



SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

City of Milton Environmental Programs and Sustainability



Sustainability is meeting the needs of today while keeping in mind the needs of future generations.

In Milton, this means being able to live and thrive in this special place while making sure our rural character and natural areas remain for future generations to enjoy.

Recycling & Waste Reduction

- Household Hazardous Waste collection events to prevent items such as alkaline dry cell, NiCad and lead acid batteries, aerosols, paints, pesticides and herbicides from entering landfills. In 2021, over 8,000 pounds of hazardous waste was collected.
- Collects batteries, cell phones and other appliances at annual electronic recycling events.
- Makes single stream curbside recycling available to all City residents, including recycling of paper, cardboard, metal containers, and plastics.
- Offers drop-off glass recycling at Bell Memorial Park.
- Adopted an environmentally preferable purchasing policy to purchase products that are recyclable, reusable or contain recycled materials, as long as the purchase price does not exceed 10 percent of the cost of a less sustainable product.
- Implemented single-stream recycling program for traditional recyclable materials at City Hall. Additionally, city-sponsored events feature reusable single stream recycling containers.

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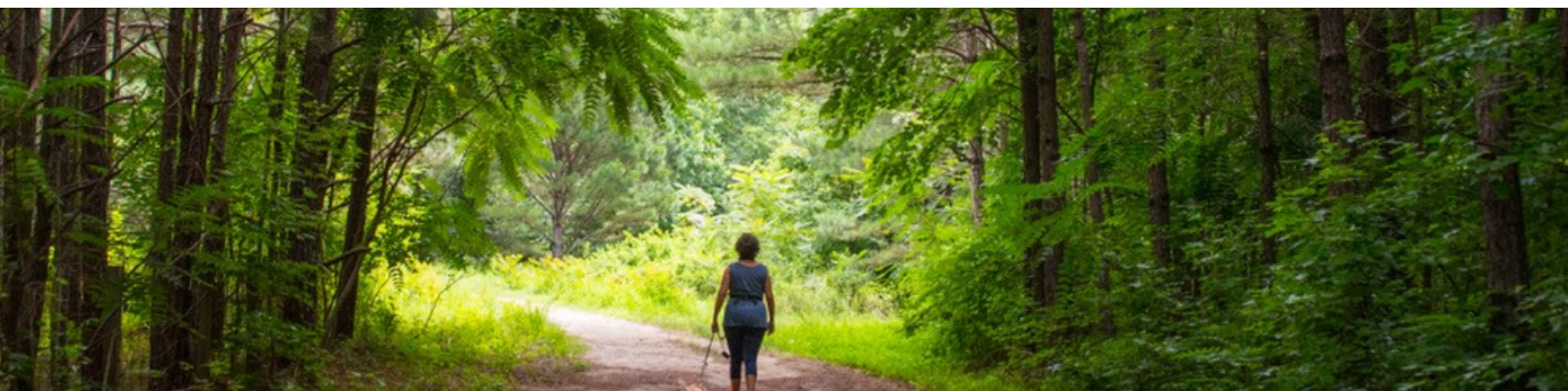
Land Use

- Renovated a vacant building into the Bethwell Community Center, which is now used for community meetings, classes, and special events.
- Replaced an unused cinder block building in downtown Crabapple with an open air pavilion for community events.
- Preserves historic properties via a Historic Preservation Ordinance that has been in place since 2010.
- Established smart growth development strategies and policies for the redevelopment of the Highway 9/GA 400 Area Livable Cities Initiative.



Trees & Greenspace

- Incorporates open space requirements in the city's 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan with a vision of preserving the city's rural character.
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan seeks to protect and restore Milton's natural resources, including interconnected ecosystems and corridors.
- The intent of the Milton Trail Plan is to preserve the rural quality of life in the city by creating an easily accessible shared use trail system connecting the city's schools, parks, neighborhoods and other points of interest.
- Acquired over 400 acres of greenspace and passive park land through the Greenspace Bond approved in 2016.
- Designated as a Tree City USA Community for the past twelve years in 2021. To maintain this designation, the City of Milton has a city arborist, a community tree ordinance, a tree canopy conservation ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation.
- Conducted a Tree Inventory, Assessment and Management Plan.



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Energy Efficiency



- Completed energy audits on all city buildings and implementing recommended energy efficiency improvements.
- Retrofitted all traffic signals with new LED signal light inserts. The upgrades use substantially less power than conventional incandescent bulbs and have a longer effective life.
- Adopted a lights out/power down policy requiring employees to turn off lights and all other non-essential electronic equipment when not in use.
- Maintains an active inspection program for residential and commercial compliance with the Georgia energy codes.
- Reduces light pollution through a night sky illumination ordinance.

Water Efficiency

- Completed water audits on all of the city's buildings and implementing recommended water efficiency improvements.
- Purchased and installed rain barrels to collect water for landscaping at Providence Fire Station #41, Thompson Fire Station #42, and Birmingham Fire Station #43.



Green Buildings

- Requires all new City-owned buildings greater than 5,000 square feet to become LEED certified provided that the cost of certification does not exceed \$25,000.
- Requires all local government building renovations to be Energy Star-certified or follow LEED guidelines.
- Completed audit with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and complies with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan, Wastewater Management Plan, and Watershed Management Plan.



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Transportation & Air Quality

- Adopted a no idling policy to prevent city vehicles from idling over thirty seconds, unless in traffic or on routine stops (public safety vehicles exempted).
- Works with the Georgia Department of Transportation to synchronize traffic signals within the city, resulting in less air pollution and less fuel consumed while idling.
- Worked with schools to implement a Safe Routes to School program for elementary and middle schools, identifying and completing several infrastructure projects to improve the walking and biking environment around the schools.
- Adopted bicycle and pedestrian friendly policies and standards to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations throughout the City.
- Allows for a reduction in required parking spaces in mixed-use areas or for properties within walking distance to a bus stop. On-site shared parking is encouraged in the Highway 9 Overlay District. In addition, the City of Milton Zoning Ordinance allows a 10 percent parking reduction, which can be granted by the Community Development Director.



Innovations

- Certified every year since 2013 as a National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat, one of only seven communities in Georgia to have that distinction.
- Participates as an active partner in the EverGreen Schools Program with the City of Alpharetta, the City of Roswell, and Keep North Fulton Beautiful. The mission is to help North Fulton schools take actions that will foster environmental stewardship and educate students about the environment.
- Implemented the first joint Form-Based Code and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Ordinance in the State of Georgia. The marriage of Form-Based Code and TDR guides the planned development of the Crabapple village center by preserving its historic relevance through the code's architectural guidelines, while the acceptance of transferred development rights from farm land and open space allows properties in other parts of the city to maintain their bucolic use into perpetuity.