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MONEY MAGAZINE: SUWANEE RANKED ONE OF NATION'S BEST PLACES TO LIVE

Gwinnett County's fastest-growing community is also one of the nation's best small cities in which to live, according to Money magazine. Suwanee is ranked number 10 in the magazine's 2007 list of best places to live.

"Money magazine has let the whole country in on our not-so-well-kept 'secret,'" says Mayor Nick Masino. "Our residents have known for a long time that Suwanee is an incredible place to live. And that's because our community truly cares about quality of life and is willing to put its muscle and time behind working to make Suwanee the best that it can be. We're thrilled to be recognized nationally and to represent all of Gwinnett County as one of the country's best places to live."

BEST PLACES TO LIVE

Best Places to Live: Top 100

For this year's list we focused on smaller places that offered the best combination of economic opportunity, good schools, safe streets, things to do and a real sense of community.

By Kate Ashford, Andrea Bartz, Jeff Cox, Asa Fitch, Stephen Gandel, Josh Hyatt, Rob Kelley, Kathleen Knight, Joe Light, Ismat Sarah Mangla, Sarah Max, Jennifer Merritt, Brad Nelson, Donna Rosato, Ingrid Therasook

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10. Suwanee, Ga.

Population: 11,200

Median home price (2006): \$293,868

Average property taxes (2006): \$2,311

Pros: Green space, affordable housing

Cons: Traffic, I-85 interchange

Six years ago the residents of Suwanee voted to more than double their property taxes. The payoff: a boost from 28 acres of green space to more than 270, and a feeling of investment in their hometown. That's abundantly clear at the newly developed Town Center. Built on a heavily trafficked downtown corner, it meshes park space, retail and office properties and housing into one multiuse plaza - and residents have embraced it in a big way. Housing is reasonable, and schools are topnotch.

Though the town has planned recent development deliberately, the area around Interstate 85, which runs through Suwanee's southeastern corner, lacks for aesthetics but not for congestion. Still, the rest of the city has a lot to offer.

[See complete data and interactive map for Suwanee](#)

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PHOTO: M. MICHAEL FARR

A public fountain in the center of Suwanee cools kids on summer days.

In compiling this year's list, Money initially considered a list of 3,000 small cities with populations between 7,500 and 50,000. That list was cut to a group of 500, of which the 100 finalists are included and top 10 "winners" are featured in the magazine's August issue of "100 Great American Towns." Factors considered by Money included economic opportunity, good schools, safe streets, things to do, and a real sense of community.

As one of the top ten places to live, Suwanee, with a population of approximately 16,000, was included on a segment of this morning's Today show and is featured in the August issue of Money. Other 2007 high-ranking Georgia communities include Peachtree City (#64) and Martinez (#76).

"Suwanee has a lot of great things going on: our emerging Town Center, new parks, and the City's commitment to mixed-use development, to name just a few," says Masino. "As I've said over and over again, Suwanee's accomplishments have been made possible through a team effort among elected officials and City staff as well as the involvement and commitment of our residents."