

MPCA Newsletter – May 23, 2022



Hello Mountain Park & Lilburn Neighbors,

The Mountain Park Community Association (MPCA) and Commissioner Ben Ku co-hosted a public meeting with the Dept of Water Resources (DWR) at the Mountain Park Aquatic Center on April 14th, 2022. At least 45 people attended. Our guest speakers, Director Tyler Richards and Outreach Manager John Butler, each gave a slide presentation and answered questions from the audience. There is no video recording of this meeting; however, **PDF files of both slide presentations are attached to this email.**

- **Tyler Richards' presentation** covered the entirety of DWR's mission & operational responsibilities, including issues specific to Lilburn-Mountain Park. The slides are self-explanatory, and I highly recommend you take a look at them; especially the later ones showing maps of Lilburn-Mountain Park which illustrate the age & decrepitude of both our clean water and sewage systems.
- **John Butler's presentation** was on Septic Systems (how they work and how to maintain them).

There was extensive discussion of the costs & benefits of upgrading our community from septic to sewer; however, the implementation would be challenging, both technically and financially. There are no plans to force anyone to upgrade, even if it would be the modern/sanitary thing to do.



Public Meeting with DWR: Commissioner Ben Ku and community members at Mountain Park Aquatic Center Activity Bldg, April 14, 2022. Photo by Wanda McMullen.

A few days after the public meeting, Director Richards contacted MPCA to ask if we'd provide a *Letter of Support for Replacement and Upgrade of Aged Water Distribution Mains in Mountain Park* (which we did; see below). Of the 15 local projects selected by US Congresswoman Bourdeaux (GA, District 7) for submission to the House Appropriations Committee as part of the FY23 Community Project Funding process, three (3) were Gwinnett County Government projects! Both the letter of support from MPCA and the email from the Congresswoman's office (forwarded by Tyler Richards) are included below, after this email message. *As a side note, Georgia's Congressional Districts were recently redrawn by Georgia's Legislature, putting all of Mountain Park and Lilburn within Georgia's US Congressional District 7, so either Carolyn Bourdeaux or Lucy McBath will be the Democratic nominee to represent us in 2023.* Currently, the 7th District includes only the most northeastern portion of Mountain Park. Director

Richards suggested that once the entire area is under a single US Congressional district, requesting Federal funds to upgrade the aging water mains in our entire area will be easier.

As you know, MPCA has been working with Commissioner Ku and the Gwinnett Planning and Development Department for 2 ½ years to develop a community-led vision for revitalization of the Five Forks-Trickum corridor in unincorporated Mountain Park. We worked together to apply for a community development grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Announcement of awards is expected any day. Whether or not we receive the grant, MPCA, Commissioner Ku, and P&D are moving ahead with efforts to develop a Master Plan for the future of unincorporated Mountain Park. **As a stakeholder of this community, we ask that you engage in the conversation by attending “Public Engagement Events”, responding to survey requests, and getting on the email list for notifications.**

Instead of perpetually fighting development after plans have entered the permitting process, the people of Lilburn-Mountain Park have an opportunity to get in front of development to make decisions (in advance) on how we want that development to look, with a **master plan to intentionally enhance the community’s character and sense of place.**

To begin the discussion, and to put community members on the same page regarding possibilities for the future, please take the survey MPCA has

created: <https://forms.gle/g35YZEFUDkMdTQHH6> (a link to the survey is also available on the home page of our website: <https://www.mountainparkcommunity.us/>). If you have already taken the survey, thank you. After you take the survey, please share the link with your spouse, students, neighbors, friends, pastor, and favorite business’ owner (and even their employees). We’d like to get a broad cross-section of the entire community to reply, including all age groups. **Our youth will inherit Mountain Park; they deserve a voice in what that future looks like. Our goal is 1000 responses. So far, we have over 300.**

Kate Pittman, President MPCA

MtnParkCA@gmail.com

<https://www.MountainParkCommunity.us>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MountainParkCommunity>

<attachments below>



Advocating for the future of Mountain Park, Gwinnett County, GA

Tyler Richards, Director
Gwinnett County Water Resources
684 Winder Highway
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045

April 21, 2022

**RE: Letter of Support for Replacement and Upgrade of Aged Water Distribution Mains in
unincorporated Mountain Park, Gwinnett County, GA**

Dear Tyler:

The Mountain Park Community Association (MPCA) supports the request by the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) for FY2023 Community Project Funding. We understand that, if awarded, the County proposes to replace and upgrade approximately 2.0 miles of 2- to 8-inch water distribution pipe in the Mountain Park area in the neighborhoods of Lester Woods Subdivision, Woodcreek Estates, and South Creekview Drive. The oldest of the pipe to be replaced was installed in the 1960's. The existing material, asbestos cement pipe, PVC and galvanized metal, has been problematic, evidenced by 21 breaks in project area over the past 15 years. The County proposed to replace this piping with 8-inch diameter ductile iron pipe, with an expected useful life of well over 100 years.

As a vested partner in building a vibrant community in Gwinnett County, we respectfully request the Community Project Funding support for the above project.

MPCA's mission is to provide unincorporated Mountain Park with a point of contact for two-way dialog between the community-at-large and their Gwinnett County government. For over 2 years MPCA has been engaging community members through social media, public meetings and direct email. Through a partnership with Gwinnett County, MPCA is educating our community members on how their government serves them, thus empowering individuals to solve problems on their own and to get the services they need.

For the Mountain Park Community,

Kate L Pittman
President, MPCA

Mountain Park Community Association, Inc
644 Winding Valley Dr SW, Lilburn GA 30047
<https://www.MountainParkCommunity.us>

The MPCA is a registered Georgia nonprofit advocacy organization, operating as a 501c4; existing to serve residents and businesses in the Mountain Park neighborhood east of Stone Mountain and Atlanta, Georgia

From: DeGiovine, Marcie <Marcie.DeGiovine@gwinnettcountry.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Richards, Tyler <Tyler.Richards@gwinnettcountry.com>; <and others>
Subject: Congresswoman Bourdeaux Selects 15 Local Projects For Federal Investment

Good Afternoon,

I'm happy to share that of the 15 local projects selected by Congresswoman Bourdeaux for submission to the House Appropriations Committee as part of the FY23 Community Project Funding process, three (3) were Gwinnett County Government projects! You can access the full listing of selected projects at this [link](#) and the Gwinnett projects are detailed below.

Project Name: Route 25 Bus Shelters

Requested Amount: \$2,000,000

Intended Recipient: Gwinnett County Department of Transportation

Intended Recipient Address: 620 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Explanation of the Request: \$2,000,000 will fund Gwinnett Transit Route 25 bus shelter construction to provide safe, protective waiting areas for riders all along the route.

Project Name: Water Distribution Main Replacement

Requested Amount: \$2,988,000

Intended Recipient: Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources

Intended Recipient Address: 684 Winder Highway Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Explanation of the Request: This funding will replace and upgrade 2.5 miles of aged water distribution mains that are experiencing excessive breaks and chronic service issues.

Project Name: Buford Suwanee Microtransit Service

Requested Amount: \$2,000,000

Intended Recipient: Gwinnett County Department of Transportation

Intended Recipient Address: 620 Winder Highway, Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Explanation of the Request: These funds will address transit deserts in northern Gwinnett County and create a new service to carry customers upon request within a flex route service area.

Thank you,

Marcie DeGiovine | Grants Manager | Gwinnett County
Government
770.822.7972 | 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
| www.gwinnettcountry.com