

# Appendix F **CITIZEN** SURVEY RESULTS

Budget FY 2023-2024



Decatur, GA

# The National Community Survey

Report of Results 2022

**Report by:** 





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### About The NCS™

The National Community Survey<sup>™</sup> (The NCS<sup>™</sup>) report is about the "livability" of Decatur. A livable community is a place that is not simply habitable, but that is desirable. It is not only where people do live, but where they want to live. The survey was developed by the experts from National Research Center at Polco.

Great communities are partnerships of the government, private sector, community-based organizations and residents, all geographically connected. The NCS captures residents' opinions considering ten central facets of a community:

- Economy
- Mobility
- Community Design
- Utilities
- Safety
- Natural Environment
- Parks and Recreation
- Health and Wellness
- Education, Arts, and Culture
- Inclusivity and Engagement

The report provides the opinions of a representative sample of 573 residents of the City of Decatur collected from March 21, 2022 to May 9, 2022. The margin of error around any reported percentage is 4% for all respondents and the response rate for the 2022 survey was 21%. Survey results were weighted so that the demographic profile of respondents was representative of the demographic profile of adults in Decatur.

#### How the results are reported

For the most part, the percentages presented in the following tabs represent the "percent positive." Most commonly, the percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, etc.). On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab "Complete data." However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in most of the tabs. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

#### **Comparisons to benchmarks**

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in surveys from over 600 communities whose residents evaluated the same kinds of topics on The National Community Survey. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each community in the last five years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant. The communities in the database represent a wide geographic and population range. In each tab, Decatur's results are noted as being "higher" than the benchmark, "lower" than the benchmark, or "similar" to the benchmark, meaning that the average rating given by Decatur residents is statistically similar to or different (greater or lesser) than the benchmark. Being rated as "higher" or "lower" than the benchmark means that Decatur's average rating for a particular item was more than 10 points different than the benchmark. If a rating was "much higher" or "much lower," then Decatur's average rating was more than 20 points different when compared to the benchmark.

The survey was administered during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of challenge for many local governments. While we provide comparisons to national benchmarks, it is important to note that much of the benchmark data was collected prior to the pandemic. This may impact how your City's 2022 ratings compare to other communities' ratings from the past five years.





#### **Trends over time**

Trend data for Decatur represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines\*. Deviations from stable trends over time represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs, or public information may have affected residents' opinions. Changes between survey years have been noted with an arrow and the percent difference. If the difference is greater than 6 percentage points between the 2020 and 2022 surveys, the change is statistically significant.

\* In 2020, The NCS survey was updated to include new and refreshed items. Consequently, some of the trends may be impacted due to wording modifications that could have potentially altered the meaning of the item for the respondent.

### Methods

#### Selecting survey recipients

All households within the City of Decatur were eligible to participate in the survey. A list of all households within the zip codes serving Decatur was purchased from Go-Dog Direct based on updated listings from the United States Postal Service. Since some of the zip codes that serve the City of Decatur households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the community, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to community boundaries using the most current municipal boundary file. Addresses located outside of the City of Decatur boundaries were removed from the list of potential households to survey. Each address identified as being within city boundaries was further identified as being within one of the two districts. From that list, addresses were randomly selected as survey recipients, with multi-family housing units (defined as those with a unit number) sampled at a rate of 5:3 compared to single family housing units.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the "person whose birthday has most recently passed" to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the introduction of the survey.

#### **Conducting the survey**

The 2,800 randomly selected households received mailings beginning on March 21, 2021 and the survey remained open for 7 weeks. The first mailing was a postcard inviting the household to participate in the survey. The next mailing contained a cover letter with instructions, the survey questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. All mailings included a web link to give residents the opportunity to respond to the survey online. All follow-up mailings asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from completing the survey again.

About 3% of the 2800 mailed invitations or surveys were returned because the household address was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 2721 households that received the invitations to participate, 573 completed the survey, providing an overall response rate of 21%. The response rate was calculated using AAPOR's response rate #2\* for mailed surveys of unnamed persons.

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" and accompanying "confidence interval" (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents' opinions are relied on to estimate all residents' opinions. The margin of error for the City of Decatur survey is no greater than plus or minus 4 percentage points around any given percent reported for all respondents (573 completed surveys).

In addition to the randomly selected "probability sample" of households, a link to an online open participation survey was publicized by the City of Decatur. The open participation survey was identical to the probability sample survey with two small updates; it included a map at the beginning asking where the respondent lives and a question about where they heard about the survey. The open participation survey was open to all city residents and became available on April 25, 2022. The survey remained open for 2 weeks. The data presented in the following tabs exclude the open participation survey data, but a tab at the end provides the complete frequency of responses to questions by the open participation respondents.

#### Analyzing the data

Responses from mailed surveys were entered into an electronic dataset using a "key and verify" method, where all responses are entered twice and compared to each other. Any discrepancies were resolved in comparison to the original survey form. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed. Responses from surveys completed on Polco were downloaded and merged with the mailed survey responses.

The demographics of the survey respondents were compared to those found in the 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey estimates for adults in the City of Decatur. The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey respondents reflective of the larger population of the community. The characteristics used for weighting were age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure, and area. No adjustments were made for design effects. Weights were calculated using an iterative, multiplicative raking model known as the ANES Weighting Algorithm.\* The results of the weighting scheme for the probability sample are presented in the following table.

NRC aligns demographic labels with those used by the U.S. Census for reporting purposes, when possible. Some categories (e.g., age, race/Hispanic origin, housing type, and length of residency) are combined into smaller subgroups.

		Unweighted	Weighted	Target*
Age	18-34	8%	22%	22%
	35-54	42%	46%	46%
	55+	50%	32%	31%
Area	District 1	64%	57%	57%
	District 2	36%	43%	43%
Hispanic origin	No, not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	96%	96%	96%
	Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino	4%	4%	4%
Housing tenure	Own	83%	66%	66%
	Rent	17%	34%	34%
Housing type	Attached	38%	47%	47%
	Detached	62%	53%	53%
Race & Hispanic	Not white alone	21%	30%	30%
origin	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	79%	70%	70%
Sex	Female	61%	59%	59%
	Male	39%	41%	41%
Sex/age	Female 18-34	5%	16%	16%
	Female 35-54	26%	25%	25%
	Female 55+	30%	18%	18%
	Male 18-34	3%	6%	6%
	Male 35-54	16%	21%	21%
	Male 55+	20%	13%	13%

The survey datasets were analyzed using all or some of a combination of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), R, Python and Tableau. For the most part, the percentages presented in the reports represent the "percent positive." The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., excellent/good, very safe/somewhat safe, essential/very important, etc.), or, in the case of resident behaviors/participation, the percent positive represents the proportion of respondents indicating "yes" or participating in an activity at least once a month.

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in the tab "Complete data". However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the reports. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

#### Contact

The City of Decatur funded this research. Please contact Meredith Roark of the City of Decatur at Meredith.Roark@decaturga.com if you have any questions about the survey.

#### **Survey Validity**

See the Polco Knowledge Base article on survey validity at <a href="https://info.polco.us/knowledge/statistical-vali">https://info.polco.us/knowledge/statistical-vali</a>

 \* See AAPOR's Standard Definitions for more information at <u>https://www.aapor.org/Publications-Media/AAPOR-Journals/Standard-Definitions.aspx</u>
\* Pasek, J. (2010). ANES Weighting Algorithm. Retrieved from

https://web.stanford.edu/group/iriss/cgi-bin/anesrake/resources/RakingDescription.pdf

\* Targets come from the 2010 Census and 2019 American Community Survey

### Highlights

#### Decatur residents continue to experience a high quality of life.

All items relating to the quality of life in Decatur received high marks and were largely similar to the previous iteration of The NCS. About 9 in 10 survey participants gave positive ratings to Decatur as a place to live, the overall quality of life in the city, and the overall image or reputation of Decatur. These were all higher than the national comparisons. A strong majority of residents reported that they would recommend living in Decatur to someone who asks (94% very or somewhat likely) and also planned to remain in Decatur for the next five years (84%). Both of these were similar to ratings given in comparison communities nationwide; however, the proportion of respondents who planned to remain in Decatur for the next five years declined slightly since the previous survey, dropping from 93% to 84%.

# Residents report widespread use of alternate forms of transportation, while other areas of mobility present opportunities for growth.

Decatur residents show continued support and use of alternate forms of transportation in the city. This is highlighted by strong evaluations of the ease of walking in Decatur, rated positively by 90% of residents, which was higher than the national benchmark. About 6 in 10 gave excellent or good marks to the ease of travel by bicycle, on par with peer comparison communities. A similarly high proportion approved of the ease of travel by public transportation (58%) and favorably reviewed the city's bus or transit services (70%), both of which exceeded the national averages. These positive ratings aligned with the demonstrated use of these alternate modes of transportation. Nearly 9 in 10 residents indicated they had walked or biked instead of driving in the past 12 months, and around 6 in 10 reported using public transportation. Each of these was much higher than other communities across the nation. Additionally, about half of residents had also carpooled with others instead of driving alone, which was also higher than the benchmark.

Other aspects of mobility in Decatur received mixed reviews. Nearly half of residents approved of the ease of travel by car, which held steady from previous survey results but was lower than in comparison communities. Evaluations of traffic signal timing (49% excellent or good) and traffic flow on major streets (39%) both increased over the 2020 survey and were on par with national benchmarks, while the ease of public parking also improved since 2020 but remained lower than the national average (with 35% excellent or good ratings).

#### The economy in Decatur remains strong, despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The economy is a bright spot for Decatur, with a number of items in this facet receiving higher ratings than the national benchmark comparisons. Residents gave above-average evaluations to Decatur as a place to work (82% excellent or good) and as a place to visit (89%). The overall quality of business and service establishments (90%), the vibrancy of the city's downtown and commercial area (86%), and the variety of business and service establishments in Decatur (78%) also surpassed ratings given in comparison communities across the nation. Two-thirds of residents approved of shopping opportunities in the city, and at least half felt favorably about Decatur's employment opportunities, both of which were on par with the benchmarks. Although the cost of living remains a potential area of focus, with only 21% positive ratings, results indicate that residents were generally more optimistic about the economy's effect on their own finances. When asked what impact the economy would likely have on their family income in the next six months, 28% of respondents anticipated a very or somewhat positive impact this year, rebounding from a brief but steep decline in 2020.

#### Residents raise concerns about community design and housing.

Survey items within the facet of community design received mixed results, with a few aspects declining since the 2020 survey iteration. The highest-rated areas included residents' evaluations of their neighborhood as a place to live (95% excellent or good, higher than national benchmarks), the overall appearance of Decatur (85%, similar to comparison communities), and public places where people want to spend time (82%, also higher than average). Aside from these, however, many other areas received less support from respondents. Well-planned commercial growth, well-planned residential growth, and quality of new development garnered positive scores from roughly half of residents, and ratings for both the quality of new development and well-planned residential growth decreased since the previous survey results. Land use, planning and zoning, and code enforcement also received similar ratings and experienced notable declines from the 2020 iteration of The NCS. Consistent with resident views toward the cost of living, about 40% felt favorably about the variety of housing options in the city. In addition, only 15% offered excellent or good ratings for the availability of affordable quality housing, which was lower than the national average.

#### Decatur residents feel a strong sense of community.

Decatur received high marks on nearly all survey items related to community engagement, indicating that this is a strength for the city. Nearly 9 in 10 positively evaluated the sense of civic/community pride and opportunities to volunteer in Decatur. About 8 in 10 gave excellent or good ratings to the neighborliness of residents, opportunities to participate in social events and activities, opportunities to participate in community matters, openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds, sense of community, and residents' connection and engagement with their community. Although the sense of community experienced a slight decline from 2020, this item was still reviewed favorably by a strong majority of residents (79%). All of these aspects of community engagement were rated higher than the national benchmarks.

### **Facets of livability**

Resident perceptions of quality and importance for each of the facets of community livability provide an overview of community strengths and challenges that are useful for planning, budgeting and performance evaluation.

The charts below show the proportion of residents who rated the community facets positively for quality and the priority (importance) placed on each. Also displayed is whether local ratings were lower, similar, or higher than communities across the country (the national benchmark).

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall economic health	85%	86%	87%	• 85% Similar (vs. benchmark*)
Overall quality of the transportation system			70%	69% Similar
Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	• 71%	69%	75%	74% Similar
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure			67%	55% Similar
Overall feeling of safety	88%	84%	85%	<b>79%</b> Similar
Overall quality of natural environment	80%	78%	84%	80% Similar
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities			87%	80% Similar
Overall health and wellness opportunities	87%	83%	88%	86% Similar
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	88%	87%	86%	●85% Higher
Residents' connection and engagement with their community			85%	80% Higher

# Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Decatur community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years.

(% essential or very important)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall economic health	89%	88%	93%	<b>86</b> % Similar
Overall quality of the transportation system			89%	83% Similar
Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	88%	84%	81%	80% Similar
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure			92%	82% Similar
Overall feeling of safety	90%	89%	91%	88% Similar
Overall quality of natural environment	86%	87%	89%	<b>86</b> % Similar
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities			88%	81% Similar
Overall health and wellness opportunities	57%	64%	68%	63% Similar
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	72%	70%	78%	74% Similar
Residents' connection and engagement with their community	83%	85%	79%	76% Similar

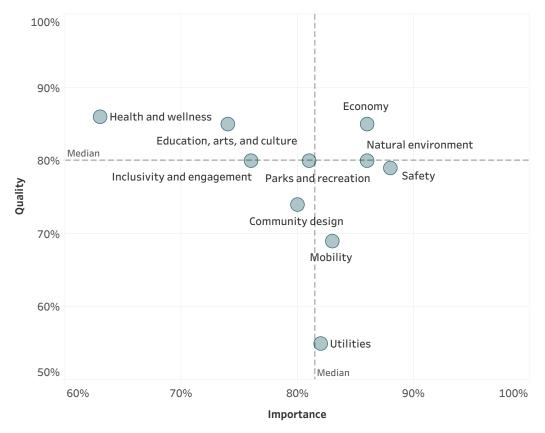
#### **Balancing performance and importance**

Every jurisdiction must balance limited resources while meeting resident needs and striving to optimize community livability. To this end, it is helpful to know what aspects of the community are most important to residents and which they perceive as being of higher or lower quality. It is especially helpful to know when a facet of livability is considered of high importance but rated as lower quality, as this should be a top priority to address.

To help guide City staff and officials with decisions on future resource allocation, resident ratings of the importance of services were compared to their ratings of the quality of these services. To identify the services perceived by residents to have relatively lower quality at the same time as relatively higher importance, all services were ranked from highest perceived quality to lowest perceived quality and from highest perceived importance to lowest perceived importance. Some services were in the top half of both lists (higher quality and higher importance); some were in the top half of one list but the bottom half of the other (higher quality and lower importance or lower quality and higher importance); and some services were in the bottom half of both lists.

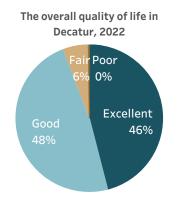
Services receiving quality ratings of excellent or good by 80% or more of respondents were considered of "higher quality" and those with ratings lower than 80% were considered to be of "lower quality." Services were classified as "more important" if they were rated as essential or very important by 82% or more of respondents. Services were rated as "less important" if they received a rating of less than 82%. This classification uses the median ratings for quality and importance to divide the services in half.

The quadrants in the figure below show which community facets were given higher or lower importance ratings (right-left) and which had higher or lower quality ratings (up-down). Facets of livability falling closer to a diagonal line from the lower left to the upper right are those where performance ratings are more commensurate with resident priorities. Facets scoring closest to the lower right hand corner of the matrix ( higher in importance and lower in quality) are those that may warrant further investigation to see if changes to their delivery are necessary to improve their performance. This is the key part of this chart on which to focus. Facets falling in the top left hand corner of the chart (lower in importance but higher in quality) are areas where performance may outscore resident priorities, and may be a consideration for lower resource allocation.



### **Quality of life**

Measuring community livability starts with assessing the quality of life of those who live there, and ensuring that the community is attractive, accessible, and welcoming to all.



# Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Decatur as a place to live	97%	97%	96%	• 95% Higher vs. benchmark*
The overall quality of life	94%	96%	95%	94% Higher

## Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following. (% very or somewhat likely)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
end living in Decatur to someone who asks	94%	96%	948	• 94% Simila
n Decatur for the next five years	87%	90%	93%	
n Decatur for the next five years	878	50%		Si

# Please rate each of the following in the Decatur community. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall image or reputation	94%	94%	93%	89% Higher

### Governance

Strong local governments produce results that meet the needs of residents while making the best use of available resources, and are responsive to the present and future needs of the community as a whole.

### Overall confidence in Decatur government, 2022 Poor 9% Excellent 17% Good 50%

# Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur. (% excellent or good)



# Please rate the following categories of Decatur government performance. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
The value of services for the taxes paid to Decatur	66%	70%	74%	63% Similar
The overall direction that Decatur is taking	63%	71%	72%	62% Similar
The job Decatur government does at welcoming resident involvement	79%	82%	79%	77% Higher
Overall confidence in Decatur government	70%	75%	718	67% Similar
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	72%	75%	74%	66% Similar
Being honest	72%	80%	76%	70% Similar

Being open and transparent to the public			72%	64% Similar
Informing residents about issues facing the community			71%	67% Higher
Treating all residents fairly	69%	72%	74%	<b>70</b> % Similar
Treating residents with respect			82%	

# Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following? (% excellent or good) $% \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) = 0$

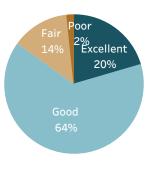
	2016	2018	2020	2022
The City of Decatur	90%	918	88%	
The Federal Government	41%	28%	278	44% Similar

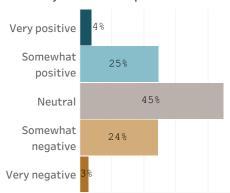
Overall economic health of Decatur, 2022

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

### Economy

Local governments work together with private and nonprofit businesses, and with the community at large, to foster sustainable growth, create jobs, and promote a thriving local economy.





# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall economic health	* <b>*</b> 85%	86%	87%	• 85% Similar vs. benchmark*

#### Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Decatur.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Decatur as a place to work	83%	80%	83%	82% Higher
Decatur as a place to visit	88%	85%	86%	●89% Higher

#### Please rate each of the following in the Decatur community. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall quality of business and service establishments	83%	87%	93%	90% Higher

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Employment opportunities	478	46%	59%	-• 55% Similar
Shopping opportunities	68%	72%	65%	<b>65</b> % Similar
Cost of living	27%	26%	26%	21% Lower

#### Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Economic development	73%	74%	75%	<b>72%</b> Similar

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

(% very or somewhat positive)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	32%	35%	16%	28% Similar

### system in Decatur, 2022 Poor 5% Excellent 18% 26% Good 51%

Overall quality of the transportation

### Mobility

The ease with which residents can move about their communities, whether for commuting, leisure, or recreation, plays a major role in the quality of life for all who live, work, and play in the community.

## Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall quality of the transportation system			70%	• 69% Similar vs. benchmark*

### Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Traffic flow on major streets	35%	33%	28%	39% Similar
Ease of public parking	• 25%	24%	27%	35% Lower
Ease of travel by car	448	36%	43%	48% Lower
Ease of travel by public transportation	59%	58%	53%	58% Higher
Ease of travel by bicycle	<b>●</b> 53%	55%	64%	63% Similar
Ease of walking	83%	88%	92%	90% Higher

### Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

(% yes)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Used public transportation instead of driving	70%	71%	718	58% Much higher
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	54%	55%	55%	52% Higher
Walked or biked instead of driving	89%	86%	86%	86% Much higher

### Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur.

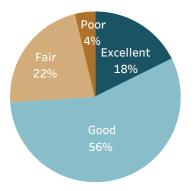
(% excellent or good)

(	2016	2018	2020	2022
Traffic enforcement	66%	62%	66%	63% Similar
Traffic signal timing	40%	42%	42%	49% Similar
Street repair	42% •	34%	37%	35% Similar
Street cleaning	59%	68%	67%	65% Similar
Street lighting	678	74%	75%	•71% Similar
Sidewalk maintenance	42°8	45%	50%	49% Similar
Bus or transit services	67%	66%	63%	●70% Higher

Overall design or layout of Decatur's residential and commercial areas, 2022

### **Community design**

A well-designed community enhances the quality of life for its residents by encouraging smart land use and zoning, ensuring that affordable housing is accessible to all, and providing access to parks and other green spaces.



# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall design or layout of residential and commercial areas	71%	69%	75%	<b>74</b> % Similar vs. benchmark*

#### Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Decatur.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
	95%	96%	96%	●95% Higher
Your neighborhood as a place to live				

#### Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community.

(% excellent or good)

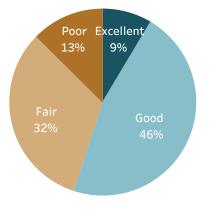
	2016	2018	2020	2022
Well-planned residential growth			52%	45% Similar
Well-planned commercial growth			50%	51% Similar
Well-designed neighborhoods			73%	68% Similar
Preservation of the historical or cultural character of the community			71%	69% Similar



# Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Land use, planning and zoning	49%	53%	51%	46% Similar
Code enforcement	59%	60%	64%	54% Similar

Overall quality of the utility infrastructure in Decatur, 2022



### Utilities

Services such as water, gas, electricity, and internet access play a vital role in ensuring the physical and economic health and well-being of the communities they serve.

# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

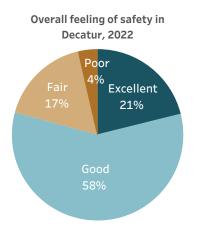
	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall quality of the utility infrastructure			678	55% Similar vs. benchmark*

# Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Affordable high-speed internet access				• <b>61</b> % Similar
Garbage collection	87%	92%	90%	89% Similar
Drinking water				•87% Higher
Sewer services				82% Similar
Storm water management	50%	648	65%	62% Similar



Public safety is often the most important task facing local governments. All residents should feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods and in the greater community, and providing robust safety-related services is essential to residents' quality of life.



# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall feeling of safety	88%	84%	85%	<b>79</b> % Similar vs. benchmark*

#### Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

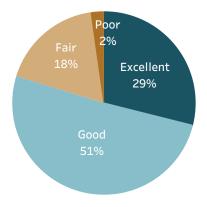
#### (% very or somewhat safe)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
In your neighborhood during the day	97%	98%	99%	96% Similar
In Decatur's downtown/commercial area during the day	97%	94%	948	93% Similar
From property crime			80%	74% Similar
From violent crime			88%	82% Similar
From fire, flood, or other natural disaster			89%	87% Similar

# Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Police/Sheriff services	90%	948	92%	83% Similar
Crime prevention	83%	80%	83%	75% Similar
Animal control	748	76%	88%	81% Similar
Ambulance or emergency medical services			91%	<b>92%</b> Similar
Fire services	97%	99%	96%	95% Similar
Fire prevention and education	92%	90%	88%	<b>90%</b> Similar
Emergency preparedness	<b>9</b> 8	80%	82%	85% Higher

### Overall quality of natural environment in Decatur, 2022



### **Natural environment**

The natural environment plays a vital role in the health and well-being of residents. The natural spaces in which residents live and experience their communities has a direct and profound effect on quality of life.

# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall quality of natural environment	80%	78%	84%	80% Similar vs. benchmark*

# Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Cleanliness	86%	89%	89%	83% Similar
Air quality	75%	79%	818	81% Similar

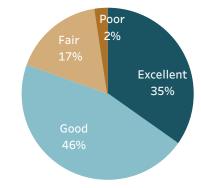
#### Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur.

#### (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Preservation of natural areas	55%	57%	70%	63% Similar
Decatur open space	59%	60%	68%	69% Similar

Recycling	86%	87%	82%	<b>82</b> % Similar
Yard waste pick-up	85%	91%	83%	•87% Higher

## Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities, 2022



### **Parks and recreation**

"There are no communities that pride themselves on their quality of life, promote themselves as a desirable location for businesses to relocate, or maintain that they are environmental stewards of their natural resources, without such communities having a robust, active system of parks and recreation programs for public use and enjoyment." - National Recreation and Park Association

# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
			87%	<b>80</b> % Similar
Overall quality of parks and recreation opportunities				vs. benchmark*

# Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community. (% excellent or good)

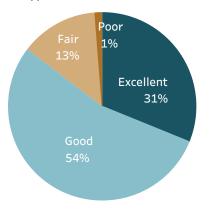
	2016	2018	2020	2022
Availability of paths and walking trails	63%	65%	75%	76% Similar
Fitness opportunities	78%	79%	80%	83% Similar
Recreational opportunities	80%	80%	79%	84% Similar

# Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
City parks	85%	918	87%	●86% Similar
Recreation programs or classes	• 89%	89%	88%	●85% Higher

	88%	91%	079	● 85%
Recreation centers or facilities	000	910	076	Higher

Overall health and wellness opportunities in Decatur, 2022



### Health and wellness

The characteristics of and amenities available in the communities in which people live has a direct impact on the health and wellness of residents, and thus, on their quality of life overall.

# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
	87%	83%	88%	<b>86</b> % Similar
Overall health and wellness opportunities				vs. benchmark*

### Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community.

#### (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Availability of affordable quality food	80%	81%	77%	69% Similar
Availability of affordable quality health care	74%	72%	74%	72% Similar
Availability of preventive health services	76%	73%	70%	<b>77</b> % Similar
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	66%	60%	59%	58% Similar

### Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Health services				82% Similar

### Please rate your overall health.

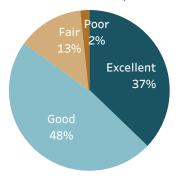
(% excellent or very good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Please rate your overall health.	73%	73%	81%	●80% Higher

### Overall opportunities for education, culture and the arts, 2022

### Education, arts, and culture

Participation in the arts, in educational opportunities, and in cultural activities is linked to increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and enhanced enjoyment of the local community.



# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Overall opportunities for education, culture, and the arts	88%	87%	86%	85% Higher vs. benchmark*

#### Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community.

#### (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	85%	84%	84%	85% Much higher
Community support for the arts			86%	●89% Much higher
Availability of affordable quality childcare/preschool	60%	59%	62%	49% Similar
K-12 education	<b>●</b> 93%	93%	90%	86% Higher
Adult educational opportunities	74%	74%	72%	68% Similar
Opportunities to attend special events and festivals	89%	91%	92%	89% Higher

#### Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Decatur.

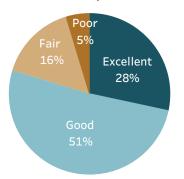
(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Public library services	88%	918		<b>91</b> % Similar

Residents' connection and engagement with their community, 2022

### Inclusivity and engagement

Inclusivity refers to a cultural and environmental feeling of belonging; residents who feel invited to participate within their communities feel more included, involved, and engaged than those who do not.



# Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Decatur as a whole. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Residents' connection and engagement with their community			85%●	• 80% Higher VS. benchmark*

# Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Decatur. (% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Decatur as a place to raise children	97%	96%	96%	92% Higher
Decatur as a place to retire	66%	64%	66%	57% Similar
Sense of community	83%	86%	90%	79% Higher

### Please rate the job you feel the Decatur community does at each of the following.

(% excellent or good)

2016	2018	2020	2022
		83%	●79%
			Similar

Attracting people from diverse backgrounds	58%	<b>58</b> % Similar
Valuing/respecting residents from diverse backgrounds	75%	- <b>72</b> % Similar
Taking care of vulnerable residents	58%	<b>53</b> % Similar

#### Please also rate each of the following in the Decatur community.

(% excellent or good)

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Sense of civic/community pride			888	●87% Higher
Neighborliness of residents	● 83%	85%	84%	81% Higher
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	90%	86%	90%	84% Higher
Opportunities to volunteer	90%	90%	87%	●87% Higher
Opportunities to participate in community matters	85%	88%	83%	●83% Higher
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	79%	77%	76%	75% Higher

### Residents' participation levels

#### Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.

(%	yes)	

	2016	2018	2020	2022
Contacted the City of Decatur for help or information	€ 52%	55%	52%	48% Similar vs. benchmark*
Contacted Decatur elected officials to express your opinion	• 23%	24%	23%	19% Similar
Attended a local public meeting	35% •	35%	33%	27% Similar
Watched a local public meeting	23%	21%	16%	24% Similar
Volunteered your time to some group/activity	478 •	49%	44%	36% Similar
Campaigned or advocated for a local issue, cause, or candidate	33%	42%	26%	25% Similar
Voted in your most recent local election			81%	•84% Similar
In general, how many times do you: (% a few times a week or more) 2016	2018	2020	)	2022
Access the internet from your home		94%●		96% Similar
Access the internet from your cell phone		94%		● 95% Similar

Visit social media sites	78%• <b></b>
Use or check email	96%•
Share your opinions online	32%• <b>26%</b> Similar
Shop online	57% 63% Similar

### **Custom questions**

Below are the results of each custom question on the survey. The percentage of positive responses (Strongly/Somewhat support) is shown.

		% positive	
	How much would you support or oppose the City of Decatur updating the City's noise ordinance to limit usage of gas-powered lawn equipment city wide?	69	9%
To achieve the goals set in Decatur's Clean Energy Plan, the City will consider a number of potential actions related to	Creating a rebate program for homeowners of all income levels implementing energy efficiency upgrades, including insulation, installing high-efficiency LED lighting, and converting to all-electric appliances?		86%
energy efficiency and clean energy generation and procurement. How much would you support or oppose Decatur using City resources (budgets, staff time, etc.) for the following actions?	Creating a rebate program for homeowners at or below a certain income level implementing energy efficiency upgrades, including insulation, installing high-efficiency LED lighting, and converting to all-electric appliances? Creating a rebate program for commercial building owners,		84%
	including multi-family apartment buildings, implementing energy efficiency upgrades, including replacing HVAC systems, installing high-efficiency LED lighting, and converting to all-electric appliances?		85%
	Creating a rebate program for residents of all income levels purchasing electric scooters, bikes, and/or vehicles	7	18
	Creating a rebate program for residents at or below a certain income level purchasing electric scooters, bikes, and/or vehicles		74%
	Installing and operating public EV-charging stations across the community, including in City parks and on City rights-of-way?		93%

% positive