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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOWLER PARK OPENS

Ribbon is cut on new 85-acre park, funded by voter-approved bond

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – The ribbon was officially cut Friday, February 25 for Forsyth County’s newest park, Fowler Park. The approximately 85-acre park located in south Forsyth County was funded by the \$100 million Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond approved by voters in February 2008. Construction of the project was completed under budget.

“We are grateful to the community – to the voters – for making this park a reality by approving in 2008 the \$100 million Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond,” Commission Chairman Brian R. Tam said. “Voter approval of this bond made this park possible. Funding the park’s construction with this bond enabled us to build this amazing new amenity without any money from the county’s General Fund.”

The new park includes fields for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse and football, 12 tennis courts, a walking trail around the perimeter of the park, a large playground, and an administrative building.

The park offers a five-acre passive area that includes three open-air pavilions, a large multi-use pavilion with capacity to seat 250 people, restrooms, and a turf amphitheater area.

“We anticipate that the large pavilion and open field area will become a very popular location for hosting a variety of special events,” Director of Parks and Recreation Jerry Kinsey said, noting that the area will be available for rent. “This space is unlike anything currently available at our county parks.”

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The park also features a teen play area that includes basketball courts and a 23,000-square foot skate park – the county’s first. Design of the skate park was led by nationally recognized skate park designer Wally Hollyday.

“There is truly something for everyone here at Fowler Park,” Kinsey said. “We are very excited about all of the great amenities residents will be able to enjoy at this new park.”

A few of the park’s features are still in progress and will open in the near future. The trail head for the Big Creek Greenway is scheduled to be completed March 2. The park’s track is slated for completion in April, and the 1.5-acre dog park is scheduled to open in May.

In addition to all of these amenities, a recreation center is also planned for the park. At their February 3, 2011 meeting, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners approved construction of a recreation center at Fowler Park, completion of which is expected in spring 2012. Construction of the recreation center will be funded by a combination of Parks, Recreation and Green Space Bond funds and Impact Fees.

Visitors to Fowler Park will notice a statue near the entrance to the park’s administrative building. The statue, titled Nature’s Little Helpers, was donated by the Fowler family and created by sculptor Gregory Johnson.

In 2001, Forsyth County purchased approximately 277 acres of the Fowler property. Since then, the property has become home to several county facilities. The Fowler Water Reclamation Facility was opened on the property in 2004, and Forsyth County Fire Station #2 was opened in 2007. Ground was broken for Fowler Park on August 5, 2009.

Fowler Park is located in south Forsyth County at 4110 Carolene Way, off of Atlanta Highway across from the intersection with Castleberry Road.

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