



AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE:	October 19, 2026	Regular
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	Sara Leaders, Community Development and Public Works Director
SECTION OF AGENDA:	First Presentation	October 19, 2026
	Unfinished Business	November 2, 2026 <i>Sara Leaders</i>
AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 58, Article IV, Car Wash Water Recycling.	
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:	The purpose of this agenda item is to amend the City's car wash water recycling requirements to specify a minimum recycling rate of 50% and address the related Metro Water District audit finding.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	There is no direct financial impact to the City associated with adoption of the ordinance.	
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 58, Article IV, Car Wash Water Recycling.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Milton is one of more than 90 municipalities within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, a regional water planning district established by the Georgia General Assembly. As a municipality within the District, Milton is required to comply with the District's 2022 Water Resources Management Plan, which includes water recycling requirements for new conveyor car washes.

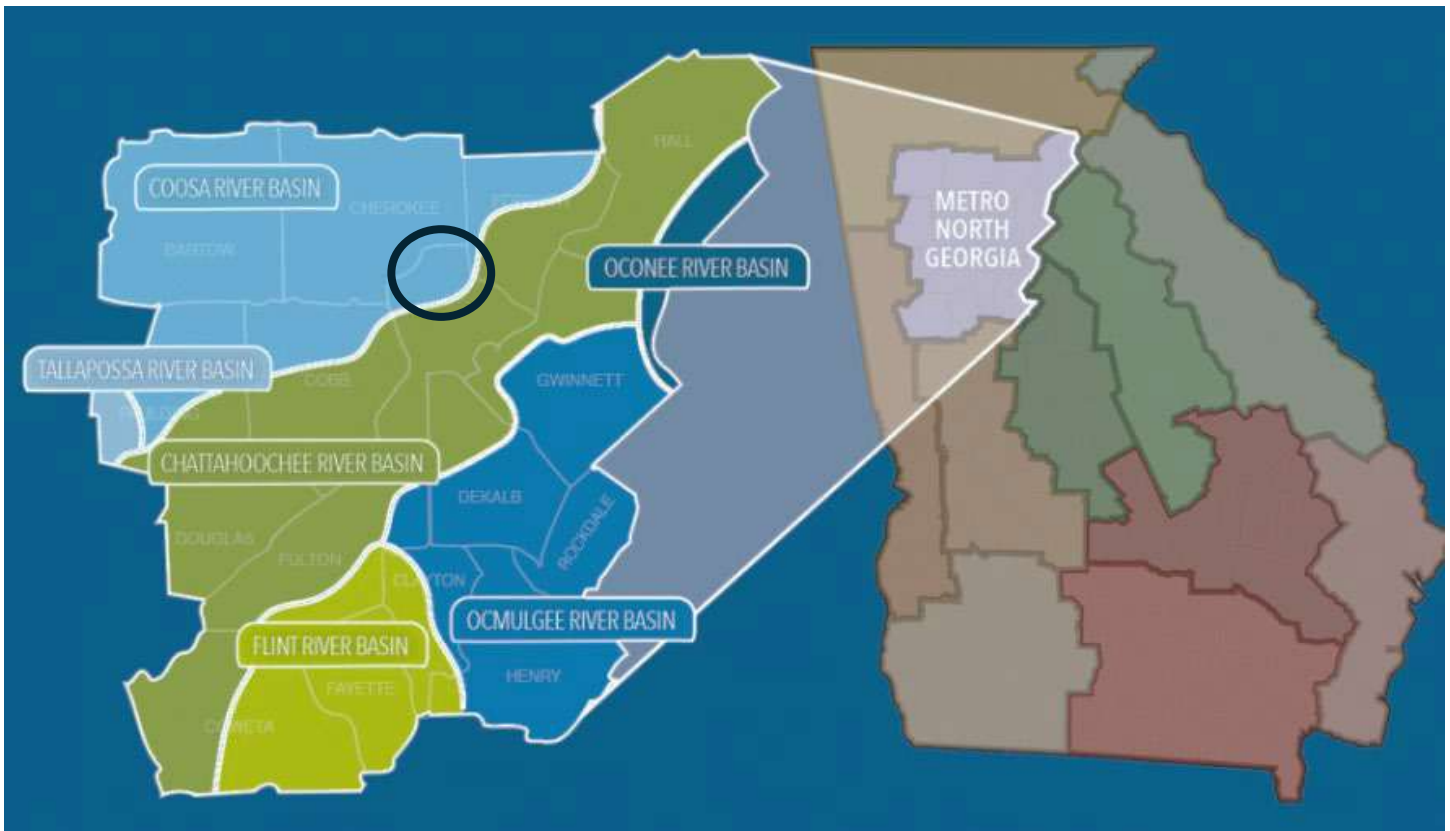
EPD's June 10, 2026 audit letter identified that Milton's existing car wash ordinance requires recycled water systems but does not specify the required minimum recycling rate of 50%. The proposed ordinance amends Chapter 58, Article IV, to expressly establish that minimum for applicable in-bay automatic and conveyor car washes.

This action is not a discretionary policy decision. This ordinance implements the required car wash water recycling standards.

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro Water District) is a regional water planning district created by the Georgia General Assembly. The District includes 15 counties and more than 90 municipalities, including the City of Milton.





The map above shows the Metro North Georgia area and the counties included in the District. Milton is approximately located within the circled area on the map.

As a member jurisdiction of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, Milton is required to implement applicable provisions of its 2022 Water Resources Management Plan. These include requirements for water recycling at new conveyor car washes. EPD's June 10 audit letter noted that Milton's existing car wash ordinance did not specify the required 50% recycling rate.

The proposed car wash revisions address the separate audit finding by expressly stating the minimum recycling rate in the definition, purpose, and operational requirements of Article IV.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The proposed ordinance addresses the identified water conservation compliance item. The code amendments are included as Exhibit A to the ordinance.

The proposed revisions to Sections 58-175, 58-176, and 58-178 specify that recycled water systems must capture, recycle, and reuse a minimum of 50% of the water used. The definition measures recycling per vehicle wash cycle, and the operational requirement addresses water used in wash and rinse cycles.

The proposed Article IV retains its applicability to in-bay automatic and conveyor car washes permitted and constructed after January 1, 2011. It also retains the exemptions for facilities permitted or constructed before that date and for self-service car washes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact to the City associated with adoption of the ordinance.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The City does not have discretion to decline compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's 2022 Water Resources Management Plan while remaining in compliance with applicable state and regional requirements. Failure to approve the Ordinance would not eliminate the City's obligation to implement the required minimum car wash water recycling rate; it would only delay the City's ability to achieve compliance.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS:

The car wash revisions address the separate water recycling requirement identified in EPD's audit letter. Adoption and implementation of these provisions will support the City's compliance with the Metro Water District's Water Resources Management Plan.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT:

Following the ordinance's effective date, staff will apply the clarified 50% water recycling requirements through applicable plan review and inspection procedures. Implementation will support the City's water conservation efforts and help address the identified Metro Water District audit finding. Staff will update review procedures and provide guidance to applicants and contractors on the new requirements.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER IMPACT:

The amendments support water conservation by establishing clear requirements for applicable car wash recycling systems. Builders, designers, plumbing contractors, and affected car wash owners and operators will need to account for these requirements in applicable projects and operations.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Supports Strategic Priority #1, Goal #3 – Protect and Enhance Milton's Natural Environment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 58, Article IV, Car Wash Water Recycling.

REVIEWS & APPROVALS:

Legal Review: Paul Frickey, Jarrard & Davis, LLP – October 8, 2026

Concurrent Review: Steven Krokoff, City Manager

Steven Krokoff

ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance

Exhibit A

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE IV (CAR WASH WATER RECYCLING) OF CHAPTER 58
(UTILITIES) OF THE MILTON CODE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Milton, GA, while in a regularly called council meeting on November 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., as follows:

SECTION 1. That the amendments to Article IV (Car wash water recycling) of Chapter 58 (Utilities) of the Milton Code as shown in Exhibit "A" are hereby adopted and approved; and

SECTION 2. All ordinances, parts of ordinances, or regulations in conflict herewith are repealed; and

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

ORDAINED this the 2nd day of November, 2026.

Peyton Jamison, Mayor

Attest:

Tammy Lowit, City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

ARTICLE IV. CAR WASH WATER RECYCLING

Sec. 58-175. Definitions.

The following words and phrases, whenever used in this article, have the meaning defined in this section:

Conveyor car wash means a commercial car wash where the car moves on a conveyor belt during the wash. The driver of the vehicle can remain in the vehicle or wait outside of the vehicle.

In-bay automatic car wash means a commercial car wash where the driver pulls into the bay and parks the car. The vehicle remains stationary while a machine moves back and forth over the vehicle to clean it, instead of the vehicle moving through the tunnel.

Recycled water system means a water system that captures and reuses water, regardless of the source, previously used in wash or rinse cycles.

Self-service car wash means a commercial car wash where the customers wash their cars themselves with spray wands and brushes.

Sec. 58-176. Purpose and intent.

The purpose of this article is to reduce water consumption from commercial car wash facilities by requiring all new in-bay and conveyor car washes to install and maintain operational recycled water systems that recycle at least fifty percent (50%) of the water used.

Sec. 58-177. Applicability.

This article applies to all new in-bay automatic car washes and conveyor car washes permitted and constructed after January 1, 2011. The provisions of this article do not apply to in-bay car washes and conveyor commercial car washes that were permitted or constructed before January 1, 2011. The provisions of this article do not apply to self-service car washes.

Sec. 58-178. Commercial car wash water recycling requirement.

All new in-bay automatic car washes and conveyor car washes, permitted and constructed after January 1, 2011 must install operational recycled water systems capable of capturing, recycling, and reusing a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the total water used in the wash and rinse cycles.