

Gwinnett's First LEED® Library

New library scheduled to open Winter 2009–10

With a goal of LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver set by the County's Library Project Team, the architects and engineers at Precision Planning, Inc. (PPI) have set out to design and administer construction for an unparalleled building project in Gwinnett County's Hamilton Mill community. PPI's project team, including a host of LEED® Accredited Professionals for the disciplines of architecture, civil engineering and mechanical engineering, has worked closely with Gwinnett County and the Gwinnett County Public

Library, which has a LEED® Accredited professional of their own, to achieve a unique and sustainable facility for the Library's 15th branch. The Gwinnett Library is currently the busiest system in the state with over 7 million items checked out annually. The 7.4 million dollar project is funded by SPLOST, as well as a grant from the State of Georgia, and the facility design responds to the context of its location adjacent to Duncan Creek Park and within the Hamilton Mill Overlay District, while addressing LEED® Version 2.2 certification requirements.

In order to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® Silver rating, 33 total points must be accumulated within the categories of Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality. For the library project, the team is also pursuing points for Innovation in Design related to the educational aspect of the project. The final design will incorporate a series of "green" stations with plaques explaining the eco-friendly features of the building, such as the use of natural sunlight to provide indirect lighting of the interior and the collection of rain water to irrigate the landscape.

As if the LEED® Silver goal weren't enough to set this building apart, the project also incorporates an "Art in Architecture" component initiated by the



County and embraced by the PPI design team. A local artist collaborated with the team to create a provocative series of screened glass "paintings" for windows throughout the library. The motif condenses themes of water, earth, sun and the use of language in our culture.

The LEED® library project is a real source of pride for the Gwinnett County design firm, illustrating the environmental focus and responsibility PPI advocates to its employees and clients. PPI has been headquartered in Lawrenceville for over 25 years since its founding by Randall W. Dixon in 1982, and recently opened a satellite office in Monroe, Georgia. The firm's areas of expertise

include architecture, landscape architecture, grant procurement, planning and engineering services for residential, commercial, water resources and transportation projects. With a reputation of providing high quality professional design services to both public and private clients in Gwinnett County and the surrounding region, PPI has built a relationship with Gwinnett County based on responsiveness and trust. In addition to designing the Hamilton Mill Library project, PPI also provides "standby" architectural services to the County's Department of Support Services, as well as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for the design of new County fire stations.

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