

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. Public Hearing(s)

A. **Ordinance: Rezoning Request for 1600 Old 41 Hwy & 0 Old 41 Hwy**

Consideration for approval of an ordinance authorizing a rezoning request submitted by Walton Communities, LLC for the properties located at 1600 Old 41 Hwy and 0 Old 41 Hwy (parcel #20021200130 & 2002120156). Case #RZ2026-01

Planning and Zoning Director Chanelle Campbell presented an ordinance for a rezoning request submitted by Walton Communities, LLC for the properties located at 1600 Old 41 Highway and 0 Old 41 Highway. The request seeks to rezone approximately 11.44 acres from General Commercial and RM-12 (Multiple-Family District) to RM-16 (Multiple-Family District) to allow for the construction of a multi-family residential community. In addition to the rezoning, the applicant requested a variance to reduce the required parking ratio from 1.75 spaces per unit to 1.5 spaces, which is the subsequent agenda item.

Ms. Campbell stated that staff received a request from the applicant's attorney earlier that day to defer both applications in order to continue discussions with staff, as additional information regarding the property's flood zone area had been identified. A new public hearing date has not yet been established. She also noted that staff received a letter of opposition on February 5, 2026. Because public notice had already been issued, the Council was required to proceed with the public hearings for the rezoning and variance applications.

B. **Zoning Variance: 1600 Old 41 Hwy & 0 Old 41 Hwy**

Consideration for approval of a variance application for the properties located at 1600 Old 41 Hwy and 0 Old 41 Hwy (parcel #20021200130 & 2002120156) as submitted by Walton Communities, LLC. Case #ZV2026-01

This item was discussed during item 9. A.

C. **Ordinance: Rezoning Request for 6095 Pine Mountain Road**

Consideration for approval of an ordinance authorizing a rezoning request submitted by Cedar Creek Professional Office Association, Inc for the property located at 6095 Pine Mountain Rd (parcel #20014001470). Case #RZ2026-03

Planning and Zoning Director Chanelle Campbell presented an ordinance regarding a rezoning request submitted by Cedar Creek Professional Office Association, Inc. for the property located at 6095 Pine Mountain Road. The request seeks to amend zoning conditions approved under Ordinance No. 2006-20 by eliminating Condition No. 14, which requires interparcel access and a shared access drive.

At the March 4, 2026, Planning Commission meeting, the applicant requested to withdraw the application. The Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of the withdrawal.

10. Consent Agenda

- A. **Minutes: February 23, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the February 23, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
- B. **Minutes: February 23, 2026 Executive Session**
Approval of the February 23, 2026, City Council executive session minutes.
- C. **Minutes: March 2, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the March 2, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

11. General and Administrative

- A. **Alcohol License: Hooters of Kennesaw 2025 LLC D/B/A Hooters of Kennesaw**
Consideration for approval of a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, Liquor, and Sunday Sales for Hooters of Kennesaw 2025, LLC D/B/A Hooters of Kennesaw located at 2102 Old 41 Highway NW, Kennesaw, GA, 30144.
Applicant: Matthew Floyd

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented a Retail Pouring Alcohol License for Beer, Wine, Liquor, and Sunday Sales for Hooters of Kennesaw 2025, LLC d/b/a Hooters of Kennesaw, located at 2102 Old 41 Highway NW. She noted that the applicant completed the required alcohol workshop in accordance with Section 6-69 of the Kennesaw Code of Ordinances. The application and background check are on file, and the required signage and public notice were completed in accordance with Section 6-36.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked whether the application was due to a change in ownership. Ms. Willis stated that it was a name change.

12. Public Safety

- A. **Crime Stats: February 2026**
Consideration for the acceptance of the February 2026 crime statistics.

Chief Bill Westenberger presented the February 2026 crime statistics (see **Exhibit A**).

- B. **Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding with Kennesaw State University for the assignment of law enforcement officers.**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw State University for mutual aid and law enforcement assistance.

Chief Westenberger presented a resolution authorizing a MOU between the City of Kennesaw and Kennesaw State University for mutual aid and law enforcement assistance.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular City Council meeting.

- C. **Resolution: Agreement with Semotus, Inc. dba Hiplink Software**

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the agreement with Hiplink Software for critical communication services.

911 Director Nikki McGraw presented a resolution authorizing an agreement with HipLink Software for critical communication services. The first-year cost is \$15,330, which includes installation, setup, and training.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked whether the system would be used internally or for mass public communication. Ms. McGraw stated that this portion of the software will be for internal use only. The system will integrate with the 911 Computer Aided Dispatch system and allow communication with law enforcement officers in the field and staff.

Councilmember Bothers asked about the cost of the software. Ms. McGraw stated that the first-year cost is \$15,330, with an annual cost of \$12,230 for each subsequent year.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the regular City Council meeting.

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

17. Public Comments

6:40 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

CHRISTA THOMAS [Owner of The Artful Rabbit]: Ms. Thomas expressed support for the proposed natural playscape at Depot Park. She stated that projects like this are more than an added amenity; they are an investment in children and the type of community the City aims to build. She added that prioritizing spaces for children and families demonstrates the City's commitment to people, wellness, and community connection.

PALMA RHOADES [City Resident]: Ms. Rhoades stated that she served on the original committee that helped determine the locations of parks in the City and echoed Ms. Thomas's sentiments. She added that she does not believe anyone has ever regretted establishing a park.

KIMBERLY WATKINS (City Resident): Ms. Watkins expressed support for the proposed playscape. She stated that she has had multiple conversations with Parks and Recreation over the years about pursuing a playground and has worked closely with the Moms Club of Kennesaw, whose members are also very interested. She added that a nature-based playscape would be a wonderful addition to the community and

expressed hope that the Council will support the proposal.

6:43 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

18. City Manager's Report

- A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

19. Mayor's Report

- A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

20. Council Reports & Discussions

A. Discussion: Natural Playscape in Depot Park

Discussion item requested by Councilmember Orochena regarding a natural playscape in Depot Park.

Councilmember Orochena requested that Council revisit the discussion regarding a natural playscape at Depot Park to reach a clearer consensus on direction. She stated that while she initially believed the idea was positive, she was pleasantly surprised by the amount of public support it received. She added that a natural playground would be unique compared to other playgrounds in the City and that locating it in Depot Park could attract pedestrians from the surrounding downtown residential density.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated that he believed Council had generally been in agreement during the previous discussion and that the next step would be for staff to begin evaluating the project.

Councilmember Viars, noting that she served on the amphitheater committee, emphasized that the City is not opposed to parks, children, or families. She explained that Depot Park was originally envisioned as an entertainment space. After walking the park to consider potential locations, she suggested that the area near the bird art installation might be the only feasible location but expressed concern about the limited space and the potential need to modify existing landscaping. She added that she is not opposed to the idea but believes the project should be planned and funded through the budget rather than using reserve funds.

Mayor Easterling stated that Depot Park was designed as the City's town green and was not originally planned to include a playground. He agreed that the project should first be considered during the upcoming budget process.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones suggested the area behind the amphitheater as a possible location and noted that he would support enclosing the space with a fence.

Councilmember Orochena stated that the location referenced by Councilmember Viars could be a natural fit and that the playscape would enhance, rather than detract from, the character of Depot Park.

Councilmember Bothers stated that Council must consider funding and timing for the project. While he supports the concept and the proposed location, he emphasized that the City must determine whether the project should be funded in the upcoming budget or in a future year, noting that reserve funds cannot be used for every desired project.

Councilmember Orochena clarified that she was not proposing moving forward without funding but wanted Council to agree on a plan, so the project could be considered during the budget process.

Councilmember Bothers added that he has heard support as well as concerns from residents and noted that there are other needs that must also be addressed in the budget.

Mayor Easterling also noted that potential impacts related to House Bill 1116 and project cost estimates remain unknown.

Councilmember Gutierrez expressed support for adding a playscape at Depot Park and thanked those who provided a packet of public comments supporting the project (see **Exhibit B**).

City Manager Dr. Drobney reviewed the submitted comments and noted that projects of this nature require careful financial planning, design, and engineering. He explained that Depot Park was designed by previous Councils with the intention of serving as an entertainment-focused space and that the original playground was intended to be temporary. He also noted the City's continued investment in parks, including the development of a new park on Cherokee Street. Dr. Drobney stated that the project could be considered as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 budget process, beginning with preliminary cost estimates for design and engineering. He also noted that park expansion funding may be available through the upcoming SPLOST program.

Following discussion, Council agreed to submit the proposed playscape as a supplemental request for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

21. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

Motion by Councilmember Bothers to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing land. Motion seconded by Councilmember Viars.

Vote taken: motion unanimously approved, 5-0. Motion passed.

7:08 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Economic Development Director, City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk and City Attorney attended Executive Session.

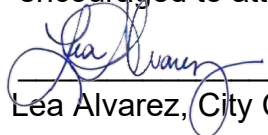
7:25 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Councilmember Bothers read the Board back into Open Session and directed the Mayor and City Council to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones. See **Exhibit C**.

Vote taken: motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m. The regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

February 2026 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Feb 2026	Feb 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	5 (+2)	3	11 (+3)	8
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (+0)	2	6 (-2)	8
DRUG/NARCOTICS OFFENSES	42 (+15)	27	77 (+19)	58
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (-1)	1	0 (-1)	1
EXTORTION	0 (-3)	3	0 (-3)	3
FORGERY	1 (+1)	0	1 (-2)	3
FRAUD OFFENSES	20 (+6)	14	37 (+7)	30
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
INTIMIDATION	9 (-2)	11	16 (-9)	25
KIDNAPPING	1 (+0)	1	2 (+0)	2
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	9 (-6)	15	18 (-12)	30
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1 (-1)	2	2 (-4)	6
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ROBBERY	0 (-2)	2	1 (-1)	2
SEX OFFENSES	3 (+2)	1	6 (+2)	4
SIMPLE ASSAULT	6 (-6)	12	23 (-2)	25
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	2 (+0)	2	5 (+0)	5
VANDALISM	3 (+1)	2	6 (-3)	9
WEAPONS/LAW VIOLATIONS	6 (+0)	6	10 (+0)	10
Totals	110	104	221	229

	Feb 2026	Feb 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Dispatched Calls for Service	601 (-89)	690	1,294 (-91)	1,385
Self-Initiated Activity	1,574 (+366)	1,208	3,161 (+605)	2,556
Traffic Citations	741 (+159)	582	1,553 (+411)	1,142
Traffic Warnings*	656 (-16)	672	1,444 (-10)	1,454
Arrests**	76 (-9)	85	162 (-9)	171

	Feb 2026	Feb 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Auto Accidents	78 (-17)	95	176 (-6)	182
Accident w/ Injury	5 (-8)	13	12 (-18)	30
Hit and Run	18 (+3)	15	29 (+5)	24
Hit and Run w/ Injury	1 (+0)	1	1 (-1)	2
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	1 (+0)	1	1 (+0)	1

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

** Arrests do not include juvenile arrests

Comments from Petition Submissions:

The Depot Park area has been lacking a draw for young children since the old playground was demolished. This would give us reason to consider downtown Kennesaw more of a destination. Families need an active area for kids rather than just dining establishments.

If you look at neighboring Woodstock, you can clearly see the positive impact that family-focused parks and gathering spaces have had on their downtown area. Those spaces have become a hub for families, bringing people together while also supporting local businesses and community events. Kennesaw has the opportunity to create something similar that would benefit residents and visitors alike.

With the new Reformation and growth coming to downtown, adding a natural playscape would be an incredible addition for families. It would encourage more people to walk, gather, and spend time in the heart of our city. Investing in spaces designed for children sends a strong message that our community values families, connection, and a vibrant downtown that everyone can enjoy.

The children need more nature play areas!

Our family enjoys the implementation in Woodstock. It provides a unique experience for our children I would like to see closer to home (Kennesaw).

We love visiting downtown Kennesaw, but it needs a "third place" for young families to hang out for longer periods of time. Downtown Woodstock has a really nice natural playscape that we like going to.

I don't walk to depot park unless there is an event but If there were a park I would be more inclined to walk to the park with my children . I love the idea of walking to grab some food or ice cream and have somewhere to entertain my children on a nice day.

Would be a great addition to the community and downtown area

Local city of Kennesaw resident with a 1.5 year old son that would greatly benefit from this playground

As a mother to a toddler boy I think Kennesaw would thrive off of nature-based playscapes. It would bring in more families and bring more business to the downtown area. I love my town and want to see it thrive!

We need a natural playground!

As a family of two young children we are always looking for family friendly and especially nature centered activities. We know many families in the area and would like to have more places to meet and socialize. Spending time outside is our favorite activity. For Kennesaw it would mean to offer its residents and visitors something different and unique.

Seeing improvements and ways to have more people come out and interact with the downtown area is always a good thing and should be supported.

This project is a no-brainer! It's an investment into the heart and future of our city and communities; the kids that will create adventures and memories on this playscape will one day be adults whose children will then go on to build similar memories as they once did. Talk about generational connection!

A natural playscape would be a major addition to the growing area of Kennesaw. With the downtown already trying to host events throughout the year for kids it only makes sense to have a permanent fixture that feels wild and natural as the town continues to build and develop. Creating a space unique from the typical playgrounds would make it a travel destination as we travel for playgrounds like this. It would be beneficial to the businesses around depot park not only on the weekend, but during the week!

Natural play space will be great for kids! Another fun place to take the kids for some nice physical activity in a beautiful location.

The kids need something like this ❤️

Have littles who'd love another play area!

I have a toddler who would love this. There are so many young families in Kennesaw. We really need more family friendly options.

We need more of this in downtown! We lost a great amenity when they took down the playground.

Need more kid friendly spaces in Kennesaw

I believe would be a wonderful addition to enhance depot park for kids

This is simply a great idea!!!!

Excellent idea

Have kids would love a playground there

I have young children who would thrive with something like this. I love how downtown Woodstock has a nature based playground and would love to have one in Kennesaw for my children.

I am an early childhood educator and mom of children in Kennesaw. Nature play is 1000 percent necessary

Play and outdoor time is essential. Safe places for families to spend time outside and for children to play are important. It will be a positive addition to the downtown space.

An area like this would inspire children to explore and care for nature, while giving them a safe place to grow and learn.

My daughter greatly benefited from outdoor wilderness play camps as a youngster and I truly believe in this digital age that we should continue to provide opportunities for children to be outdoors and play in nature, especially for at critical growth and development periods in early childhood.

It would be a welcome and unique addition to that area. A great way to get kids outside and moving around in nature.

Would love to bring my kids here

We really miss the playground that used to be in the location of depot park.

We need more natural spaces for kids to explore and be creative!

Need more places where kids can be kids!

With a bustling community our children need a space to freely explore their surroundings safely, without limitations or expectations on how to play. Naturescapes are a great way for the city to build back a safe play area for kids that live and visit the depot.

Would be such a great place for families with children

We need something suitable for littles, like toddlers and a little older. Swift is so overwhelming when I bring both of my kids, I'm chasing them the entire time and it'd be nice to have a smaller natural (non-chemical) playscape for them and a chance for me to chill while watching them!

This would be an excellent way to add a positive attraction to the park.

I believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for local children to experience and learn to appreciate nature!

Kids need outdoor space to play and explore

6 grandchildren within walking distance of

I have small kids, and spending time in nature is important to us.

We live in Kennesaw with 3 small children. We love nature playgrounds and think it's time for Kennesaw to invest in one.

Nature based play areas are amazing for child development. I have a child with special needs that absolutely loves these types of play areas

We need more protected nature areas for our community!

I have children that would use this weekly. We specifically look for nature based activities.

Kids need as much outside/nature time as possible. Have 2 grandkids that would love this. Have taught Pre K for almost 30 years and know how much something like this is needed for kids today.

I see a lot of value in having a dedicated nature based play and exploratory area for families in the heart of our downtown community.

I grew up in Kennesaw, beginning around the age of 7. I moved away for school, got married, had children. And God's path has brought me back to Kennesaw with my littles. Though the city has some exciting things that were not around about 30 years ago, it would be amazing to have a nature based playground. It's something all ages and genders can enjoy, and allows for connection within the community, which is great for new(er) neighbors like ourselves. Please consider this unique experience!!

Resident and parent looking to be more involved in the community
I'm a kid and we need a place to play.

I believe this will be a much needed addition to our downtown. Kids need a play to play in this area that gets them outside, away from screens, and interacting with nature.

I currently teach at the KMCA preschool off Ben King Rd and have my son at Depot Park after school downtown quite a bit. We would love to have this safe space to play!

I want my kid to be able to play in a nature park close to home in down town kennesaw

Because all children should have a space for creative play in nature.
This is such an important addition for families!

I'm a mom of 3 - 8 and younger. I'm a PreK teacher. I've lived in our city for over ten years now. Our family loves it here. We were sad to see the playground at Depot Park go for the amphitheater and while we respect it now being here, it would be wonderful for the kids in our area to have a fun nature escape. It's beautiful to see how kids develop when they have outdoor play and how big their imaginations can get when they have the right space and play tools to use to make their imaginations come to life.

I have two young children and live within walking distance of Depot Park. I was upset when the playground was not replaced as had been mentioned. It was a selling point for our home when we bought it. This would encourage us to be in downtown more often!

Grandchildren!

As a mom I would love more natural, outdoor places for my daughter to play & explore. Our parks & playgrounds are amazing, but watching a child play in nature taps into a different part of their imagination. This would be a great addition to our city!!
Grandkids need this park

My kiddo would love a outdoor place spot near our home

I worked in a child development lab school and had a small but natural playground put in and it was awesome to watch the children play! Unfortunately, budget cuts hut the college and we were closed 😞

I have a 4 year old girl and 1 year old boy and would love to use this space for them. It's important for our children to have outdoor free play space.

Nature is everything!

This would be an amazing addition to our community!

Great location for outdoor play. There are some similar features (slides built into hills) and mounds at parks in downtown Woodstock and in Canton. These are some of our family's favorites and they also look terrific as a landscape feature compared to other plastic play areas.

Outdoor play, especially in a natural playscape setting, is so beneficial for development. I would love to see this in my community.

Nature and playgrounds are a perfect match! It's proven that being outside is SO beneficial for our mental and physical wellbeing, so creating an inviting space for the community to play is amazing! I can imagine the new friendships formed, creativity sparked, trepidations overcome, and community connections made at the nature park. I think it is essential to provide safe spaces for children to play, and having it in Depot park puts it in the heart of our community. Build it and Kennesaw will come!

I fully support natural play spaces for children and believe this area is a *great* location to include one!

It is extremely important and beneficial for children to spend time outdoors, learning and exploring through play. It supports brain development, pre-academic and social-emotional learning. As an educator and parent, I love this!

We miss there being a play area in downtown Kennesaw!

I have a child who would benefit from this!

Children only benefit from exploration and nature spaces. A well kept space like this in Depot Park would benefit the communities children for decades to come and set it apart from others that lack such a beneficial feature.

I have 2 children that would love a space to climb and play when we go downtown after getting pizza and ice cream on our weekend nights out as a family
Would love to see downtown kennesaw more kid friendly!!

Raising young kids in Kennesaw!

Children thrive in nature! This world needs more beautiful things!

I have 2 young children who love to play outside! It's so important that children get to play in nature and learn about our world.

This is a wonderful supportive way for the community to provide children with screen free, outdoor activities.

The best place for learning is outside in the sunshine and fresh air!! Discovering the beautiful world we live in!!

This would be a terrific idea to have an all inclusive space for families that promotes togetherness, learning and fun outdoors.

Kennesaw needs a playground downtown!
It's good for children.

I absolutely want this and will utilize for my children!

Such a great idea!
Children need safe outdoor spaces to play, be creative and just be kids!

Children need this kind of play space!

Children would benefit so much from a nature playground!!

As the owner of. Nature inspired preschool, I understand the importance of getting kids outside! Open play in a natural setting is so important to all aspects of development. I believe kids need more places to explore in nature. So many kids are exposed to electronics and not enough nature. This would be a beautiful and natural space to add to the Kennesaw area.

Nature play is fundamental for children and a safe space for exploration provides this access!

I support people getting in touch with nature

I have 2 young children and we would absolutely visit downtown more often if there was a nature-based playscape. We would love to support the local businesses in conjunction with our visits as well!

Outdoor play is essential for children's development, and having an easily accessible, nature-based play space in downtown Kennesaw would be a huge benefit to families wanting to frequent and support small local businesses downtown.

I love nature play and learning for kids. So much learning happens out in nature. Definitely would send my kids if there was a nature school or hangout there for day time play while homeschooling.

Would love more hands-on get your feet dirty kind of activities for my Littles!

There is no better method of learning for children than in the outdoors! As a Kennesaw native (30+ years) now raising our babies in the same place, this would be amazing to have as an addition to a much loved park.

A great place for kids to play

My kids would love this!

Great for community

My family has a townhouse next to depot park. A play structure would be amazing.

Playing outside is wonderful activity for kids and adults. Having a safe space to do this in would be great. I have a 3 year old grandson and I'm looking forward to bringing him!

Would love for my children to experience a beautiful play space like this in the town where I was raised.

I have two kids and I've seen the demand for something like this whenever I go downtown and see all of the young families. The downtown renovations have been great, in my opinion, but I do miss the old playground.

My toddler would love this

More natural play for our area

As a parent of a 5 year old who loves living in the Kennesaw community, this addition would only add to the family friendly environment that downtown Kennesaw is known for.

The playground that was in downtown was taken away and when we go eat and walk downtown now there is nothing for the kids to play on other than the stage and some benches. They would love this!!

All children would benefit from this! Especially my three kids they love getting dirty
Investing in our children is an investment for the future! We want to nurture creative citizens, and facilitating family friendly environments will only further improve our community
It would be amazing for the kids in the area now and in the future.

We love walking the shops and eating in this downtown area, but we really miss having a playground for the kids! A nature based one would look great, and be the perfect place for the kids to play while I drink a coffee from the local shop!

We NEED spaces like these!

As a parent of a 3 and 5 year old- this was absolutely transcend the downtown area. We love depot park but we miss the play area. A nature park would be the perfect addition for this currently beautiful space. I think it would attract other young families to the area as well. Please consider this!

Nature based play is crucial for children! This would be a game changer to have in our community!!! I support it times a million!!!!

We homeschool and prioritize unstructured, nature based play daily! We would love to see this come to fruition.

Kids need to be outside more!!!

Kids learn through play and exploring their environment! An area like this would be so welcome in a time when too many kids are inside on devices and don't have a place to explore outside.

Nature is the best play space

I live near downtown kennesaw and would love to see more kid friendly activities. My children love frequenting the train museum and Frozen Cow. We were sad when the playground was removed, but have also enjoyed the work put into the depot park. A natural play scape would be an amazing addition. We would have many more family days in the downtown area if this idea is implemented!

I have a 3 year old who would love to have a place to play in downtown kennesaw. Having green spaces for our children to play in are vital, and much more important than blank green lawn. The benefits of playing outdoors and meeting other members of our community are vital to the health and wellbeing of our children, and will only benefit the growth of Kennesaw.

These types of playgrounds are so important for children & their growth. I have young children and think it will be a wonderful space for all kids to learn and play!

It's the right thing to do.

Our kids need a safe natural playground. Our students already disassociate with nature. It's up to us to help them to understand the importance of our natural resources. This is an opportunity to serve the next generations.

My young kids would love something like this! Nature play is so important for growing minds.

Fantastic initiative to get kids engaged with nature opposed to their ipads!!

Children need a safe, structural way to play in downtown. The previous playground in Depot Park was constantly utilized. If we want families to congregate in downtown, we need to provide the amenities not only for adults, but children, to create the vibrant community we all desire.

As someone who doesn't have the backyard that I want for my kids, having a park with a play space like this essentially in my backyard would be huge! It would be a huge reason for me to stay living in the area and we would be there every week. This is exactly the kind of childhood that I want my kids to have.

I have two small children and would love more places to take my children in the area.

I am a huge supporter of nature based play! It enhances child development in so many ways.

Nowadays, children are so attached to their iPads, video games, televisions, etc. They need to be given opportunities to play outside. As an educator at Dunwoody Nature Center and a science teacher at Haygood Preschool, I try and give my students ample opportunities to play outside and connect with nature. If Depot Park provides a nature based play area, they would be giving ample opportunities for children in the Kennesaw area to play and connect with nature

I have 2 tweens who love to play outside. It's been very disheartening to not have a playspace in downtown Kennesaw anymore. We utilized the previous playground many times while my kids were small. A new playground is a must.

As a mother that enjoys frequenting shops and services in DT Kennesaw, I think a natural play space is one of the only things missing from this wonderful new downtown area. I bring my children to run around and play in the green and on the stage, but we can spend so much more of our day in the area if there was a play space to keep them busy longer and then go visit the ice cream shop or The Artful Rabbit or go have lunch. The natural space will be absolutely perfect for kids of all ages.

Children need to be outside, enjoying the wonders nature has to offer. A safe, family centered area is perfect for that. This area would provide that, and encourage more people to come to Kennesaw, leading to more opportunities for local businesses to thrive. What a wonderful space that would be for children and their families! We need more nature, all of us. Please make this a reality 🙏

Advocate for kids getting out and thriving in nature. Less screen time, more green time!
I believe in nature play!

I was sad they took it down - I have small kids.

My grandchild resides in Kennesaw and I would love to see a nature play space for us to access.

Children grow and develop best with natural, organic spaces.

My own children (now 10 and 14) have benefited so much from outdoor, nature-based play.

Having a central and public place for children to explore and play in nature would be an excellent addition to the community.

Outdoor nature school was the single most distinctive factor for my child's health, growth and wellbeing when she was younger. She learned and grew so much of what is missing in our youth these days. There are less and less spaces that are just safe nature zones for body movement and exploration— especially with the obsession of screens to pacify children. A natural play space encourages humans of all ages to enjoy the outdoors, movement, playfulness, etc. it is not the same as a playground at all and would be perfect in this spot. Keep children moving, balancing, playing! Not sitting behind screens!

Having spaces for families and people to gather among businesses is so important. I've read it referred to as in between spaces. They foster community and human connection, which is something we desperately need more of.

I would love to have a nature play space for my son! We love to hang out in downtown Kennesaw but have to go elsewhere for a playground. We frequently go all the way to downtown Woodstock to have a playground in close proximity to other downtown entertainment/restaurants/breweries. We would love to have this so close to home!!

The Depot Park lacks appropriate play space for kids and a natural way to incorporate it would be beneficial for hands-on experiences

My kids love playing outside and would love having something like this to do! They enjoy these kind of play areas more than a typical playground

The little playground was fantastic and I was bummed when it got removed when the amphitheater went in. Let the little frolic!!!

I believe playing in and exploring nature is a fundamental need for kids - especially in this digital world they're forced to grow up in.

I live in Kennesaw with my husband and two kids, and we would love to have an opportunity for our family to utilize a natural playscape. While we love the improvements that have been made to downtown Kennesaw, my kids miss the playground that was removed to make room

for the amphitheater. Also, their grandparents live in Woodstock, which has a more natural playscape, and that is by far their favorite playground around.

Mother of 2 small children and we would enjoy the depot so much more with a natural space designed for their play

We love visiting downtown Kennesaw and walking around the park but it would be so much better if there was a playground for my child to play at.

Children/grandchildren need their own playground to channel their energy & while parents/grandparents are close by and/or watching a show/performance..

Our family misses the playground that used to exist at depot park! It was so convenient to have right across from the train museum.

Would love this for our community.

More beneficial for children than conventional playgrounds. Encourages families to go to the town center and spend more time there.

As a Kennesaw resident with three children, I feel Kennesaw could do a lot more to support the inclusion of our children in the community. Thank you for your consideration!

We come here all the time and would love a nature playscape to make more family memories here!

There needs to be a playground for kids while we use the downtown spaces in Kennesaw.

The amphitheater is not sufficient to support families.

I have children and long for a way to connect with other families outdoors.

We have littles and would love a park for them

There aren't enough playgrounds in Kennesaw. Swift Cantrell is too large for some people.

And it would be nice to be able to just show up to Depot Park and enjoy it without having to pack sports balls, bubbles, chalk, etc.

I see many children playing in front of the amphitheater, so I believe a play scape will be welcome.

I live 5 minutes walking distance from Depot Park and have a three-year-old who loves to run and play outside. I used to walk with him there when he was an infant, but now that he's up and running, I've had to run after him multiple times to keep him away from oncoming cars on Cherokee Street. So now I've stopped taking him there because there is no area with boundaries to keep him safe. I'd love for that to change.

I have 3 children under 10yrs old and we live downtown. We use depot park weekly. A playground would be a great addition

Perfect for kids

The lack of a play area walkable to local downtown businesses is a huge loss for the city and causes families to visit other neighboring towns that do feature spaces for children in their downtown area. The original plans for depot park actually did include grass mounds, a train cart, interactive art, interactive fountains, bocce ball, and even a "train park playground" but unfortunately none of this seems to have made the cut.

Keeping politicians accountable, and restoration to what depot had prior to the amphitheater.

As a mother of 3 that lives downtown

Mom of 2 kids that love downtown Kennesaw and exploring nature that would absolutely put this to use!

it would be great for the community

Resident of Kennesaw with grandchildren who visit frequently...

Will add value to all homes & businesses in Kennesaw...

We need the return of a playground to the center of downtown

Future kids

I have kids and live near Depot Park.

I have a young child who love to play outside in nature. She lives the nature playground in Woodstock and would love to have one closer to home. It would be a welcome addition to our downtown.

I have so many friends with children who live nearby and would love a park like this! Play is so important and natural playground have been shown to support imagination, curiosity, problem-solving thinking, and more!

We need a play area within downtown!

Children need safe nature based play. It will support community cohesion.

We claim to be a "Family Centered" community. Our children need a play space in the downtown center. The Nature Playscape is a perfect way to fill this need.

There is no reason not to! It would be all around beneficial for the community and our children.

Kids need dirt and not microplastics!

I believe nature playgrounds support healthy child development and offer a unique opportunity for childhood play to flourish.

Instagram: 141 likes, 59 shares ,18.4K views

Poll Results – 57 votes in support

Comments:

- That would be Awesome
- I absolutely love this!!
- Signed and shared!
- Nature play is so important!!!
- This is such a great idea! Its so important for all children to experience and learn to appreciate nature! Thank you for having this vision! I have voted and shared!
- Support it 100%
- Perfect!
- Absolutely! Done!
- This would be amazing for your community! Thank you for spotlighting this!
- Signed and shared! Thank you so much!
- Oh I love thi! We were so sad when the playground was removed, so having an area for play that is also nature-based!!! Perfection!!
- Thank you for continuing to be a voice for our community! This would be incredible for our downtown!
- Signed!!!
- Depot Park used to have a playground before the aphitheater was installed. We were sad to see it go. The possibility of a nature based play scape seems really cool! As a mom and preK teacher and almost 11 years resident of the city, I fully support this.
- I would be there every single week
- Signed and shared
- Signed – thank you!!! Let’s keep advocating
- This makes me weepy. I wish I could have kept her in outdoor nature school through 12th grade. I absolutely love you and what you did for our babies. I will always advocate for outdoor nature play! Signing and sharing right now!!!

Facebook – 104 like, 37 shares

Comments:

- It's a great idea. Keep in mind kids with special needs
- Much needed!!! Especially since they decided to just rip out the old playground and replace it with NOTHING for children. If Kennesaw wants to be like downtown Woodstock (which was mentioned as part of the goal with the big downtown changes) then this would be a great way to go.
- That would be amazing! Signed!
- I love that this is a possibility!! Creative free play outside – hooray!
- Signed!
- I love this!! Commented and signed!
- This is the best idea!
- Looks like the petition is full but we would like to sign
- Supported and shared! Appreciate you supporting our communities and our kids!!
- It says the petition is full! I fully support this!
- Signed Would love for Kennesaw to do something that would actually benefit the community.
- Yessssssss making the area more friendly for families downtown Kennesaw would be amazing
- Awesome! I signed it too!
- Yes! I so hope this goes through! I'll pass this on.
- Signed
- Signed and shared
- Love it! Thanks for advocating for this!
- Done!
- This is fantastic. I hope they follow through! I signed the petition.
- Great Idea! I'm all in!!
- Done!
- Signed and shared!
- Done!
- Signed!
- Signed!
- I love this idea!
- Done!!

State of Georgia
County of Cobb

AFFIDAVIT

1.

Mayor Derek Easterling was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Kennesaw City Council held on the 9th day of March, 2026.

2.

That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows: When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code Section, the chairperson or other person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the officials minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting of the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception.

3.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 9th day of March, 2026 which was closed for the purpose(s) of land as allowed by O.C.G.A. Title 50, Chapter 14 was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4.

This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) that such an affidavit be executed.

This the 9th day of March, 2026.

[Signature]
Mayor/Presiding Officer

[Signature]
Councilmember

[Signature]
Councilmember

MD
Councilmember

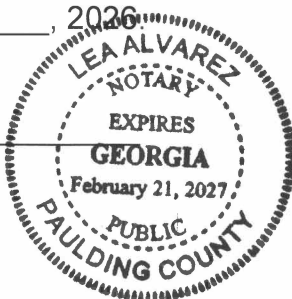
[Signature]
Councilmember

ag
Councilmember

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the

9th day of March, 2026

[Signature]
Notary Public



Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

City Council Work Session

3/9/2026

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Christa Thomas	2839 Cherokee St.	Nature Playground
2	Kimberly Watkins	2975 N Main St NW	Nature Playground
3	Palma Rhoader	3725 Valley Rd	11
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