



THE
PLAN
IS THE

STORY

DECATUR'S
NEXT 200 YEARS
START NOW



2023
ANNUAL REPORT

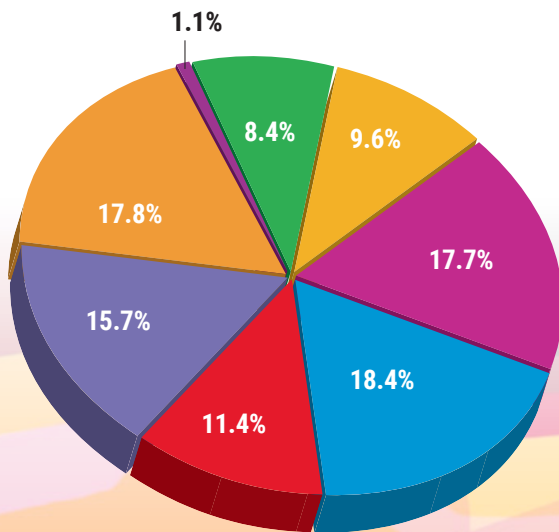
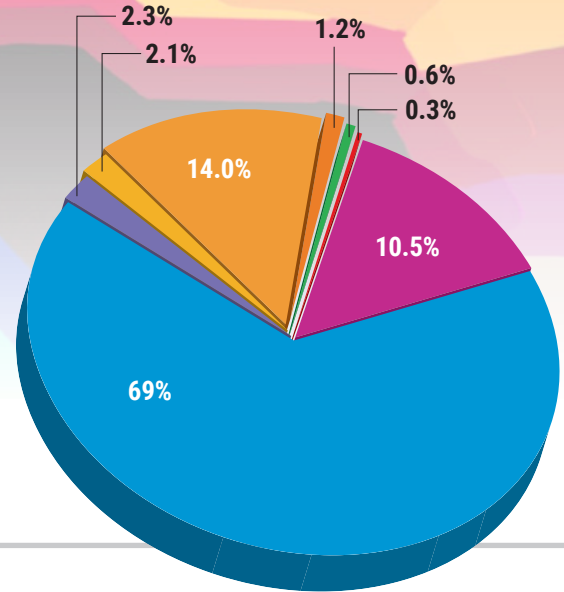
BY THE NUMBERS

The City Commission adopted the fiscal year 2023-2024 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.

General Fund Revenues

"Where the Money Comes From"

SOURCE	AMOUNT	%
Taxes	27,356,750	69.0%
Licenses, Permits & Inspections	923,200	2.3%
Penalties, Fines & Forfeitures	814,000	2.1%
Charges for Current Services	5,554,400	14.0%
Intergovernmental Revenues	472,000	1.2%
Miscellaneous Revenue	244,300	0.6%
Sale of Fixed Assets	5,000	0.0%
Operating Transfers	113,824	0.3%
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	4,145,816	10.5%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$39,629,290	100.0%



General Fund Expenditures

"Where the Money Goes"

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
Governmental Control	421,260	1.1%
General Government	3,310,660	8.4%
Community & Economic Development	3,817,890	9.6%
Administrative Services	7,025,850	17.7%
Police	7,278,880	18.4%
Fire	4,524,360	11.4%
Public Works	6,207,600	15.7%
Parks & Recreation	7,042,790	17.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$39,629,290	100%

DECATUR LOVES ART

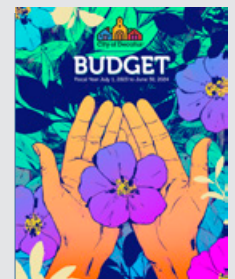
Sculptures, murals, and outdoor installations have become an integral part of life in Decatur. The culture of art and support for local artists can be seen all over the city, including in the budget.

In fiscal year 2021-2022, the City introduced the Budget as Art Collection to emphasize the vision and values reflected in the City's budget. The first piece of art work was created by Adam Pinsley and was titled "I Heart Decatur."

The Budget as Art Collection continued in 2022-2023 with an original work of art by local artist, Austin Blue, titled "Summer Daze." Austin's artwork represents Decatur's diversity while also

celebrating the community's harmony. The artwork was timely and relevant as the adopted budget supported the shared vision of the 2020 Strategic Plan which demanded that all projects, programs and initiatives be implemented with equity as a priority.

This year's selection, "Cultivate," (at right) was created by Sanithna Phansavanh. The conceptual design for the piece is the manner by which botanicals are tended and nurtured as a representation of caring stewardship.



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION



Commissioner
**GEORGE
DUSENBURY**
District 1

Commissioner
LESA MAYER
District 2

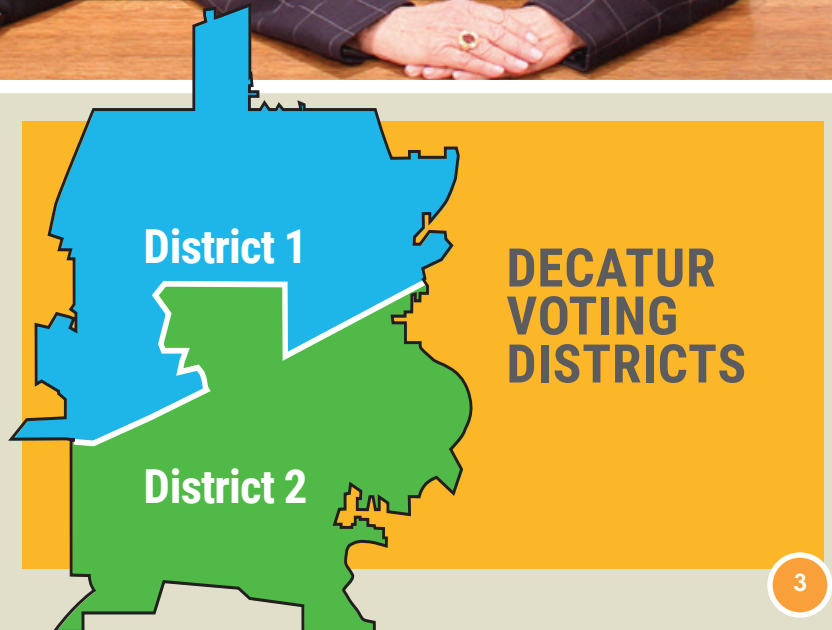
Commissioner
KELLY WALSH
District 1

Mayor Pro Tem
**TONY
POWERS**
At-Large

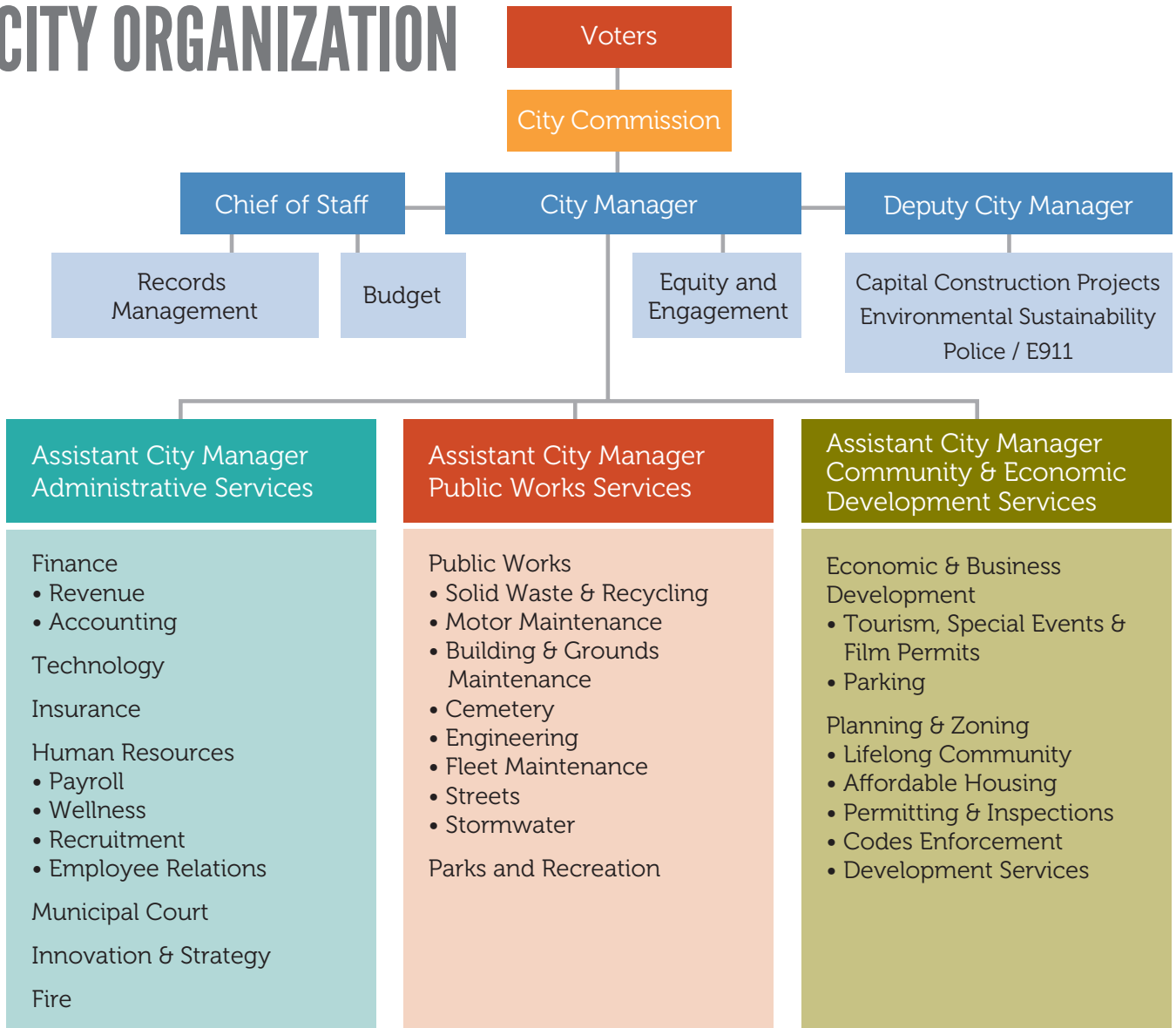
Mayor
**PATTI
GARRETT**
District 2

Five City Commissioners are elected in nonpartisan elections for overlapping four-year terms – two from District 1, two from District 2, and one At-Large (citywide). George Dusenbury and Lesa Mayer are the newest commissioners, elected in November 2019. Kelly Walsh has served since 2018.

Each January, Commissioners elect two of their fellow members to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Patti Garrett has been elected to serve as Mayor since 2016 and Commissioner Tony Powers has been elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem since 2018.

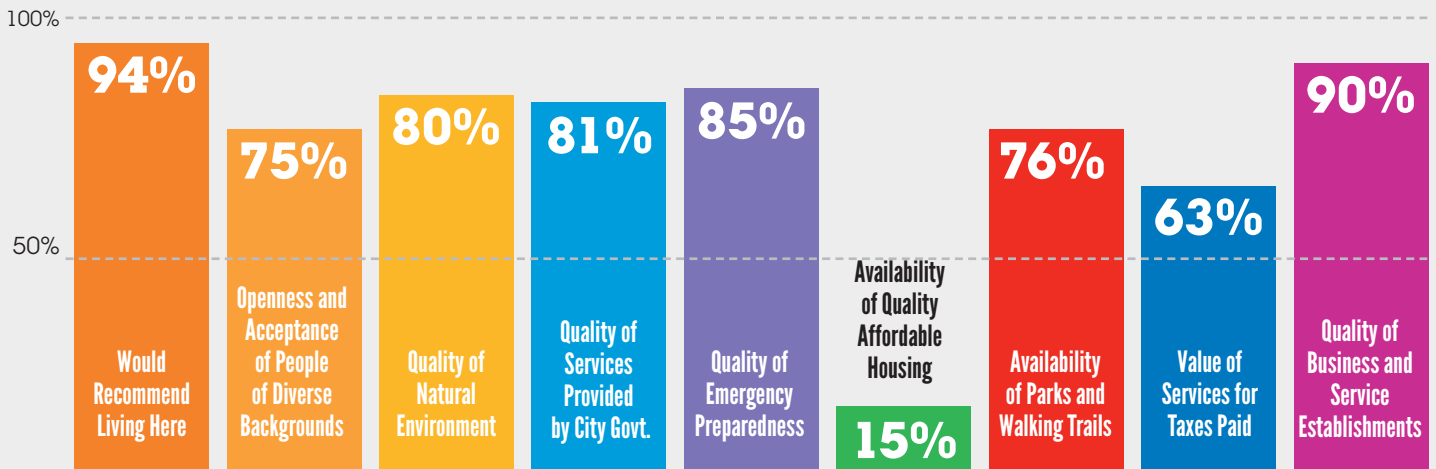


CITY ORGANIZATION



National Citizen Survey 2022

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



*Survey results throughout this annual report are from the 2022 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's **2020 Strategic Plan – Destination: 2030** provides direction on policies and supports actions that will cultivate our legacy for the next 200 years. The City's bold planning efforts, in combination with community engagement, help ensure that we are on track to create a future in which we all participate and succeed.

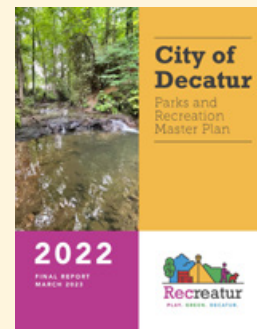
WHAT GETS PLANNED GETS DONE

City staff and the consultants who were involved in the creation of the 2020 Strategic Plan launched a plan implementation dashboard in Spring 2023. The dashboard, accessible via the City website, is updated quarterly to show the progress of the tasks, actions and themes listed in the plan. The dashboard can be found at decaturga.com/masterplans.

Some plans that were developed or adopted in the last fiscal year include:

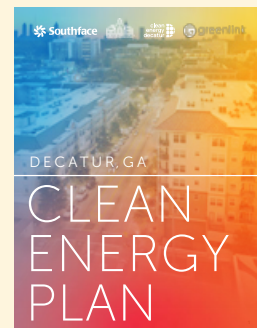
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan, also known as Recreatur, offers a unique opportunity for the City of Decatur to expand recreational facilities, protect additional greenspaces, and consider community needs through its programming. The City of Decatur owns 196.3 acres of parkland, including five aquatic features, nine tennis courts, seven recreational facilities with a total of 133,000 square feet, 21 parks, three dog parks, one skate park, one community garden, and numerous athletic fields. To read the final master plan or for more information, visit decaturga.com/masterplans.



Clean Energy

In September 2022, the City of Decatur commission adopted Clean Energy Decatur, the City's Clean Energy Plan. City residents identified climate change as a top priority and this plan will guide the City's response to this pressing concern. The Clean Energy Plan sets goals and outlines steps to efficiently and equitably transition Decatur away from fossil fuels. The plan also established greenhouse gas reduction and clean energy targets for residents, visitors and overall city operations. Visit decaturga.com/masterplans to read the plan.



Decatur Town Center 2.0

Downtown Decatur is the heart of our community and where many friends and neighbors come together for events, services, shopping, or to enjoy a night out. The City is excited to introduce the recently adopted downtown master plan, Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0 - the first comprehensive look at downtown since the 1982 Town Center Plan. Based on community input from Decatur residents and other stakeholders over the course of nine months, the plan sets forth a vision and priorities for a future downtown that reflects Decatur's humanity, warmth, and vibrancy. Whether you live, learn, work, or visit downtown, be sure to make time to read the Decatur Town Center Plan 2.0 to see what's to come as the plan is implemented. The plan, as well as the planning process details, are available at the project website, decaturtowncenterplan.com.

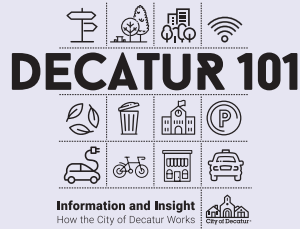


Two Annual Programs Return to Decatur

Decatur 101

In August, Decatur 101 returned revamped and back in person. The annual program is designed to develop informed and involved citizens. During the program, participants learn how the City of Decatur operates, which department does what, and how they can make a difference in the community. Classes are held on Thursdays in city buildings. The morning class is 10 a.m.-noon and the evening class is 7-9 p.m., with tours of various city buildings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in the current class or would like to be wait-listed for next year, email shirley.baylis@decaturga.com or call 678-553-6573.



MLK Service Project

In January, the Decatur MLK Jr. Service Project returned. For nearly 20 years, the Service Project has helped our city's seniors stay in their homes by providing home repairs and safety improvements. Nearly 100 percent community powered, the projects are managed by an all-volunteer team that provides the care and energy to make repairs to homes and touch lives. They sort and manage tools, deliver food, rake leaves, drive trucks, haul trash and do whatever is needed to serve the families in 20-30 homes each year.

Visit mlkserviceproject.com to learn more about the project. Financial contributions can be made by visiting the website or emailing sponsor@mlkserviceproject.com.



FY 2022-2023

Decatur Embraces Housing Initiatives

In fiscal year 2022-2023, the Community and Economic Development Department **created a full-time staff position** to provide capacity for planning and implementation of the **affordable housing goals**. In February, the City Commission adopted the **"missing middle"** ordinance to allow duplex, triplex and quadplex developments back into single-family neighborhoods. Community priorities and concerns throughout the engagement process were used to shape the policy that policy went into effect in June.

In the 2023 legislative session, the State legislature approved the **expansion of three homestead exemptions** and the creation of a **new exemption** for owner-occupied homes on land owned by the Decatur Land Trust. The exemptions will be on a ballot referendum in the November 2023 election.

Oak Cottage Court – which will provide **workforce housing** for City, City Schools of Decatur and Decatur Housing Authority employees – is also under construction with six new small homes under development on Commerce Drive just north of College Avenue. To learn more visit decaturlandtrust.org/oak-cottage-court.

City Unveils New Composter at Scott Park Community Garden

A new three-bin composting system was installed at the Scott Park Community Garden as the result of a \$1,500 grant from Food Well Alliance. Decatur Parks & Recreation's Gael Doyle facilitated the grant opportunity, working closely with Jim Dillon, Murray Browne, and Mike Pastiri, three community garden members who volunteered more than 50 hours to build the rodent-proof composting system. The organic community garden brings residents together, keeping them active while providing urban greenspace therapy. A dedicated plot provides healthy fresh food donations to DEAM (Decatur-area Emergency Assistance Ministry), a program supported primarily by 22 area churches who seek to meet the emergency needs of those less fortunate in the community. The garden club is a close-knit group that gardens annually from January to December. For more information, visit decaturga.com/activeliving/page/scott-park.



HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Decatur Youth Advocate for New Recreation Facilities

Community outreach and engagement are critical steps in Decatur's mission to bring the community's vision for its future to life. Decatur is one of six communities in the United States pursuing recognition through UNICEF as a Child Friendly City. A key aspect of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) is youth participation. Decatur strives to be a community where youth are encouraged to contribute to plans and where young people are given a voice in the decisions that drive policy and action.

When a group of Oakhurst Elementary students suggested an inclusive playground at Legacy Park, the City helped bring that vision to reality, providing a space that children of all ages and abilities can enjoy. The universally designed, sensory-rich environment goes beyond minimum accessibility standards to create play experiences that accommodate an array of physical and cognitive abilities. This effort was made possible by a \$145,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through DeKalb County with the

support of county Commissioners Steve Bradshaw, District 4, and Ted Terry, District 6. The City of Decatur pledged \$114,000 in matching funds for a total project budget of \$259,000.

Also in March, the City Commission heard and approved a request from Decatur High students for renovations to McKoy Skate park. During the City Commission meeting, DHS Skate Club member Julian Berman shared reasons for updating the existing skate park, including the need for safe places in the City for skateboarders to gather and skate. The Decatur Skate Club is one of the only known skateboarding clubs in Georgia and has 15 members. With the support of Parks and Recreation Department leaders, the youth were given a voice in the design of the project, which resulted in a \$175,000 change order for more durable concrete equipment. The City of Decatur along with skaters will work with American Ramp Company to design the new skate park for a total budget of \$365,000, which includes \$200,000 from an anonymous donor.

Decatur Establishes Equity & Engagement Division

Equity and Racial Justice is one of the core themes identified in the 2020 Strategic Plan. To ensure that equity-related goals are coordinated and implemented, action item EQ.20 identifies the need for dedicated staff.

As part of a re-organization to place equity and communications in the City Manager's Office, the Equity and Engagement Division was created. In January, Renae Jackson was hired as the City's first Equity and Engagement Director. Renae reports directly to the City Manager and is responsible for coordinating efforts throughout the organization to implement equity-related goals and supports the work of the employee equity and inclusion team.

The Communications Manager/PIO position now reports to the Equity and Engagement Director, resulting in a number of benefits including opportunities to coordinate equity-related communication throughout the community and to align the City's communication efforts with City Commission goals and priorities.

Oakhurst Recreation Center Opens

Oakhurst Recreation Center opened its doors to the Decatur community last September. The property, formerly known as the Samuel L. Jones Boys and Girls Club, allows the City to offer more space and programming opportunities to residents and create fun and engaging ways to meet resident health and wellness needs that serve the entire family. The building has a gym, indoor pool, dance studio spaces, meeting rooms, full-service kitchen, and a large multipurpose room. Oakhurst Recreation Center is in the center of Oakhurst Park with the Oakhurst Dog Park right next door. If interested in facility rentals, upcoming programs, or hosting a class, contact Jada Jordan, jada.jordan@decaturga.com, 678-553-6541.

GoDecatur Circulator

The City of Decatur and Downtown Development Authority launched the new GoDecatur Circulator – a free shuttle service that transports residents and visitors throughout the city to destinations like Publix, CVS, the YMCA, and Legacy Park. The shuttle service offers two 12-person buses that run in a continuous loop of 15 stops around the city, and stopping at residential buildings as well as local businesses. The shuttles are owned by the Parks and Recreation Department. As demand grows, the plan is to accommodate future expansion. For more information, contact Shirley Baylis, Shirley.Baylis@decaturga.com.

MORE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ The **Decatur Police Department** received its state accreditation from the GACP State Certification Program. This marks the twentieth year anniversary of the police department being an accredited agency.
- ▶ The **municipal court** offered an **amnesty program** in an effort to resolve the backlog of cases resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The program presented three designated Saturdays in April, May, and June as options for individuals who may not be able to appear before the court during the week. The program was available for 60 days, concluding at the end of June.
- ▶ The police department launched a new officer wellness app for its employees called Cordico Shield. Employee and their families will now have access to mental health and wellness resources on their smart phone.
- ▶ **Decatur Parks and Recreation** was awarded a **\$75,000 BOOST grant** for summer camp from Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA). BOOST Grants are intended to support the learning acceleration, connectedness, and well-being of Georgia's students, utilizing a whole child approach.
- ▶ In March, Decatur celebrated two decades of **Safe Routes to School**.
- ▶ Decatur's **Community and Economic Development Department** developed a **commercial façade improvement grant (CFIG) program** for commercial storefront business owners and property owners. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 was made possible through the Decatur Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The DDA has held two rounds of applications, and given approval for a total of 17 grants and one micro-grant totaling \$99,655.87.

Decatur Welcomes New Communications Manager/PIO



In April, the City of Decatur welcomed Tiyana Jordan as the new communications manager/public information officer. Ms. Jordan comes to the division of Equity and Engagement with 12 years of communication and marketing experience in sectors such as local government, education and non-profits. She received a Bachelor of Arts of Communication and Marketing from Tulane University.

The City's 2020 Strategic Plan identifies a number of goals related to communications and community engagement including sharing existing initiatives and successes, broadening the means of engagement and telling Decatur's story. Ms. Jordan plays a vital role in leading and developing effective strategic communication efforts to help achieve these goals. She is also responsible for managing the city's website, engaging the community in key City initiatives, and serving as the city's public information officer.

Decatur's First International Festival

In March, Decatur hosted its first-ever International Festival. The event was organized by members of the Decatur business community and celebrated the city's diversity. Attendees enjoyed a host of food and retail vendors as well as community resource tents, performances, and storytelling.



David Junger Steps into Deputy City Manager Role

After an internal recruitment process, David Junger was selected to serve as Decatur's next Deputy City Manager. David has been with the City since 1990 and served for 15 years with the Decatur Police department, completing his public safety career as the Deputy Police Chief. Since 2006, he has served as the Assistant City Manager for Public Works.





Decatur Fire Chief Toni Washington Named Next President of Women in Fire

In January, Chief Washington assumed the role of President of Women in Fire, an interactive non-profit network that provides education, support, and advocacy for fire service women. Women in Fire provides a platform for communications, research, and resources on women's issues. The organization is not only for women firefighters, male peers help make up the membership of more than 870 professionals and growing.

DECATUR LAUNCHES 200 STORIES

In celebration of the Decatur's bicentennial, the City launched the 200 Stories Initiative to preserve and document the history of those who are or have been a part of the Decatur community. Through the power of storytelling, participants will help shape a shared vision for the future of Decatur. The City is partnering with multiple organizations to document stories, including Agnes Scott College, StoryCorps, and the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

This initiative is open to all members of the community, past and present, and will serve as the launch to an ongoing community story vault.

How to Participate

Record with SCAD: If you would like to record with SCAD students, you may email 200stories@decaturga.com to sign up for an in-person interview. Interviews will take place at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. If you record with SCAD, your story may be used as part of various bicentennial engagement initiatives, education projects, and for research purposes. These stories will be archived with the DeKalb History Center in late 2023.

Record with StoryCorps: If you would like to record with StoryCorps you can use the StoryCorps Virtual Recording Booth to record your own interview with a partner from anywhere you wish. With your permission, stories collected through the StoryCorps Virtual Recording booth will be archived as part of a dedicated collection on the StoryCorps Archive and as part of the StoryCorps archive at the Library of Congress. Stories recorded via the StoryCorps Virtual Recording Booth will not be edited unless directly contacted by a member of StoryCorps.

PUBLIC WORKS GOES SOLAR

The Public Works Department is leading the City's efforts in transitioning away from fossil fuels to clean energy. Solar panels and battery storage have been installed on the Public Works building and additional solar installations are planned for the Decatur Recreation Center and Police Department facility.



Decatur Fire Rescue Focuses on Wellness and Risk Reduction

The Fire Department added a Captain position to focus on community wellness and risk reduction programming. The new Fire Captain works alongside city staff and community partners to develop and manage initiatives and programming designed to keep Decatur safer from harms such as preventable illnesses and injuries.



FY 2022-2023 ACCOLADES

DECATUR LEGACY PARK RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT

Decatur Legacy Park has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program for a boardwalk at the Postal Pond. The project will provide erosion and sediment mitigation while expanding recreational opportunities, offering an engaging place for a diverse community, and providing safer access to the pond and wetlands for students participating in environmental field trips. Congratulations to Legacy Decatur's Madeleine Henner and Decatur Energy and Sustainability Manager David Nifong who collaborated on this grant application with community partners including City Schools of Decatur, Wylde Center, Trees Atlanta, and Wild Nest Bird Rehab.



Decatur Honored for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City of Decatur was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. 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. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Decatur's financial report for demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.



Decatur Works Toward Child-Friendly Status

The City of Decatur is one of six local governments in the United States partnering with UNICEF to achieve recognition as a Child Friendly City. The distinction is reserved for communities that elevate the needs of children in the following areas; safety and inclusion, children's participation, equitable social services, safe living environments, and play and leisure. In partnership with the Decatur Housing Authority, Decatur Education Foundation, City Schools of Decatur, the Decatur Youth Council, community members, and children and youth, City of Decatur wants to invite all stakeholders to contribute to the effort.

The City's Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) Teen Leadership Team is composed of 28 teens, all students at Decatur High School, who are passionate about making Decatur a great place for children and youth. Over the last few months,

group met monthly to develop a local action plan – which was adopted in June by the City Commission – to help City of Decatur become more child-friendly.

The CFCI local action plan (LAP) creates a three-year roadmap to address five critical priorities identified by the CFCI Teen Leadership Team in 2022-23. The LAP represents the next step in the CFCI process following a situation analysis to establish baseline information about the state of children in the City of Decatur community.

The CFCI engaged 160 middle school students, more than 100 high school students and more than 300 K-5th graders in surveys to determine gaps and needs for children and youth in Decatur. The City's first Teen Leadership Team met throughout the 2022-23 school year to develop a local action plan for youth as part of the City's partnership with UNICEF. The Teen Leadership Team is seek-

ing to make improvements to Decatur in five priority areas:

- All young people – regardless of background (including race, religion and gender) – are treated equally.
- Improve access to and awareness of mental health resources for youth.
- Make Decatur a more environmentally conscious city.
- Improve public spaces – especially as regards opportunities for children of all abilities.
- Increase trust with police and security guards.

Following implementation of the local action plan, the City will submit its application to become a Child Friendly City. For more information on the CFCI, visit childfriendlycities.org.

To connect with the City's CFCI project, visit decaturga.com/cfccom/cfci.



MICHAEL GERALD RECEIVES THOMAS O. DAVIS AWARD 2023

Michael Gerald embodies the spirit of Thomas O. Davis. He is a hands-on, hard-working leader who is always willing to step up and help out. He is the first one on the job and the last to leave. His ability to lead a team or to jump in and do the heavy lifting makes him an asset to any project or event. He listens and assesses the needs of an event, and then manages the details, going above and beyond with a great attitude and a willing smile. Michael came to work for the City of Decatur in April 1993 as a sanitation equipment operator in the Public Works Department. This year, as he celebrates 30 years with the City and prepares to retire, it is fitting that he is recognized for his tremendous work in the Decatur community.

Decatur's Thomas O. Davis Award honors a public employee who helps strengthen the bond between government and the community, serves as a role model for others in public service, contributes to the well-being of the community, inspires others to get involved in public service, and serves the public with respect. The award is named for Decatur's long-time city attorney, Thomas O. Davis, who served from 1968 until his death in 2000 and embodied these attributes every day of his distinguished career. The first award was presented to the family of Thomas O. Davis in January 2001.



Decatur Crossing Guard Named as Metro Atlanta Region Crossing Guard of the Year

In November 2022, Decatur Crossing Guard Cindy Bryan was selected as Crossing Guard of the Year for the Metro Atlanta Region. Georgia Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator Marielena Gutiérrez made the announcement at a brunch hosted by the City of Decatur and catered by culinary students from the Decatur High Career Academy.



GA Safe Routes to School Outreach Coordinator Marielena Gutiérrez and GDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Engineer Ron Knezevich present crossing guard Cindy Bryan with her award

Decatur's crossing guards. On floor: Sgt. Nembheard and Jennifer Ross. Seated: Sylvia Walker, Linda Middlebrooks, Eula Malone, Andrea Thomason, Earnestine Brooks, Betsy Jones, Gloria Rose, Victorious Sanders, Carla Horton, Annie Chisom, Patricia Ogletree, Carolyn Watson, and Martha Slaughter. Standing: Linda McGee, Leslie Brooks, Carolyn Shorter, Sherrolyn Battle, Sibyl Williams, Deputy Chief Matics, Karen Law, Constance Allen, Chief Richards, Joyce Washington, Joe Safford, Tracy Washington, Angela Gresham, Ryan White, Cindy Bryan, Shirley Watkins, Heloise Kaunan, Desiree Hall, Wezlynn Davis, Angela Pointer, Charlene Germany, Etta Shaffer, Angela Brown, and Marvin Kirk.



DECATUR SCORES PERFECT 100 ON MUNICIPAL EQUALITY INDEX

Working with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the MEI team, the City of Decatur raised its MEI score from 86 points in 2020 to 100 points in 2022 – a perfect score. The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies and services are of LGBTQ+ people who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement and the city leadership's public opinion on equality.

Decatur continues to demonstrate its commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity. In 2019, the City passed a non-discrimination ordinance prohibiting businesses from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, age or military status. Discrimination is prohibited in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation. No federal or Georgia state law expressly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity.

Decatur also passed a Resolution urging the State of Georgia to adopt a broad and comprehensive hate crimes act through prompt legislative action stating that “the Mayor and Commission believe that such a hate crimes act should protect the widest range of vulnerable persons.”

For more information on HRC and the MEI, visit hrc.org or contact Linda Harris, linda.harris@decaturga.com, who serves as the Mayor's LGBTQ+ liaison.

RESIDENT BOARDS AND 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.

MEETING LOCATIONS

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

Planning Commission

Conducts public hearings on land use and zoning changes, special exceptions, proposed subdivisions of property and proposed planned unit developments, and recommends actions for consideration by the City Commissioners. It also reviews and recommends changes to zoning regulations and future land-use plans.

The Planning Commission is staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386 or email angela.threadgill@decaturga.com.

Meetings: second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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 is staffed by Aileen de la Torre, Planner, 404-371-8386, aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com

Meetings: third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. There is no meeting in July.

Decatur Downtown Development Authority and Decatur Development Authority

These authorities 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 Development Authorities are staffed by Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386, angela.threadgill@decaturga.com.

Meetings: authorities meet jointly on the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m.

Better Together Advisory Board

Better Together goals are guided by four roadmaps including the Better Together Community Action Plan, City of Decatur 2020 Strategic Plan, Welcoming Standards/Certified Welcoming City, and GMA's Certified City of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Program. They focus on Community Engagement & Education, Advising, and Connecting. Jeremy Cole and Syreeta Campbell currently serve as Co-Chairs of Better Together.

For more information contact Linda Harris, 678-553-6512, linda.harris@decaturga.com or Renae Jackson, 678-553-6561, renae.jackson@decaturga.com

Meetings: first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Board Accomplishments:

- Created and facilitated 2021 Anti-Racism Speaker Series designed to generate awareness of equity concerns in the city and to hold the city and community accountable for meeting established goals and implementing policies to achieve the aspiration of being an inclusive, equitable and just city.
- In partnership with the Decatur City Commission, presented the fourth annual Welcoming Business Awards to Brave + Kind Bookstore and Raging Burrito.
- Reviewed a variety of plans and initiatives with an equity lens giving input and recommendations including the prioritization process for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, enhanced security services on the square, proposed cameras in school speed zones, and a boards and commissions recruitment strategy.
- Appointed a BTAB representative to serve on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan steering committee.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Conducts public hearings on appeals from decisions of the zoning administrator and considers requests for variances from zoning requirements.

The Board is staffed by Aileen de la Torre, 404-371-8386, aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com.

Meetings: second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

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.

For further information on the Decatur Youth Council, contact Meredith Roark, 404-370-4102, meredith.roark@decaturga.com.

Meetings: first Wednesday of every month from 4 to 5:30 p.m. (except June through August).

Board Accomplishments:

- Hosted a holiday themed outdoor movie night in conjunction with Visit Decatur in December 2022.
- Crafted two public service announcements around topics relevant to today's youth – climate action and drug and alcohol awareness.
- Created and presented a mural to the City Commission in honor of the City's bicentennial. The mural includes over 200 handprints from children and adults who attended this year's Decatur Arts Festival.
- Visited several city facilities including Fire Station 1, Decatur Police Department, Public Works, and Decatur Legacy Park.

Lifelong Community Advisory Board

Assists with expanding and implementing initiatives for helping residents age in place. The members assist city staff with outreach to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and diverse populations to encourage participation in available programs and to develop new programs.

For more information contact Community and Economic Development, 404-371-8386.

Meetings: fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Board Accomplishments:

- Promoted and participated in Decatur's Senior Fitness Fair.
- Worked to make Decatur more Alzheimer's friendly and Dementia friendly.
- Began work on an Age-Friendly Action Plan for the City.

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.

Meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr. For more information contact Gregory White, greg.white@decaturga.com

Board Accomplishments

- Welcomed new board members Terria Cummings, Joel Furfari, and Deanna Jue Sutandi.
- Supported implementation of the adopted Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Supported spring and fall Art Walks in collaboration with Decatur Arts Alliance.
- Supported Wednesday Walks by providing volunteer leaders as needed.
- Supported the sidewalk expansion from McDonough to Kings Highway, in front of Beacon Middle School.
- Supported Earth Day Event on the Decatur Square.
- Supported the presentation: Making Decatur More Inclusive for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) by Beate and Tim Sass.
- Implemented online reservations for tennis courts, facilities and pavilions.

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.

Participation on the committees is open to anyone who is interested. For more information contact David Nifong, 678-553-6577, david.nifong@decaturga.com.

Meetings: fourth Friday of each month from 9-11 a.m. Visit decaturga.com/bc-esb for meeting locations.

Board Accomplishments:

- Led development and adoption of the Clean Energy Plan.
- Secured a Recycling, Waste Reduction, and Diversion grant from the GA Environmental Protection Division to support implementation of a pilot residential curbside organics collection program.
- Hosted the 2023 Earth Day Festival on Decatur Square in partnership with Active Living and Decatur First UMC.
- Assisted in Atlanta Regional Commission Green Communities Platinum certification for City of Decatur.
- Partnered with Agnes Scott College and City of Decatur in the development and continuing implementation of the Climate Resilience Plan.

