

# Milton Grows Green Committee

## Milton



*Grows Green*

# Mission

“Milton Grows Green” (MGG) is a citizens’ committee advocating responsibly managed growth by conserving and protecting resources, while preserving Milton’s heritage and natural landscape for future generations.



# Goals

- ✿ Help preserve and enhance the City of Milton's rural character consistent with its stated mission
- ✿ Encourage appropriate and sustainable growth for present and future generations
- ✿ Identify standards and incentives for greener, more sustainable building practices
- ✿ Promote sound public policy by providing research and information on practices that protect natural resources
- ✿ Develop a framework for evaluating, recommending and/or implementing appropriate initiatives
- ✿ Raise awareness and influence personal choices in ways that improve the health and quality of life for residents

# History

- ✱ Concept of Milton “growing green” initiated by Councilperson Julie Zahner Bailey
- ✱ First presented and gained consensus at a Sept. 2007 work session with Mayor and Council
- ✱ Subsequent meetings with the City Manager, Mayor and staff reaffirmed formation and direction of the committee
- ✱ Committee’s composition encompasses volunteers with specific interests, expertise and dedication to various environmentally related topics
- ✱ First of seventeen meetings held on Feb. 22, 2008
- ✱ Designed a logo, adopted a Mission Statement and issued an Executive Summary
- ✱ Formed five standing subcommittees focusing on specific areas of interest
- ✱ Identified as a stakeholder group by CPAC and CLUP update process



# Volunteer Participants

- \* Marc Arrington (5)
- \* Kathi Cook (2), Design Review Board
- \* Sandra Cummins, Southeast Green, B to B Green Directory
- \* Don Cunniff (4)
- \* Tina D'Aversa (5) Milton City Council
- \* Dan Drake, Milton Public Works
- \* Cindy Eade, Keep North Fulton Beautiful
- \* Melissa Estes (2)
- \* Tim Enloe (4)
- \* Paul Hackman (1)
- \* Mark Law, Milton Arborist
- \* Lynna Lee (3)
- \* Francina Lindon (3)
- \* Jack Lindon (3) Former Chairman of the North Andover, MA Conservation Commission
- \* Jim Lozen, Waste Management
- \* Melinda McConnell (3) Environmental Education, Summit Hill
- \* Jon McPhail (1)
- \* Eddie Moore (4), Atlanta Regional Commission
- \* Tom Sewell, Milton Grows Green Hopewell and Adopt-A-Stream
- \* Charles Slade, Community Waste Services
- \* Alan Tart (6), Milton City Council
- \* Julie Zahner Bailey (2), Milton City Council

(#) = District



# Benefits of “Growing Green”

- ✿ Supports national, state and regional environmental initiatives
- ✿ Milton can be a leader among Georgia communities
- ✿ Thoughtful and sustainable growth benefits both the economy and the environment by -
  - ✿ maintaining a natural balance of ecological resources
  - ✿ promoting a more healthy environment for citizens
  - ✿ contributing to the profitability of local businesses
- ✿ Desirable environments increase property values





# “Green” Explosion



- ✿ Many Georgia Agencies and Organizations promote green planning and growth
- ✿ Governor Perdue’s program “Conserve Georgia” announced in April 2008
- ✿ Georgia State Legislation now gives tax credits for installation of renewable energy sources
- ✿ Businesses looking to boost the bottom line are adopting energy saving policies
- ✿ Emory and Georgia Tech are ranked by the Princeton Review as being in the top 10 universities in the country for being “green”
- ✿ Citizens are increasingly influenced by environmental issues in their voting choices
- ✿ Many national publications have produced environmentally focused editions



# Standing Subcommittees

- ✿ **Water, Air and Energy** – identify issues and recommend ways to improve the quality and conservation of these natural resources
- ✿ **Communication and Education** - publicize conservation and ecological initiatives and initiate and participate in public education projects
- ✿ **Land Use and Building Standards** - investigate existing eco-friendly building standards and programs for conservation of land and open spaces and provide recommendations
- ✿ **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** – (the “three Rs”) assist with the planning and implementation of waste reduction, recycling and reuse programs
- ✿ **Certifications and Designations** - identify grants and designations Milton could apply for that would identify it as a “Green” city



# Water, Air & Energy

## ✿ Protect water resources

- ✿ *Adopt-A-Stream*
- ✿ *Rivers Alive*
- ✿ Water conservation
- ✿ Storm drain markers
- ✿ Education on vegetative stream buffers
- ✿ Education on proper septic system maintenance



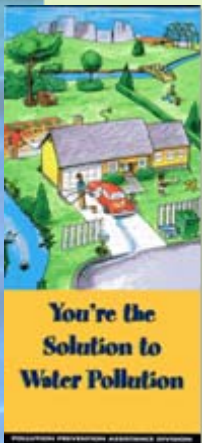
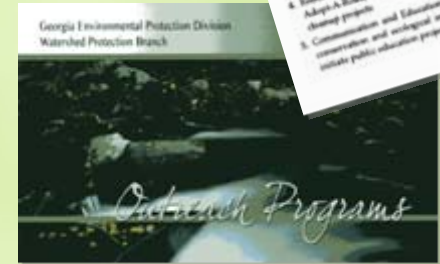
## ✿ Support the Georgia Clean Air Campaign

## ✿ Encourage reduced residential, commercial and municipal energy consumption



# Communication & Education

- ✿ Growing green starts with awareness of the connection between community and environment
- ✿ Education creates broader public support for city initiatives and enables citizens to make informed choices
- ✿ Communication and education is an integral part of the other 4 MGG subcommittees
- ✿ MGG will be a resource



- ✿ by providing research and information related to the environment and sustainability
- ✿ by coordinating citizen efforts to assist the city in meeting environmental mandates
- ✿ by communicating environmental information and options, enabling citizens to make personal choices that better conserve natural resources and protect our community



# Land Use & Building Standards



- \* Identify building standards that relate to the environment, smart growth, sustainability and energy efficiency and how they are implemented through mandates and incentives in other localities
- \* List information practical for Milton's rural character and develop a framework for analysis by city professionals - some sources:



- \* Quality Growth Partnership, Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs
- \* Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority - its goals and mandates for the present and future
- \* EPA's U.S. Green Building Council
- \* Georgia Environmental Policy Institute, Georgia Land Trust Service Center
- \* Southface - provides technical expertise for meeting Georgia's Energy Code as well as for LEED building standards and has already provided guidance to MGG on these issues



- \* Research incentives and mechanisms for Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) in standard codes and in practice and investigate opportunities for non-profit participation such as "land banks"
- \* Investigate grants and tax incentives available through non-profit organizations such as Georgia Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and tax incentives at the state and federal level



# Reduce, Reuse & Recycle (the 3 Rs)



- ✱ Create and publicize programs and events that encourage waste reduction and recycling, such as:
  - ✪ specialized collection events for computer and bulky items
  - ✪ reuse programs including donations to non-profits
- ✱ Investigate existing recycling center models and their applicability to Milton
- ✱ Arrange and publicize cooperative events with existing facilities such as the City of Roswell and the North Fulton Recycling Center
- ✱ Assist the TARA Committee and policymakers in developing a recycling program with MGG research to date
- ✱ Pursue partnerships with local schools, teachers and civic groups including the Hopewell Middle School's pilot program (*Milton Grows Green–Hopewell*), Adopt-A-Stream, Adopt-A-Road and other cleanup programs



# Certifications & Designations

- ✿ There are nationally recognized designations and standards Milton can work toward to give it a special identity as an environmentally friendly place to live



- ✿ Atlanta Regional Commission's "Green Community" Certification (in development phase)
- ✿ "League of American Bicyclists Bike-friendly Community"
- ✿ The Environmental Protection Agency's "Green Power Community"
- ✿ The Sierra's Club designation "Cool City"

- ✿ Special designations are also available for neighborhoods and individual buildings



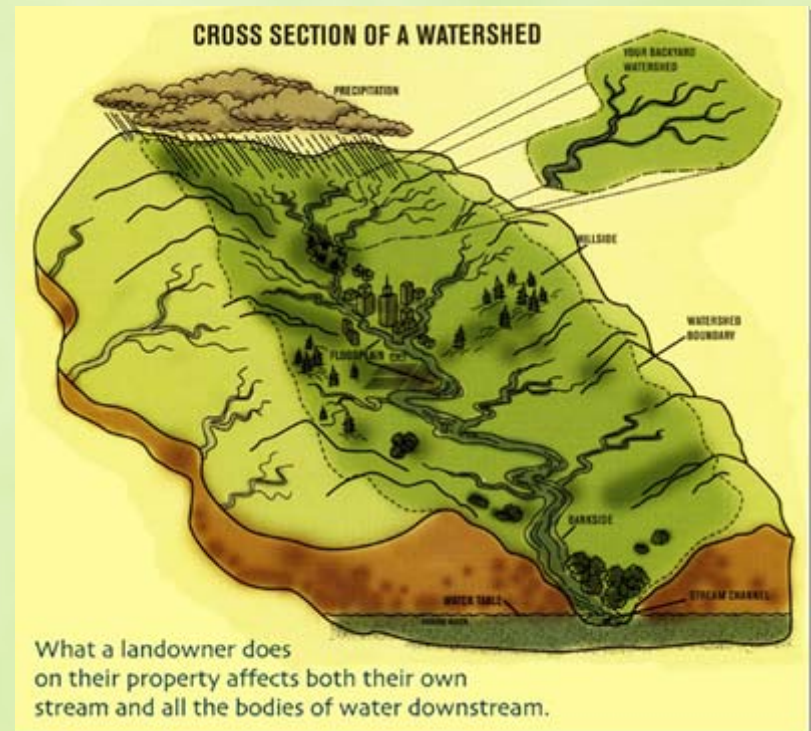
# Current Projects

- \* Continue to confer with professionals from the green/sustainable building movement to identify current best practices for green building in order to provide recommendations
- \* *Milton Grows Green - Hopewell*, a middle school pilot program that includes an Adopt-A-Stream branch and other environmental efforts
- \* Supporting Milton Public Works with volunteers assisting in State storm water requirements
- \* Creating a free pilot recycling program with Community Waste Services at Bell Memorial Park with opportunities for other pilot programs
- \* Adopt-A-Road program – redesign and implementation in process
- \* MGG Booth and participation at the Milton Roundup, Sept 13th:
  - Milton Adopt-A-Stream training for our watershed protection
  - Recycle bins and information
  - Community outreach to enlist more participation
- \* Developing of a practical model rain water harvesting system that citizens can choose to build, and search for possible outside funding sources
- \* Producing of a tri-fold brochure introducing the MGG Committee and listing resources for consumer and municipal eco-friendly information
- \* Rivers Alive annual clean-up program scheduled
- \* Confer with local garden clubs to establish community gardens



# Adopt-A-Stream Program

- ✿ Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is housed in the Non-Point Source Pollution Program of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, DNR
- ✿ MGG is working on a Milton-specific pilot program at Hopewell Middle School
- ✿ It teaches people to become stewards of their watershed by:
  - ✿ Increasing public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues
  - ✿ Providing citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways
  - ✿ Encouraging partnerships between citizens and their local government
  - ✿ Collecting baseline water quality data from local streams on air and water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and conductivity

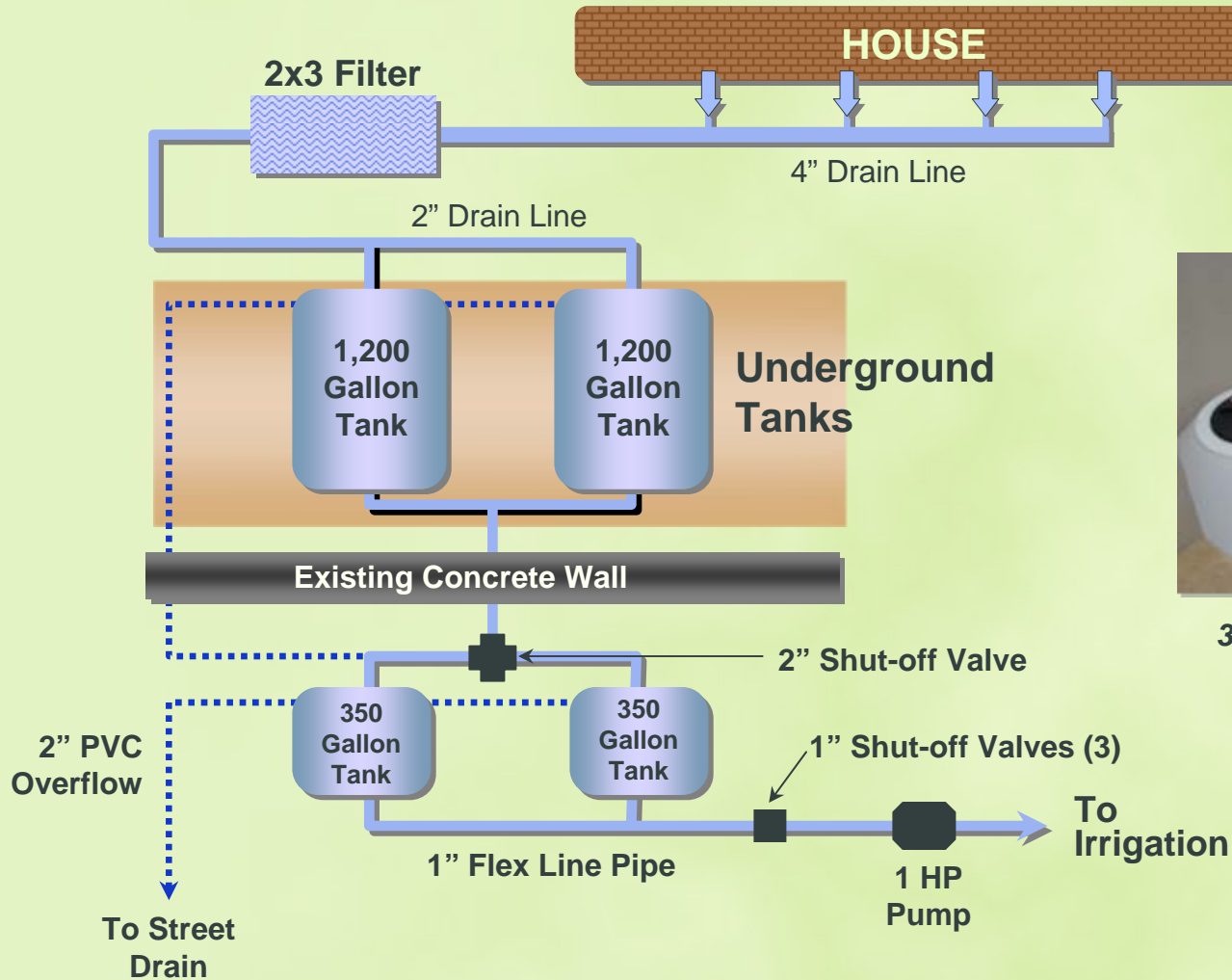


# Adopt-A-Road Program

- ✿ Prior Fulton County program needed focus and volunteer support
- ✿ In April 2008 Acting City Manager asked MGG to take on the now Milton program
- ✿ Review of program by MGG identified need for:
  - ✿ Program structure, procedures and requirements
  - ✿ Consolidation of signage and new design - in progress
  - ✿ Legal agreement review and revision - in progress
  - ✿ Establish a data base of matches - identify adopted roads, and those available with individuals, businesses or groups already assigned or newly volunteering
  - ✿ Communications materials needed to convey revised program
  - ✿ Train and assign interested individuals/groups
  - ✿ Coordinate efforts with Milton's Public Works
  - ✿ Develop a budget for signs and communication materials



# Model Rainwater Harvesting System



350-Gallon Tanks

# Community Waste Services Pilot Recycling Program at Bell Memorial Park



- MGG, in concert with business partner Community Waste Services (CWS), has created a free pilot recycling program for Bell Memorial Park
- Program will be proactively coordinated with Milton and HYA, including communication and education
- 35-gallon recycling carts will be placed at various locations to be collected on a weekly basis or as needed
- These containers allow for “single-stream” recycling including glass, aluminum and steel cans, plastics and cardboard
- Signs will be posted next to recycling containers indicating acceptable materials
- Similar pilot programs are possible at City Hall and schools



# Conclusion

Milton Grows Green will continue to work to improve the quality of life for Milton's citizens, and as a committed and active stakeholder in Milton's future, requests formal recognition from the Mayor and City Council.

