

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**DESTINATION**

**2030**

**EMBRACING THE VISION**



City of Decatur®

Decatur adopts  
a new strategic  
plan for the  
next 10 years

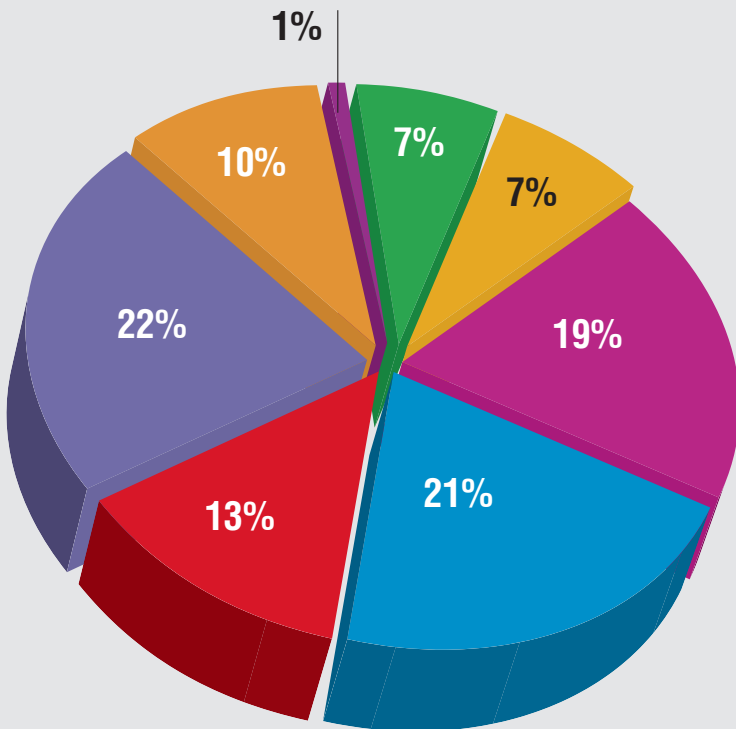
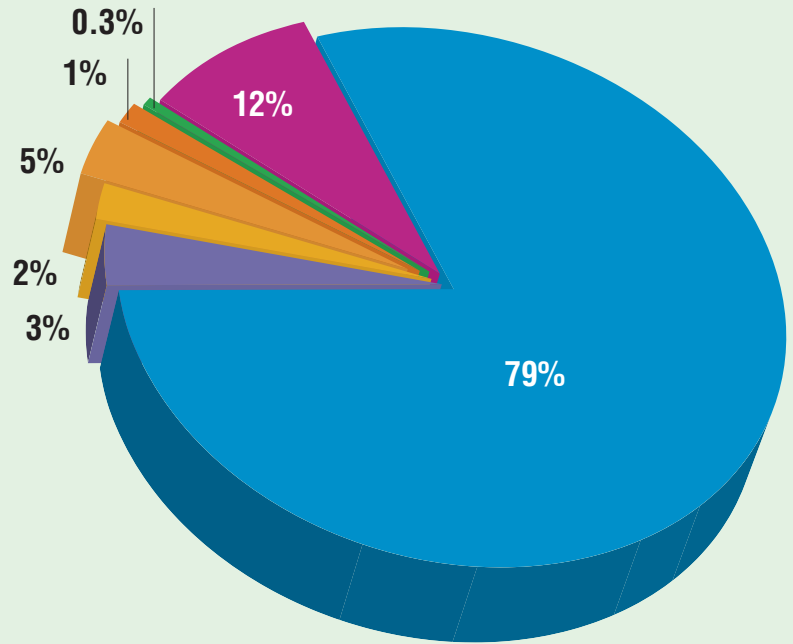
# BY THE NUMBERS

The City Commission adopted the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget in June. Behind these numbers is a bold work plan to embrace the goals of the 2020 strategic plan. Learn more at [decaturga.com/budget](http://decaturga.com/budget).

## REVENUES

FY 2022-2023 Budget

SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Taxes	25,657,940	78.6%
Licenses, Permits and Inspections	859,400	2.6%
Penalties, Fines and Forfeitures	742,000	2.3%
Charges for Current Services	1,557,550	4.8%
Intergovernmental Revenues	340,500	1.0%
Miscellaneous Revenue	106,000	0.4%
Sale of Fixed Assets	10,000	0.0%
Operating Transfers	(526,030)	-1.6%
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	3,813,500	11.9%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$32,645,860</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## EXPENDITURES

FY 2022-2023 Budget

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
Governmental Control	371,730	1.1%
General Government	2,241,790	6.9%
Community and Economic Development	2,340,740	7.2%
Administrative Services	6,160,130	18.9%
Police	6,978,170	21.4%
Fire	4,127,270	12.6%
Public Works	7,269,290	22.3%
Active Living	3,156,740	9.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>32,645,860</b>	<b>100%</b>

# DECATUR'S CITY COMMISSION



**Mayor  
PATTI GARRETT**

“ We’ve reached 2030, and over the past 10 years we have continued to maintain our sense of place, and Decatur has opened more opportunities for racial and socioeconomic diversity and housing choices and has embraced the results of community planning evidenced by a first-class sidewalk and bicycling network; electric shuttle bus services; and an enhanced tree canopy. Diverse offerings of new businesses; residents who are involved in every aspect of the city; multiple collaborations among elected officials, staff, City Schools of Decatur, nonprofits and many others who live, work and play in Decatur all foster a community that is welcoming to all.”



**Mayor Pro Tem  
TONY POWERS**

“ We’re in the year 2030 and it’s a fabulous early summer evening in the city. I just left a food truck event at Legacy Park where joggers and walkers were enjoying the track. Young families were enjoying quality time at the Villages of Legacy development. As I headed towards home, I noticed a young father teaching his son how to safely ride a bike. He nodded at me and away they went.

Plans do make a difference.”



**Commissioner  
KELLY WALSH**

“ What does Decatur look like in 2030? Here’s what I envision, a healthy city that’s safe and walkable with complete streets that keep Decatur moving. It’s a green city, with a robust tree canopy and ample green space that invites us all to get outdoors to enjoy music, culture, and art regardless of age or ability. We’re a diverse population that thrives on a more balanced tax base and is supported by a network of affordable housing and efficient transportation options. It will be a unique place where everyone is welcome, and we create space for all those who choose to live here.”



**Commissioner  
GEORGE  
DUSENBURY**

“ I envision the Decatur of 2030 will be a more vibrant city. While we will have continued to grow, my hope is that we have grown with investments in parks, sidewalks, plazas and trails so that the quality of life of residents has improved. Investments in solar, energy efficiency and our tree canopy will have made us a more sustainable community. While increased affordable housing will have strengthened Decatur’s social fabric by making us more economically, racially and culturally diverse.”



**Commissioner  
LESA MAYER**

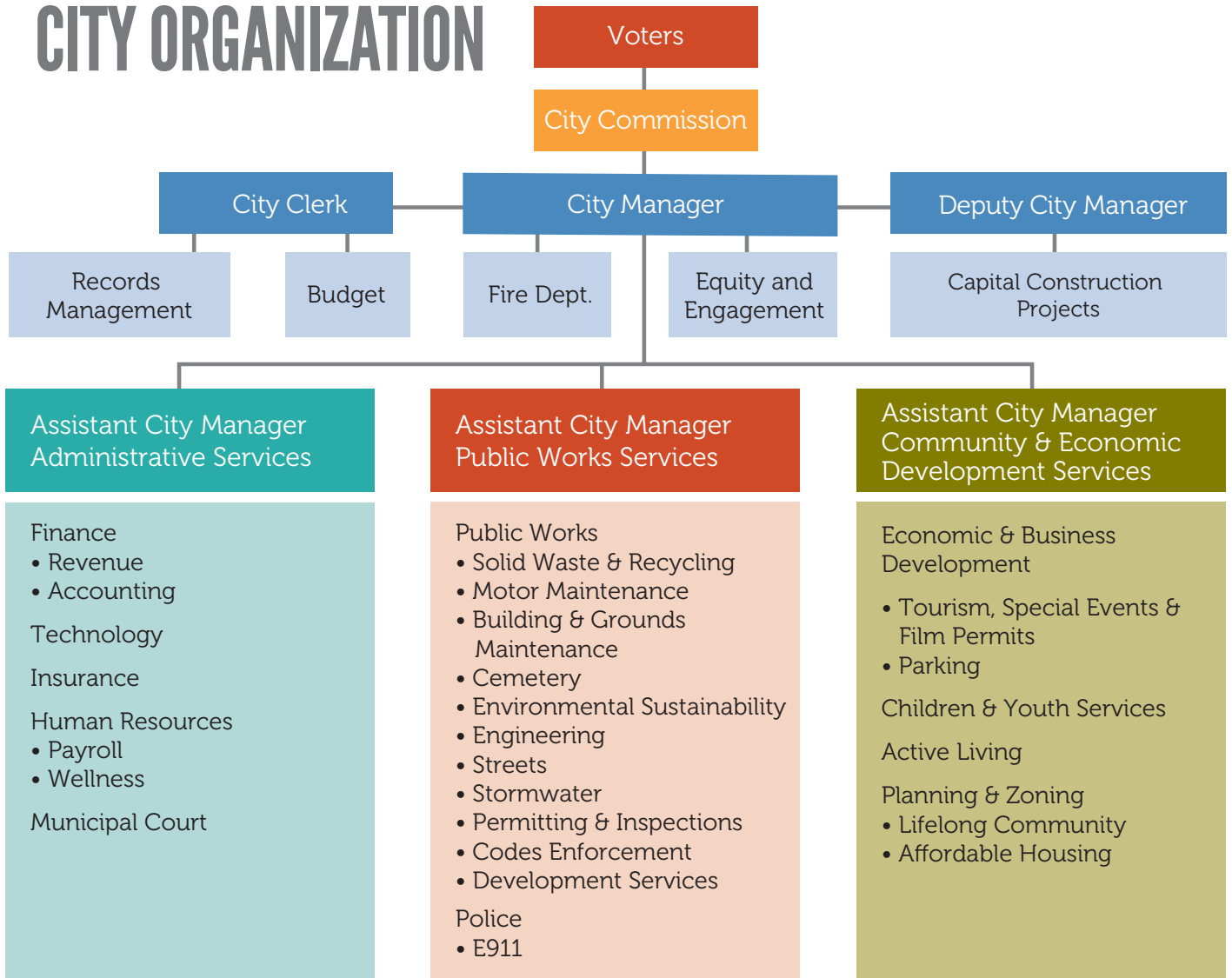
“ In ten years, I expect to see a vibrant and thriving Decatur that has also restored and preserved its diversity and made good on its promises of inclusion.”

**ENVISIONING  
THE FUTURE**

What does the Decatur community look like in

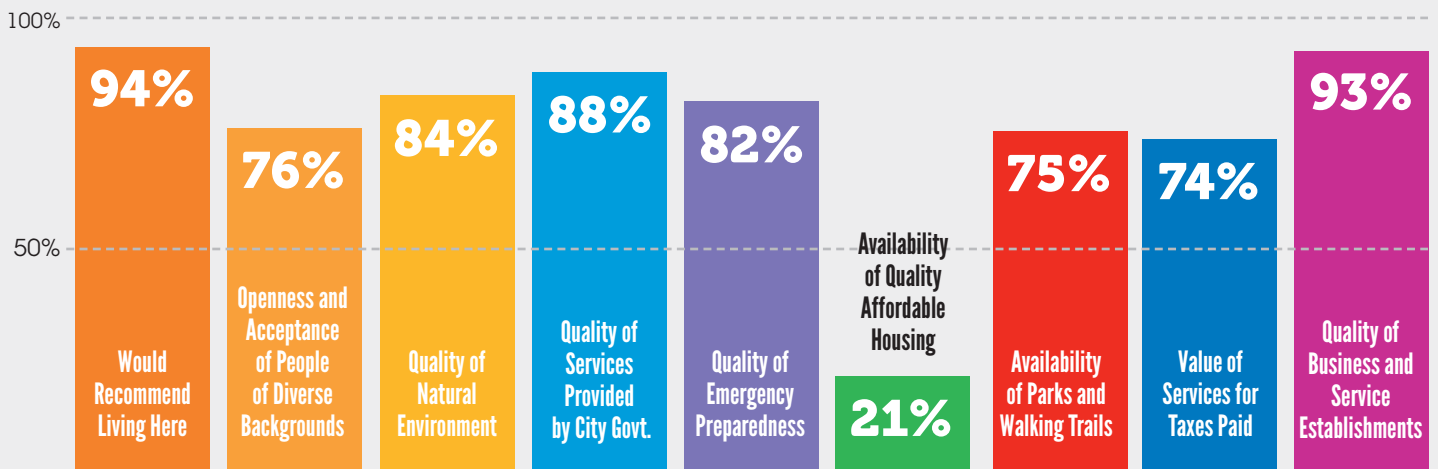
**2030?**

# CITY ORGANIZATION



## National Citizen Survey 2020

## Government Scorecard: How Are We Doing? *(percent responding excellent or good)*



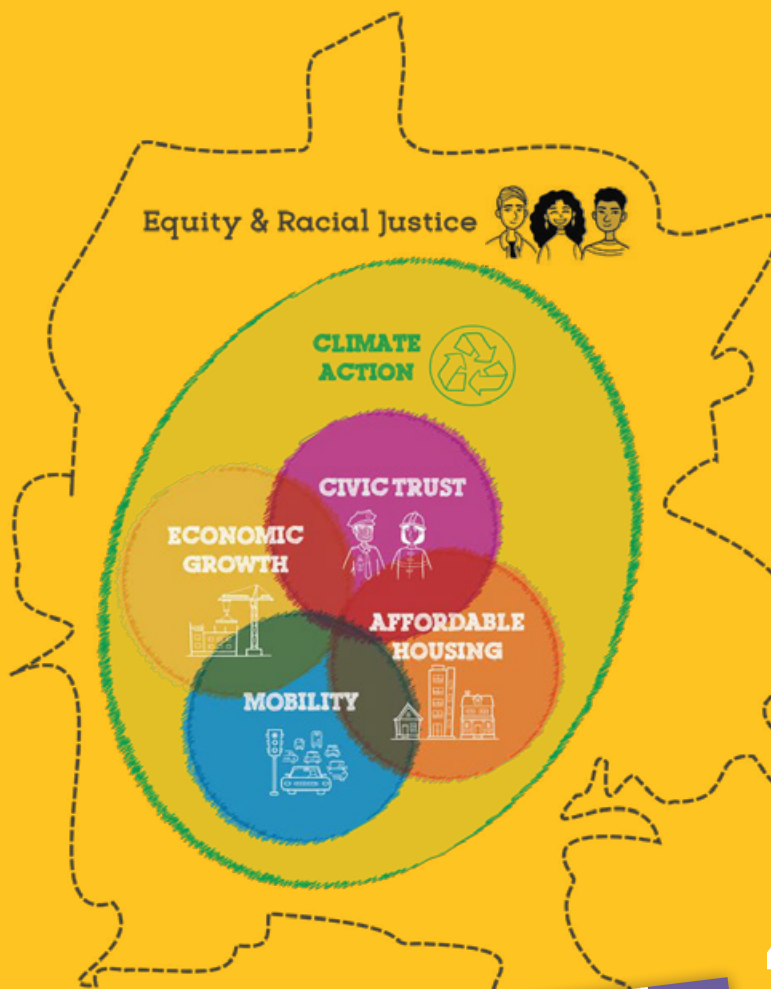
\*Survey results throughout this annual report are from the 2020 National Citizen Survey. The survey is conducted every two years by the National Research Center, Inc., Boulder, Colo., on behalf of the International City/County Management Association.

# DECATUR HAS A PLAN

In fall of 2021, the Decatur City Commission adopted the 2020 Strategic Plan – *Destination: 2030*

Decatur's Strategic Plan guides City government at the highest level by providing direction on policies and actions to bring the community's vision for its future to life and serves as the foundation for Decatur's annual budget. The new plan sets the foundation for the city to take bold action over the next 10 years that will make our community greater and leave a legacy for years to come.

The plan includes six themes: Equity & Racial Justice, Climate Action, Civic Trust, Affordable Housing, Mobility, and Economic Growth, and five mission statements.



**1 THINK HOLISTICALLY.** Identify and leverage opportunities to create interconnected policies, programs, and projects that achieve equitable outcomes across all community priorities.

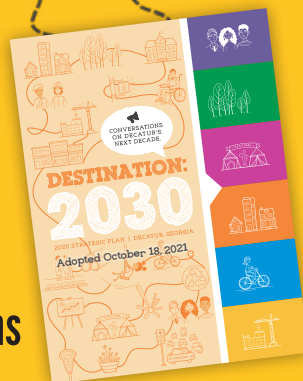
**2 CONFRONT CLIMATE CHALLENGES.** Align our goals and practices to strengthen environmental sustainability and resilience in our city and region.

**3 WORK TOGETHER.** Design and promote ample and ongoing opportunities for community engagement, collaboration, and regional, cross-sector partnerships.

**4 EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY.** Define what success looks like, measure outcomes along the way, and tell our story.

**5 PIONEER INNOVATION.** Inspire ourselves and others by continuing to seek bold and creative solutions in planning and doing.

View the plan in its entirety at [decaturga.com/masterplans](https://decaturga.com/masterplans)



## RACIAL EQUITY STAND, ADOPTED 2021

The City of Decatur is an organization that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion with clear intentional actions in order to dismantle systemic racism and bias. We commit to proactively listen, learn and act to promote equitable outcomes and to cultivate a culture where everyone feels heard, welcome and valued. We accept this responsibility and pledge to hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

## Art for the People

In September, the city unveiled the first installment of the Art for the People project with “What Sonia Said,” a sculpture by Ellex Swavoni, commissioned to provide representation of Black and Indigenous imagery in public art in Decatur. The project is directed by the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights.



# EQUITY & RACIAL JUSTICE

## Anti-Racism Speaker Series

During the 2021 Anti-Racism Speaker Series, the Better Together Advisory Board engaged community leaders, city officials, and activists on the topic of trust. The conversations explored the trust deficit in our communities, how it impacts race relations, and how we can deepen collaborative relationships and trust throughout the city of Decatur.

The Board kicked off the series with a virtual conversation with Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal, local authors of *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight*, about prejudice and the racial tension that exists in our country. Part two of the series included a panel discussion with representatives from the Decatur Police Department and the City Schools of Decatur in conversation with the Beacon Hill Black Alliance and two Decatur High School student leaders, creating a space for an honest dialog about trust as the foundation for constructive and purposeful civic engagement and institutional responsiveness. The 2021 series concluded with a discussion on coalition building, community engagement, and establishing trusting relationships with Robin Rues Simmons.

The Anti-Racism Speaker series was designed to generate awareness of equity concerns in the city and to hold the city accountable for meeting established goals and implementing policies to achieve the aspiration of being an inclusive, equitable and just city. To see and hear the speakers, visit [decaturga.com/speakerseries](https://decaturga.com/speakerseries).



## BEACON HILL CONCERT SERIES

In March, the Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights, in collaboration with the City of Decatur, held its inaugural concert event on March 27 with a performance by John Boy & Surround Sound that energized the crowd and brought many attendees to their feet. The concerts, which feature live music by Black and indigenous artists, are inspired by Beacon Hill elders as a forum for sharing memories, celebrating the historic Beacon Hill neighborhood, and bringing together the community.

# ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Welcome New Businesses

Decatur welcomed **London Bridge Academy of Excellence** as a new business in July 2021. London Bridge offers tutoring services for ages 5-13, and part-time preschool services for ages 3-5, conducted by a licensed teacher with more than 10 years' experience. The academy is at 431 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 7.

**Boho115**, a breezy, multi-level restaurant serving up ceviches, fresh fish, sashimis, tostadas and tacos, Argentinian steak and empanadas, opened on the downtown square this spring. Notable on the menu is "conservas," fresh caught seafood hand-packed in tins in Spain and Portugal. The restaurant is at 115 Sycamore St. on the square.



## DECATUR RETAIL INCUBATOR PROJECT

The Decatur Downtown Development Authority selected three businesses, ABETTERBUZZ Brand Goods, Dope Coffee Company and Royal Thanaka Natural Skincare, as part of its inaugural retail recruitment incubator. The incubator provided these online-only businesses with the opportunity to test their concepts in a brick-and-mortar location at 431 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., for six months.

# HOMELESSNESS TOWN HALL



The City of Decatur hosted a virtual town hall to discuss homelessness in our community. Participants had the opportunity to engage with experts who have lived experience with homelessness and homeless outreach. The intent was to learn about misconceptions surrounding homelessness, receive updates on the city's current initiatives, and to provide direct feedback to city representatives.

In 2020, the city expanded its cross-departmental in-house homelessness task team. The team continues to meet, discuss issues, and conduct research with a variety of people, including individuals experiencing homelessness, outreach organizations, and service providers.

Partnering with Frontline Response (formerly known as Atlanta Dream Center), the city continues to connect community members experiencing homelessness with consistent and trauma-informed case management. Since welcoming their new Director of Homelessness in August, Frontline Response has provided case management to 46 individuals and has placed 11 individuals in shelters and housing programs. Still, more work lies ahead as the city continues to take steps toward preventing and ending homelessness.

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## “Missing Middle” conversations

Since hosting the Affordable Housing Summit in 2018, Decatur has been working to collect public input and develop programs to address the lack of housing diversity in Decatur. In 2019, the City assembled the Affordable Housing Task Force, comprised of community members, to present recommendations that were incorporated into the 2020 Decatur Strategic Plan.

As the City moves forward with these initiatives, the next step is housing policy reform to re-introduce the “missing middle” housing types once so prevalent in Decatur's neighborhoods. The first phase of this housing policy initiative included three virtual community-focused conversations, an online survey, storymap, video, postcards, and a hotline to call to ask questions and provide input.

The second phase of public engagement for the City's Affordable Housing Policy includes soliciting additional input from the community. Visit [decaturga.com/affordablehousing](http://decaturga.com/affordablehousing) by July 31, to learn more about initiatives and to submit questions online. The City's affordable housing fellow Kristin Allin is available to speak to neighborhood groups and organizations who want to learn more in a smaller, in-person setting. Questions from the community will be compiled for discussion by a panel at the Affordable Housing Forum on Aug. 17. These questions and input will help finalize the recommendations to the Decatur City Commission as they consider housing policy changes to the Unified Development Ordinance.

## New Programs for Housing Affordability

In July 2021, the Decatur Land Trust (DLT) was incorporated as a non-profit entity to facilitate the purchase and development of homes, rental units, and land with 99-year renewable land leases for permanent affordability. The DLT will partner with the Decatur Development Authority on the Cottage Court Pilot Project at 230 Commerce Dr.



In March, Decatur Land Trust launched two new programs for housing affordability. As part of Decatur's new Housing Affordability program, DLT opened the application process for the purchase of three new residences to City Schools of Decatur, City of Decatur, and Decatur Housing Authority employees. The properties are located within the Park 108 Residences, a redevelopment project by Toll Brothers, located at the intersection of East Lake Drive and Park Place. The new Park 108 community will offer 33 modern condominiums within a historic 1930s Oakhurst building that features oversized windows, lofted ceilings, and wide-plank hardwood flooring. These new residences are zoned for City Schools of Decatur with convenient access to MARTA's East Lake station. Two residences are efficiency (studio), and one residence is a one-bedroom unit. Income restrictions will apply, and buyers must meet lending requirements.

DLT is also accepting statements of interest from Decatur homeowners who wish to apply for the new Decatur Home ReHAB program. Developed to help preserve existing homes for low-income and legacy residents, the program assists with deferred home maintenance projects. To submit a statement of interest online visit [decaturlandtrust.org](http://decaturlandtrust.org).

The Decatur Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preserving the long-term affordability of Decatur's homes and neighborhoods.





# CLIMATE ACTION

## Clean Energy Plan

In October, the City of Decatur launched Clean Energy Decatur, an initiative to develop a plan for a clean energy future. A series of recorded educational sessions led by subject matter experts on clean energy in Decatur and metro-Atlanta were released throughout the fall and winter to provide a better understanding of the Decatur energy landscape and inform the topics discussed in roundtables. As part of an ongoing effort to protect the city and community from the negative impacts of climate change, Decatur is creating a Clean Energy Plan to help us move away from reliance on fossil fuels and toward a resilient, renewable future.

The Clean Energy Plan is an element of Decatur's 2020 Strategic Plan, Destination: 2030, which identifies climate action, racial equity, and enhanced mobility as top community priorities. Supported by Southface Institute and Greenlink Analytics, the City hosted a series of outreach and educational events to align the Clean Energy Plan with Decatur's values and priorities. While our electricity provider, Georgia Power, will add more renewable energy to its portfolio in the years to come, their current plans only have them increasing from their current 7 percent in 2021 up to 24 percent renewables by 2035. This would leave the remaining balance of 76 percent coming from nonrenewable energy sources like coal, natural gas, and nuclear power.

To learn more about Decatur's Clean Energy Plan, visit [cleanenergydecatur.com](http://cleanenergydecatur.com).



## Mapping Decatur's Urban Heat Island

In May, the City of Decatur began installing a network of temperature and humidity sensors to help study and better understand the local urban heat island effect. The sensors will be located near parks, schools, and along pedestrian and cyclist routes, and will measure the increase in evening temperatures caused by the accumulation of heat-trapping materials like asphalt. The City will use the data to develop plans for minimizing urban heat islands across the city and creating a cooler, more comfortable Decatur. For more information or to report a damaged sensor, contact the Public Works Department, 404-377-5571.

## Tree Ordinance

The city revised its Tree Canopy Conservation Ordinance in January, which included an increase in the citywide tree canopy goal to 65%. A second arborist position was added mid-year to the Public Works Department roster to assist property owners and the city in achieving its tree-related goals. A multi-year invasive plant removal project at Legacy Park is already underway with assistance from the experts at Trees Atlanta.

# PARKS AND REC MASTER PLAN

Recreatur, Decatur's new Parks and Recreation Master Plan process, launched in May. This plan is a citywide effort to create a vision for Decatur's parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. Collaborative public input is a critical component of the plan, and we need your thoughts and feedback on questions like:

- Where do we need more parks, playgrounds, and other facilities?
- What recreation programs do you want?
- How can parks and recreation help address the complex challenges facing our community?

Visit [decaturrecreatur.com](http://decaturrecreatur.com) for more information on how to participate.



# MOBILITY



## Decatur Receives Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

The League of American Bicyclists honored the efforts of City of Decatur to build better places for people to bike with a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award. Decatur joins 497 communities across the country in the movement for safer streets and better bicycling for everyone. The award recognizes Decatur for its commitment to creating transportation and recreational resources that benefit its residents of all ages and abilities while encouraging healthier and more sustainable transportation choices. Decatur is the first Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community in Georgia.

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly America program sets the standard for how communities build and benchmark progress toward making biking better. The Silver-level BFC award recognizes Decatur's commitment to improving conditions for all people who bike through investments in bike education programs, regular bike events that promote and encourage people to choose biking, pro-bike policies, and bike infrastructure.

The five levels of the BFC award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze, plus an honorable mention category – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. Awarded communities must renew their status every four years to ensure that they not only maintain existing efforts, but also keep up with changing technology, national safety standards, and community-driven best practices.

## NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

In January, Commissioner **George Dusenbury** was recognized by *Georgia Trend* as one of 100 Most Influential Georgians.



The Georgia Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America named Decatur's Communications Manager **Renae (Madison) Jackson** Chapter Champion for her work with the organization's DEI Committee.



Decatur's Downtown Program Manager **Shirley Baylis** completed The Essentials program, an economic development program hosted by the Georgia Academy for Economic Development.



## Scott Richards Appointed as New Police Chief

In April, the Decatur City Commission confirmed the appointment of Scott Richards as the Police Chief for the City of Decatur.

Chief Richards began his career as a police officer with the City of Decatur in 1994 and has served with distinction in various capacities throughout his tenure. He served as Deputy Police Chief starting in 2016 prior to being appointed Interim Police Chief in April 2021. Chief Richards received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia State University and a Master of Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University.



The City initiated an extensive national recruitment process upon the retirement of former Police Chief Mike Booker who served in that position for 15 years.

## Mayor Garrett Joins ARC Board

In January, the Atlanta Regional Commission swore in Decatur Mayor Patti Garrett as a new board member, along with eight other elected and citizen leaders.



## RETURNS AND REVAMPS



### Decatur Wine Festival Returned

The Decatur Wine Festival, Decatur Arts Alliance's largest fundraising event, returned to the square in Decatur in November. More than 500 wines from around the world were available for tasting, a DJ was on site to keep the tunes spinning, local restaurants sold food inside the festival, and chalk artist Jessi Queen created chalk art. The Decatur Arts Alliance provides free annual festivals and events, exhibitions, and outdoor art installations.



### New Judge Appointments

The City Commission appointed Denise VanLanduyt to serve as a part-time judge and Cinque Axam, Tom Stubbs, and Tyler Edgerton to serve as substitute judges for the Municipal Court.

### Voice of the People

National Research Center (NRC) at Polco and the International City and County Management Association (ICMA) have announced Decatur, Georgia, as the winner of the Voice of the People (VOP) awards for Excellence in Inclusivity/Engagement. The VOP awards are the only national awards that honor local governments based on feedback from residents. The award was presented to City Manager Andrea Arnold and City Clerk Meredith Roark.

Decatur's award recognizes its exceptionally high ratings on the National Community Survey (the NCS) and its intentional, data-informed decisions.



### Busking Program Revamped

The Decatur Arts Alliance updated the program guidelines for its Busking program. The program encourages street performers and emerging artists to showcase their talents and contribute to a lively street culture. Visit [decaturationartsalliance.org](http://decaturationartsalliance.org) or contact [busking@decaturationartsalliance.org](mailto:busking@decaturationartsalliance.org) to learn more about the program specifications or to submit an application.

# CIVIC TRUST

## MEETING LOCATIONS

Unless noted otherwise, volunteer boards and commissions meet in the City Commission Conference Room at Decatur City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St.

### Decatur Downtown Development Authority

### Decatur Development Authority

The Decatur Downtown Development Authority and the citywide Decatur Development Authority are charged with planning, organizing, and financing projects that will revitalize and redevelop Decatur's commercial business districts. The Downtown Development Authority focuses on the historic commercial downtown central business district and works to market a positive image for the city.

The Authorities hold joint meetings on the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m.

The Development Authorities are staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386 or email [angela.threadgill@decaturga.com](mailto:angela.threadgill@decaturga.com).

# resident boards + commissions

Many Decatur residents serve on volunteer boards, commissions, and task forces. They are appointed to these volunteer groups by the City Commission and staffed by City of Decatur employees. If you have an interest in serving, or if you'd like more meeting information, visit [decaturga.com/bc](http://decaturga.com/bc).



### Better Together Advisory Board

Guides and advises the City Commission and the community around issues of equity, inclusion and engagement. The Board also serves as advocate and advisor in implementing the recommendations of the Better Together Community Action Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Engagement. The plan contains specific action items for individuals, organizations and local government to undertake in order to cultivate a just, welcoming, inclusive, equitable and compassionate city.

The Better Together Advisory Board meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information contact Linda Harris, 678-553-6512, [linda.harris@decaturga.com](mailto:linda.harris@decaturga.com) or Renae Jackson, 678-553-6561, [renae.jackson@decaturga.com](mailto:renae.jackson@decaturga.com)

### Board Accomplishments

- In partnership with the Decatur City Commission, presented the third annual Welcoming Business Award to Paolino Italian Restaurant. Better Together established the award to reward and publicly recognize leadership actions that create a welcoming and inclusive business environment in Decatur and encourage businesses to prioritize inclusivity as a "best practice." Paolino was recognized for its diverse staff and easy access to patio seating for those with disabilities.
- Gave input to the consultants developing the criteria for Decatur's next police chief and a board member also participated in the final interview process.
- Appointed a BTAB representative to serve on the Parks & Greenspace Master Plan steering committee.
- At the request of the City Commission, reviewed the final Tree Ordinance recommendations using a racial equity lens and provided feedback to the Commission.



## Zoning Board of Appeals

Conducts public hearings on appeals from decisions of the zoning administrator and considers requests for variances from zoning requirements. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is staffed by John Maximuk, 678-553-6570, [john.maximuk@decaturga.com](mailto:john.maximuk@decaturga.com).

## Active Living Advisory Board

Serves as advocates and advisors on projects and programs that help citizens safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines. Supports the city's ongoing efforts to improve sidewalks and intersections, calm traffic and expand the network of bike paths and walking trails. It seeks to educate residents about obesity and lifestyle issues and implement programs designed to change behavior and encourage healthier habits.

The Active Living Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St. For more information contact Sara Holmes, [sara.holmes@decaturga.com](mailto:sara.holmes@decaturga.com).

### Board Accomplishments:

- Identified board goals
- Developed a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Supported master planning process and eco-counter integrations
- Enhanced mental health awareness related to physical movement post-COVID in the community
- Completed a SWOT analysis on the Active Living Division
- Identified seven locations to install eco-counters throughout the city.
- Rebooted Bright at Night walks on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.
- Created Explore Decatur walk series to various parks throughout the city

## Planning Commission

Conducts public hearings on land use and zoning changes, proposed subdivisions of property and proposed planned unit developments, and recommends actions for consideration by the City Commission. It also reviews and recommends changes in zoning regulations and future land-use plans. The Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

The Planning Commission is staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386 or email [angela.threadgill@decaturga.com](mailto:angela.threadgill@decaturga.com).

## Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Assists with the expanding and implementing of initiatives for helping residents age in place, assist city staff with outreach to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and diverse populations

The board meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The board created several committees chaired by board members and that are open to the community including Transportation, Housing, Taxation and Affordability, Communication, and Decatur Neighbors.

For more information contact Lee-Ann Harvey, 678-553-6548, [leeann.harvey@decaturga.com](mailto:leeann.harvey@decaturga.com).

### Board Accomplishments:

- Board members refocused to gain more knowledge regarding not only being age-friendly but also being Alzheimer's friendly and dementia friendly.
- The Board continued to increase its focus on learning more about how Decatur can be an Alzheimer's friendly, dementia friendly, and age-friendly city. Thanks to Decatur resident Whitney DeMarlo Oeltmann with the Dementia Spotlight Foundation, the board learned that dementia is a chronic disease. The board will continue to work with DeMarlo to provide education.

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## Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Provides recommendations to the City Commission regarding the city's environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives. Assists with implementation of city projects that impact the natural environment to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners in the City of Decatur.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board meets on the fourth Friday of each month from 9-11 a.m. Visit [decaturga.com/bc-esb](http://decaturga.com/bc-esb) for meeting locations.

Participation on the committees is open to anyone who is interested. For more information contact David Nifong, [david.nifong@decaturga.com](mailto:david.nifong@decaturga.com), or 678-553-6577.

### Board Accomplishments

- Tree ordinance
  - Provided support and policy recommendations for the City's revision of the Tree Protection Ordinance
  - The board worked as a liaison to the community and helped increase public participation in the revision process
  - The new ordinance includes an ambitious citywide canopy goal, increased protection of healthy trees and stronger requirements for replanting to protect and expand Decatur's tree canopy
- Recycling guidelines and education campaign
  - The board played an instrumental role in updating the city's guidelines for commingled recycling, with the goal of reducing contamination and increasing material recovery rates.
  - ESB has helped guide Decatur's community education and outreach campaign

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## Decatur Youth Council

The Decatur Youth Council (DYC) is a city-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the City of Decatur and attend public, private, and home-based schools.

The Decatur Youth Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 4 to 5:30 p.m. (except June through August).

For further information on the Decatur Youth Council, contact Meredith Roark, 404-370-4102 or [Meredith.roark@decaturga.com](mailto:Meredith.roark@decaturga.com).



### Board Accomplishments:

- 2021 Fall Food and Toiletries Drive – collected and donated more 1,000 pounds of goods to DEAM, DCM and Free99Fridge.
- Hosted an outdoor family-friendly holiday movie night at Decatur Legacy Park in December 2021.
- Weeded and replanted the West Howard Planters from Park Drive to Atlanta Avenue on April 16 and finished weeding the planters from Atlanta Avenue to Commerce Drive on May 19.

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## Historic Preservation Commission

Ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five Local Historic Districts (McDonough-Adams-King's Highway District, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and the Clairemont Historic District) are consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The January meeting is a work session open to the public in which the Commission does not review Certificates of Appropriateness (There is no meeting in July.)

The Historic Preservation Commission is staffed by Aileen de la Torre. Call 404-371-8386 or email [aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com](mailto:aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com).



## Excellence in Reporting

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Decatur for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

## Captain Gary Menard receives Thomas O. Davis Award

Fire Captain Gary Menard was recognized as the 2022 recipient of Decatur’s Thomas O. Davis Award during Mayor Patti Garrett’s January State of the City address. Menard embodies the spirit of this award for his dedication to public service and his efforts to strengthen the bond between the city and the community. Further, his selflessness inspires everyone to be a better version of themselves. Menard often partners with community groups to assist in projects, including food/ toiletry drives, vaccine awareness campaigns, and programs to support the health and wellness of our youth and senior citizens. Congratulations to Captain Menard, a champion for our community



## Touch-a-Truck and Touch-a-Budget Return

This year, Touch-a-Truck and Truck-a-Budget joined forces with Touch-a-Truck. The event gave community members a chance to touch, explore, and see their favorite truck or equipment on wheels, while also offering opportunities to receive insights and provide input on pending spending. For more information on the city’s budget, visit [decaturga.com/budget](http://decaturga.com/budget).





P.O. Box 220 ■ Decatur, GA 30031  
404-370-4100 ■ [decaturga.com](http://decaturga.com)

