

**Work begins on Savannah Rapids Park Renovation**

(October 14, 2009) Last week contractors began removing trees near the graveled parking area at Savannah Rapids Headgate Park in preparation for Phase I of the park's renovation plan. The project will reorient and expand parking areas and re-landscape the current paved lot. A loop road will be constructed connecting parking area to the existing road along the Canal's south bank. The project also includes construction of three picnic pavilions and continuation of the bike path connecting the towpath to the Evans-to-Locks multi-use trail. The project will take an estimated five months to complete, barring weather delays.

Clearing, grading and paving will create hazardous conditions for several months. There may be periodic closing of the roadway along the Canal's south bank and the pedestrian bridge as work progresses. Park users will continue to have access to the Augusta Canal towpath via the Headgate crossing. Users are asked to obey all posted signs.

This is a project of Columbia County Government, funded in part by Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Phase II was approved in the 2011-2016 SPLOST cycle and will include construction of a restroom/vending structure near the east end of the site.