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**COUNTY AND LIBRARY OFFICIALS TURN DIRT ON
GWINNETT'S FIRST GREEN LIBRARY**

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA (24 October 2008) – Gwinnett County and Gwinnett County Public Library officials held a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 3:00pm to kick-off construction of the Hamilton Mill branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library System.

Located on a five-acre site at 3690 Braselton Highway adjacent to the new Duncan Creek Park, the Hamilton Mill branch will be the county's 15th library branch. Precision Planning, Inc. of Lawrenceville designed the 20,000 square-foot building to meet Silver LEED energy efficiency and sustainability standards, making it the first green library in the county and third in the state. Some of the environmentally-friendly design elements include a pervious parking lot, recycled brick, and an irrigation system that will use stormwater runoff.

The building will also include an "Art in Architecture" feature consisting of specially-designed window glass depicting themes of water, earth, sun and the use of language in our culture, designed by Atlanta artist and sculptor Maria Artemis. It will offer up to 75,000 books and other items for checkout, including adult, teen and children's print and online collections.

Garrard Construction Group will construct the \$7.4 million facility. The new library branch will open in the winter of 2010. The 2005 SPLOST will fund the \$5.4 million of the total cost and the rest of the funding will be provided by a state grant from the Georgia Public Library Service.