grant through the Emergency Repair Program of the Federal Highway Administration to fund 100 percent of the replacement cost of \$2,000,000.
- ◆ Public Works continued city-wide pavement management by completing more than 30 miles of street resurfacing, providing better riding surfaces to the traveling public. This was accomplished in six major phases and included approximately \$7,000,000 in resurfacing contracts.
- ◆ During the fiscal year 2010, the Call Center fielded 134,018 phone calls.
- ◆ The City of Sandy Springs stormwater program won the 2010 Georgia Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award, Natural Environment category. The award was given by the Georgia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The City was named a runner up in the prestigious Pioneer Institute's 2010 Better Government Competition Awards for its public-private partnership.
- ◆ Public Works executed \$1,000,000+ in stormwater maintenance projects at more than 77 locations and completed the inventory and assessment for more than 32,000 stormwater structures.
- ◆ All permit fees were reduced by 50 percent in 2010. This is in addition to the permit fee reductions also available through the City's Water Conservation Program. Additionally, fees for public notice signs (to advertise rezoning, zoning modifications, variances, etc.) were reduced from \$100 to \$25. This was accomplished by the staff ordering the signs in bulk rather than requiring the applicant to use an approved outside vendor. The 75 percent reduction in cost was passed along to the applicant.
- ◆ Sandy Springs is home to three Fortune 500 companies: First Data, Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. and UPS, Inc. and four Fortune 1000 companies: Global Payments, Inc., Mirant Corp., Spectrum Brands and Wendy's/Arby's Group.
- ◆ The top 10 employers in the City employee 8,388 people.