

Active Living Division

Department Mission

It is the mission of the Decatur Active Living division to provide leisure and support services that contribute to the quality of life of the citizens of Decatur. We are committed to enhancing the lives of individuals and families, contributing to the City's economic development, preserving and promoting an appreciation for our green spaces and celebrating diversity while bringing us together as a community.

Division Overview

The official name of the division has been changed from "Recreation" to "Active Living". The division has a strong, productive relationship with the school athletics program, which has been beneficial to both parties. The Active Living division provides programs and facilities to promote physical and intellectual wellness in partnership with the community.

Objectives:

- Strengthen community image and sense of place
- Promote health and wellness in conjunction with an active lifestyle
- Foster human development and social capital
- Preserve environmental resources
- Provide safe and clean places for people to assemble for social, leisure, educational and recreational purposes
- Provide safe and stable programs and environments for children and youth to develop social, community, and academic skills



Budget Summary FY 08-09

This year and into the foreseeable future, the Active Living division will strive to create an *active living community* – a place where residents and visitors can readily participate in everyday physical activity, regardless of physical limitations, in addition to offering traditional recreation programming. Main goals for the upcoming fiscal year include to create a marketing campaign directed to city residents explaining the *active living* concept and to survey and solicit feedback



from the public; to incorporate active living concepts into current recreation programming; and to identify and evaluate facility needs at the Decatur Recreation Center, ball fields and greenspaces.

The proposed 2008-09 budget will continue to focus on supporting the division's variety of recreation programming. The main change from previous year's budget is the request for funds to address long-standing facilities issues at the division's two recreation centers and the field facilities.

In terms of sustainability, facilities and equipment must be properly maintained and repaired when necessary to extend the lifespan of said facilities and equipment. The Active Living concept is already a part of most of the division's programs. Staff will focus on promoting and educating the public on various Active Living concepts, which does not necessarily call for a budget increase.

Specific budget priorities include:

- Renovation of the restroom at Ebster Recreation Center - The current restroom at the Ebster Recreation Center, which serves the center and Ebster Field, is in poor condition. The rest room also needs to have its door open out to the hallway instead of to the library/computer room. The rest room is used by Children & Youth Services, various Active Living programs, athletics program players, parents, officials, coaches, etc. The current rest room limits the programming we can have at Ebster, especially for seniors. By renovating the existing facility, the Center will provide an amenity to various user groups.
- Repair and add new steps at Ebster Field - Current stairs from field to recreation center are a possible safety hazard that needs to be repaired for safety reasons and to provide better accessibility. A new stairway from athletic field to Robin Way may alleviate parking concerns on Electric Avenue and will allow for better pedestrian safety.
- Shade structure at Ebster Pool - There is one small, older wood shade structure on the current deck. There is a need for another shade structure for the pool users and during swim meet competition. An additional shade structure would allow for a wider variety of pool activities.
- Replace McKoy Skate Park equipment - The skate park, the first in DeKalb County, has been heavily used by all age groups since its opening. The current equipment has reached the end of its lifespan and is in need of replacement after years of heavy usage.
- Pool covers for McKoy, Ebster, and Glenlake Pools - Pool covers provide safety in off season; prevent users from falling into pools; keep debris out of pools throughout off season; and prevent staining of pool liners. Pool covers will allow water to be kept in pools throughout the off season which will save significant time and expense for pool openings.



Children & Youth Services Division

Division Overview and Budget Summary FY 08-09

As we enter into the FY 08-09 budget process the biggest challenge for the Children and Youth Services Division will be the end of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant.

The initial 1998 application was made to:

- Improve quality
- Improve accessibility
- Support academic success
- Reduce the digital divide and
- Reduce the achievement gap

This 3 year grant award beginning in 1999 was for \$1.8 million. A second grant award was received in 2003 for \$2.3 million for 5 years. Limitations on funding did not allow for administrative costs to be covered in our second application.



In 2006, working with Wellsys, Inc., additional goals were added including:

- Promoting physical activity and good nutrition to address childhood obesity
- Providing children access to the 40 developmental assets

Children and Youth Services staff will continue to pursue grant and foundation funding to help off-set costs for continuation of the after school and summer enrichment programs. We do not anticipate any decrease in the quality of services currently offered by the Children and Youth Services Division. We hope to continue to improve the quality of our program through the accreditation of 3 additional sites.

Current Program Statistics

Average number of children served daily 07-08 21C Sites	216
Spaces available to recommended children	50%
Spaces filled by low income children	39%
Average number of children served daily 07-08 STAR	70
Spaces filled by low income children	100%
Average number of children served daily 07-08 Clairemont/DRC	60
Spaces filled by low income children	13%

The Children and Youth Services Division's contribution to a sustainable community is in the form of developing social sustainability and social capital. Our programs allow families to work knowing that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment, which contributes to their productivity at the workplace. Our sliding fee scale and transportation allows for families of low and moderate income to have accessibility to our quality services. After school programs have been proven to:

- Improve student academic performance (even without a tutoring component)
- Improve student school attendance
- Reduce the number of school disciplinary reports/actions
- Increase opportunities for students to develop developmental assets
- Decrease student participation in risk behaviors including
 - Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
 - Participation in sexual activity
 - Participation in juvenile crime



We also assert that our continued partnership with City Schools of Decatur has contributed and will continue to contribute to the narrowing of the achievement gap and the digital divide. Our emphasis on physical activity and nutrition will contribute to the wellness of the children as well as their families.

This year all components of the program worked together on a focus on wellness. The technology students compiled a cook-book called "Healthy Choices, Healthy Kids" that included downloading recipes, original artwork using the KidPix program and digital photography. Physical activity and nutrition curricula and healthy snack food projects are incorporated into lesson plans. Art enrichment projects reflected the emphasis on physical wellness. The end of year Family Night will focus on wellness with the refreshments coming from the cookbook of healthy recipes and the activities focused on physical activity and nutrition.



Our biggest contribution to social sustainability is in the sense of safety and community that our programs bring to children and their families.