



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### **[It's The Economy Stupid: Creating Partnerships To Find The Limited Resources Needed For Local Environmental Education Programming](#)**

Gwinnett County Georgia has been described as the "poster child" of economic development. In 20 years, this once rural area has exploded to become Atlanta's most populous suburban community with more than 700,000 residents. Attracted by great schools, visionary political leaders, diverse economic prosperity, and upscale neighborhoods, people flocked to Gwinnett to enjoy the many benefits of suburban life.

As expected, this tremendous growth has brought significant changes to local ecosystems, particularly the quality of water in our rivers and streams. State, federal, and local government resources were pulled together to address the growing problem. Creative educational programming developed by the Cooperative Extension Service helped provide the synergy needed to expand the effectiveness of this collaborative effort to improve and maintain the environment and quality of life in Gwinnett County.

Author: Robert Brannen