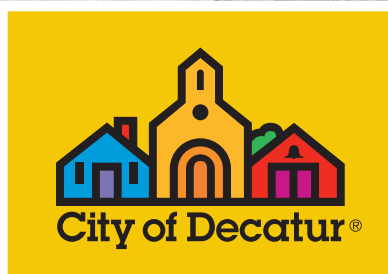


WELCOME TO DECATUR!



2024 GUIDE FOR NEW RESIDENTS



WELCOME TO DECATUR!

We are glad you are here! Decatur is a vibrant, special place where we value community engagement and encourage participation in all of the opportunities the city has to offer – from our year-round calendar of festivals and events to our award-winning restaurants and local shops and services. We count on your input and involvement and invite you to give your feedback on your experience with our city services by contacting your city commissioner. (Go to decaturga.com/citycommission: “Meet the Commissioners”).

Decatur celebrated its 200th anniversary in December 2023! The celebration included acknowledging the City’s negative impacts on the Native Americans who once lived on this land and Black Americans whose slave labor contributed to the community’s early economy. The City is committed to honoring its history and being deliberate in creating its future. We hope you will join us as the city continues its journey of diversity, equity and inclusion while recognizing its past and striving to make Decatur even better.

I hope you will find this new resident packet useful as you settle into our community.

— Mayor Patti Garrett



STOP IN AND SAY HELLO!

Visitors Center Information

As you get to know Decatur, stop by the Visitors Center at 113 Clairemont Ave., Sunday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A friendly volunteer will provide you with the information you need to steer you in the right direction.

MEET DECATUR'S CITY COMMISSION

Five residents serve overlapping four-year terms.

The Decatur City Commission determines the policies of the city and enact the local laws necessary for the protection of public health, safety and welfare. The commission oversees the delivery of services to citizens and is responsible for the adoption of an annual budget and the levying of taxes necessary to finance local government operations.

The City Commission meets on the first and third Mondays of each month in the City Commission meeting room at City Hall. In the event of a Monday holiday, the meeting is moved to the first or third Tuesday.

Agendas are posted to the website and on the front of City Hall on the Friday before the meeting.

See page 7 for information about commission elections.

LOCAL FACT

City Commission meetings are open to the public. While the meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m., you can walk in at any time after the meeting has started. You may also attend via Zoom. Visit decaturga.com/citycommission for meeting information.

LESA MAYER

District 2 Commissioner

Elected November 2019,
current term expires 2027

lesa.mayer@decaturga.com

KELLY WALSH

District 1 Commissioner

Elected November 2017,
current term expires 2025

kelly.walsh@decaturga.com

GEORGE DUSENBURY

District 1 Commissioner

Elected November 2019,
current term expires 2027

george.dusenbury@decaturga.com



PATTI GARRETT

Mayor, District 2 Commissioner

First elected November 2009,
current term expires 2025
patti.garrett@decaturga.com

TONY POWERS

Mayor Pro Tem, Commissioner-at-large

Elected November 2015,
current term expires 2027
tony.powers@decaturga.com

WHO DO I

CONTACT?

Connect with City of Decatur, City Schools of Decatur, and DeKalb County.

City Manager Andrea Arnold

The Decatur City Commission appoints a city manager to oversee Decatur's day-to-day operations. Decatur's current city manager is Andrea Arnold who has worked for the city since 1997. She began as an assistant to the city manager, became the director of Administrative Services in 1999, and served as assistant city manager for 15 years before being promoted to city manager. If you have questions about city services for which you can't find a satisfactory answer, call her at 404-370-4102 or email andrea.arnold@decaturga.com.



Some infrastructure in the city is owned and operated by other entities, including the city's street lights, traffic signals, potable waterlines, and sanitary sewers.

City Communication

The primary ways in which the city communicates with the community are:

The Decatur Focus is the city's official newsletter, published 10 times a year and mailed to every household, business and professional license-holder within the city limits. January/February and July/August are combined issues. The Decatur Focus publishes announcements and information about Decatur including city services, downtown development, school news, business news, and news about individual residents and neighborhood associations. The purpose of the newsletter is to promote the city and encourage the exchange of information among residents, business owners, and the school system.



decaturga.com: The official website for Decatur provides resources for learning about the city's history, its various departments and services, and its governance. You can also find links to current and past issues of the Decatur Focus and the Decatur Playbook, and links to learn more about upcoming special events, festivals, and meetings.

Decaturmakeover.com: Wondering how to navigate through and around Decatur when infrastructure and development projects interfere with your preferred routes? Decaturmakeover.com will give you a heads-up on what to expect, and how to avoid traffic entanglements.

Beactivedecatur.com is the Decatur Active Living blog, and a good resource for opportunities to engage in physical and mental activities and make new friends around the city.

Nextdoor is utilized by the city and the police department for sharing information. Join at [nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com), select your neighborhood, and look for alerts in your email.

Facebook: City of Decatur GA- Government is another good source for news about the city, and a place to find links to events and festivals. Most city departments have a Facebook presence including, the Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation departments.

Instagram: cityofdecaturga will keep you abreast of developments and events in the city with an emphasis on images. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so take a look.

X (formerly Twitter): cityofdecaturga will keep you updated on news about the city and emergency alerts.

GEORGIA POWER

Power outages, streetlight outages, and damaged utility poles can be reported on the Georgia Power website at [georgiapower.com](https://www.georgiapower.com)

DEKALB COUNTY

Traffic signals, water and sewer services, and property assessments are provided by DeKalb County.

DeKalb County Traffic Operation Center

404-297-3947 (weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
678-406-7929 (after hours, holidays, and weekends)

DeKalb County Watershed Management

(770) 621-7200
(770) 270-6243 (24-hour emergencies)

DeKalb County Tax Assessor's Office

404-298-4000
Motor vehicle: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (all locations)

CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR

For questions about City Schools of Decatur, such as academic calendars, bus routes, menus, school zoning, and school events, visit cs-decatur.net or call 404-371-3601.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Be a part of your new hometown.

Decatur hosts concerts, festivals, special events, and community projects all year long with the help of community volunteers. For event details and official dates, go to visitdecaturgeorgia.com. Annual events and volunteer opportunities include the Decatur Arts Festival, Jazz Nights at Scottish Rite, Concerts on the Square, Decatur Wine Festival, holiday events, Terrific Thursdays, and more.

Volunteer Decatur!

Interested in rolling up your sleeves and pitching in to help make Decatur a better and more interesting place for residents and visitors alike? Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year. Learn how you can help and sign up by visiting volunteerdecatgur.com.

Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project

The MLK Service Project harnesses community volunteers to make necessary repairs so that seniors on fixed or low incomes can remain safely in their home. Each year, volunteers work on approximately 30 homes, making repairs on each worth, on average, \$2,000. Community members are welcome to volunteer for one or more four-hour shifts during the MLK weekend. Jobs include repair work, weatherization, yard work, and material expeditors and runners. To learn more, sign up to volunteer, or request services visit mlkserviceproject.com.

Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur

Season of Giving volunteers and donors ensure that City of Decatur children and seniors in need share in the holiday spirit with gifts from the community. Residents can sign up to buy gifts, volunteer, or donate to make these children and seniors' wishes come true. Wish lists are available beginning in October. For volunteer or donor information or if you would like to be considered to receive services, please email aseasonofgiving@decaturga.com.

Citizens Police Academy (CPA)

This 10-week course explains to residents and business owners the inner workings of the Decatur Police Department. CPA members participate in a ride-along with an officer and take field trips to the

DeKalb County Jail and Medical Examiner's Office. CPA members must be at least 21 years old and pass a limited background check. Go to decaturga.com/police and click on community programs.

CAPS (Citizens Assisting Public Safety)

In this volunteer program, citizens provide aid to the police and fire departments during special events, help administer exams, assist with disaster response, and patrol the business district. CAPS members serve as additional "eyes and ears," enhancing the safety and quality of life in the city. Learn more at decaturga.com/police.

RAD (Rape Aggression Defense)

The Decatur Police Department offers this basic 12-hour self-defense course for women free of charge. Classes are scheduled at various times throughout the year. Participants 13-17 years old can attend the course with their mothers or female guardian. After completion of the course, participants will be more aware, confident, and prepared for instances when they need to defend themselves and get out of danger. Learn more at decaturga.com/police.



Parks and Recreation Department hikers club.



MLK Service Project



Decatur Prevention Initiative's Youth Action Team

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Decatur 101

The eight-week Decatur 101 program is designed to develop informed and involved citizens. Members learn how city government works, who does what, and how they can make a difference. Members will also take a smart growth walking tour and understand how the city manages that growth. Learn more at decaturga.com/decatur101.

Advisory 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. If you are a Decatur resident interested in serving on a board or commission, submit a statement of interest form. The commission conducts interviews during the fall for open positions before their meetings on the first or third Monday of the month and those interested in serving are encouraged to apply before September. There are currently ten resident boards and commissions:

- Better Together Advisory Board
- Environmental Sustainability Board
- Lifelong Community Advisory Board
- Decatur Youth Council
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Public Facilities Authority
- Decatur Parks & Recreation Board
- Decatur Development Authorities

City staff are appointed to support each board. Learn more about the functions and projects of each board at decaturga.com/citizenboards.



The Decatur Youth Council with Santa on the Square



The Better Together Advisory Board recognizes Welcoming Businesses annually.



Decatur 101 offers a morning program and an evening program.

DECATUR CITY

TAXES

About 80 percent of the city's revenue comes from property taxes.

Tax Installments

Bills for real estate property taxes and fees are sent out in two installments. The first is issued April 1 and must be paid June 1. The second is issued October 20 and must be paid by December 20.

Seven years of tax information is available online at decaturgatax.com. You can also view tax information for all City of Decatur properties, make an online credit card payment, print bills and receipts, and request mailing address changes.

Payments

Checks should be made payable to the City of Decatur and mailed to the following address postmarked no later than the payment deadline. Please include your property ID, tax year, and phone number on the check. The fee for a returned check is \$30.

City of Decatur Lockbox

PO Box 945650

Atlanta, GA 30394-5650

If your taxes are paid by a mortgage company, forward a copy of your bill to the mortgage company for payment and retain a copy for your records. If you receive a statement and you are not the current property owner, forward the bill to the new property owner.

Sanitation Fee

Sanitation service fees are billed annually and are payable for the full year in the first installment billing. The sanitation service fee includes garbage collection, yard waste disposal, street sweeping, and bulky item pickup.

Stormwater Utility Fee

Stormwater utility fees are billed annually and are payable for the full year in the first installment billing. Properties are assessed a storm water utility fee based on the amount of paved and covered areas on the property. Income from the fees is used to make storm drainage improvements. Utilities are charged to all property owners, including tax-exempt properties.

Homestead Exemptions

A homestead exemption reduces the taxable value of your home. The city offers several homestead exemptions to qualified homeowners, including general exemptions based on ownership and occupancy as well as exemptions based on age, income and disability. Homestead exemption applications are accepted year-round; however, applications must be submitted no later than April 1 to be granted an exemption for the current tax year. The city encourages all eligible homeowners to apply for any new exemptions prior to March 15 to ensure the exemption appears on the first installment bill. Applications received after April 1 will be processed for the following tax year. Exemption information and links to applications can be found online at decaturga.com/homestead.

EXEMPTION QUALIFICATIONS

General Exemption The property must be the legal residence as of January 1 of the taxable year.

GS-1 Must be at least 62 years of age as of January 1. Total household income must not exceed \$25,000.

S-1 Must be at least 62 years of age as of January 1. Total income of applicant and spouse must not exceed \$10,000 (excluding retirement income).

GH-2 Must be at least 65 years of age as of January 1. No income restrictions.

GH-3 Must be at least 65 years of age as of January 1 and reside at the property. Georgia net taxable income must not exceed \$60,000.

S-2 City school tax exemption: Must be at least 80 years of age and reside at the property. Federal adjusted income of applicant and spouse must not exceed \$40,000.

S-3/S-6 Must be at least 70 years of age and reside at the property. No income restrictions.

S-5 City school tax exemption: Must be between 65-69 with household adjusted gross income under \$62,000.

LT-1 For resident homeowners on land owned by a land trust.

DISABLED VETERANS Veterans who have 100% disability documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and who reside at the property are eligible for an exemption.

YEAR SUPPORT The surviving spouse of a deceased individual may file a petition for year's support within 24 months of the death of the individual at the DeKalb County Probate Court. If approved by DeKalb, the surviving spouse qualifies for an exemption from City of Decatur property taxes for that year.

UN-REMARIED SURVIVING SPOUSES of U.S. service members, peace officers, or firefighters killed in the line of duty may qualify for additional exemptions.

REHABILITATED HISTORIC PROPERTIES may qualify for preferential tax assessments.

Facility Rentals

Have your event right here in Decatur

Rent a pool, pavilion, athletic field, or a room at a Recreation Center for your next meeting, event, or birthday party. Call 404-377-0494 for details.

Job Opportunities

Decatur is a great place to live *and* to work. Employment opportunities with City of Decatur can be found at decaturga.com/jobs.

CITY

BUDGET

The 2020 Strategic Plan guides city spending.

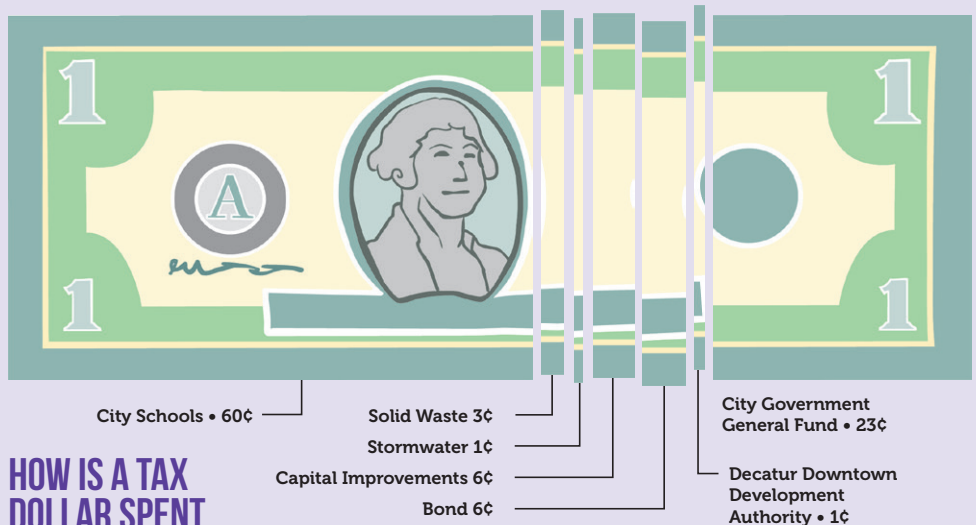
The budget allocates the city's limited financial resources to provide services based on community and organizational priorities. The city's budget preparation process begins in February and culminates with budget adoption by the City Commission on the third Monday in June. The budget period is the city's fiscal year, which begins July 1 and ends on June 30. Learn more at decaturga.com/budget.

Budget Expo

Each March the city holds a Budget Expo, otherwise known as Touch a Budget. This year the expo will be held in conjunction with the Touch a Truck event in mid-March. The expo encourages residents to take an up-close and personal look at the city's budgeting process. Residents can find out about the "pending spending" planned for the following city budget and how it supports the 2020 Strategic Plan principles developed by Decatur citizens.

Vision-Based Budgeting

The annual budget is the primary implementation tool to make the community's vision in the 2020 Strategic Plan come to life. The an-



HOW IS A TAX DOLLAR SPENT IN DECATUR?

nual budget highlights the six themes outlined in the 2020 strategic plan. Under each theme is a description of how the city implements the goals and tasks of that theme, past accomplishments, proposed projects for this fiscal year, performance measures and unique partnerships.

LOCAL FACT

Decatur's Strategic Plan serves as a guide for policy, funding, and programming decisions. In fall of 2021, the Decatur City Commission adopted Destination: 2030, Decatur's 2020 Strategic Plan. Visit decaturga.com/masterplans to see it.

VOTING

Commission elections occur every two years.

Decatur City Commission elections are held in odd-number years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Polls are open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

City Commissioners are chosen in nonpartisan elections for overlapping four-year term — two from District 1 (roughly north of the railroad), two from District 2 (south of the railroad, plus downtown), and an at-large commissioner elected citywide. Each January, commissioners elect two of their fellow members to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

See the map on page 16 for Decatur voting districts, or visit decaturga.com/onemap (see page 9) and enter your address.

Visit decaturga.com/elections-and-voting for updated polling locations. The location for polling places is subject to change. Notice will be given by DeKalb County and the City prior to each election if a change has occurred. For questions about polling locations, contact Dekalb Election and Voter Registration at voterreg@dekalbcountyga.gov or 404-298-4020.

Registered voters may check the status of polling locations by visiting mvp.sos.ga.gov/mvp/mvp.do.

Voting Districts & Polling Places

District 1 / Clairemont East

First Baptist Church of Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave.

District 1 / Clairemont West

The Church at Decatur Heights, 735 Sycamore Dr.

District 1&2 / Glenwood

Holy Trinity Parish, 515 E. Ponce de Leon Ave.

District 1&2 / Ponce de Leon

First Christian Church of Decatur, 601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

District 2 / Oakhurst

Oakhurst Baptist Church, 222 East Lake Dr.

District 2 / Decatur

Evergreen Baptist Church, 303 Fourth Ave.

District 2 / Winnona Park

The Richards Center at Columbia Theological Seminary, 701 S. Columbia Dr.

SANITATION SERVICES

Weekly pickups and single-stream recycling



Single-family residential garbage, yard waste, and recycling collection service is divided into four service days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. All garbage, trash, recyclables, yard trimmings, furniture and appliances for collection must be ready for collection by 7:30 a.m. on collection day. Arrival times will vary due to many conditions, but no collector will arrive before 7:30 a.m.

Pay As You Throw

Residents pay an annual fee that covers garbage collection, recycling collection, yard waste disposal, street sweeping, and bulky item pickup. In addition, the City utilizes a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) system for its sanitation services. All household trash must be placed in a PAYT bag for collection.

Bulky Items

Bulky items like furniture and appliances are accepted free of charge as a part of regular sanitation pick-up. A \$50 service fee is required for items containing freon. Up to 4 tires will be picked up as a part of regular sanitation services.

Hazardous Waste

Disposal of hazardous household material is handled by DeKalb County. For more information on hazardous waste events, visit the DeKalb County Sanitation Event Schedule at dekalbcountyga.gov.

Motor Oil

Residents may drop off their used motor oil at nearby auto part stores such as AutoZone, Advance Auto Parts, and Pep Boys.

Yard Waste

Yard trimmings must be placed into single-use yard waste bags or a container no larger than 32 gallons. Bundles of sticks, hedge clippings, and small brush must be securely tied and not exceed 4 feet in length or 50 pounds.

Street Sweeping

Streets are swept once a month during the fall and winter season. Please remove vehicles and do not rake or blow leaves into the street. This is considered illegal dumping and causes a delay in the street sweeper route. Check decaturga.com/streetsweeping for the street sweeping schedule.

Neighborhood Cleanup Days

Once a year residents can dispose of bulky items that do not easily fit into PAYT bags. Acceptable items include tires, furniture, trash that does not fit in the PAYT bags, appliances that do not contain freon, and building materials (not from the work of private contractors). Each street in the city is assigned to a Saturday between March and June. Check decaturga.com/neighborhood cleanup for your assigned street.

Holiday Schedule

The upcoming year's solid waste and recycling services holiday schedule as well as the drop off locations for Christmas tree recycling are included in the November Focus and online at decaturga.com/sanitation. Schedule changes are posted on the city's website, the Decatur Focus, and social media. (Disregard DeKalb County notices regarding the county's solid waste and recycling holiday schedule.)

Semi-Annual Electronics Recycling Events

The City hosts an electronics recycling event every fall, and a paper shredding and recycling event every spring. Styrofoam, #6, can be recycled at both events. The event is held at Public Works and is open to everyone, including non-Decatur residents, businesses, and institutions.

Residential Recycling

To request a free, 18-gallon recycling bin for mixed recyclables, call Public Works at 404-377-5571. For customers who prefer a larger container, 95-gallon blue carts may be purchased at Intown Ace Hardware. Glass must be recycled separately in a dedicated recycling bin. Go to decaturga.com/recycling for more information.

Note: 18-gallon recycling bins are provided for single-family residents only. Multi-family properties should request that their property management contact Public Works at 404-377-5571 to sign up for multi-family, commercial recycling service.

PAYT Bags

Sold in packs of 10
Blue / 33 gallon
Yellow / 15 gallon
Green / 8 gallon

Where to Purchase

City Hall
Public Works
Intown Ace Hardware
Toco Hills Ace Hardware
Publix/Emory Commons
Publix/Toco Hills
Publix/E. Ponce de Leon Ave
Kroger/North Decatur Road
Hop & Shop
Oakhurst Market
Kelly's Market
Savi Provisions



THANK YOU FOR Recycling Right in Decatur



COMMINGLED CART/BIN Recycle ONLY these materials	PAPER Cereal boxes, newspaper, magazines and mail, flattened cardboard and paper tubes	PLASTIC Bottles and jugs with necks: empty and replace caps	GLASS BIN Bottles and jars of all colors: empty and rinse (no lids, caps, or corks)
CARTONS Food and beverage cartons: empty and replace caps	CANS Aluminum and steel cans: empty and rinse		

NOPE!



DON'T BAG RECYCLABLES



NO PLASTIC BAGS OR PLASTIC WRAP



NO CERAMICS CUPS, PLATES, BOWLS, ETC.



NO FOAM



NO CLOTHES OR TEXTILES

BUILDING PERMITS

PERMITTING

Residents can find answers and instructions for permitting at decaturga.com/dec. Online plan submittal and permitting is available through Community Core. For questions, including inquiries about right of way permits or stop work orders, call 404-377-6198.

When do I need to get a building permit for work on my home or yard?

Any routine maintenance or repairs that exceed \$1,000.00 in cost, reconfigure the interior spaces or exterior of a building, or alter any building systems such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, or load bearing structures will require a building permit. In addition, any work that alters the yard or building lot in the form of paving retaining walls, decks, sheds, garages, fences, and/or landscaping will require a building permit.

Is there anything that does not need a permit?

Yes. Several items that may exceed \$1,000.00 in scope do not require a permit. Finish work such as interior and exterior painting, installation of carpet, flooring, refinishing hardwoods, curtains/blinds/shutters, and wall treatments are all items that do not require any permits or building inspections.

Planning to renovate your Decatur home? Let us know.

How long will it take to receive a building permit once I have applied?

Most of our permits are issued within one to three days after applications are submitted. These permits include electrical, plumbing, HVAC permits to do replacement and repairs to existing homes. Minor construction permits such as kitchen renovations, bathroom renovations, fences, window/door replacements, roofs and ornamental landscaping are also permits that take one to three business days. Landscaping, driveway replacement, decks and porches, and small home additions and renovations are typically permitted in five to 10 business days. Substantial renovations, large site development projects, and new homes are typically permitted in 15 to 20 business days.

Do I need drawings to receive a building permit?

In most cases, you will be required to provide some drawings to communicate the scope of work you plan to do. We suggest utilizing design professionals on all major construction projects including renovations, new homes, landscaping projects, and decks. For buildings, architects, home designers, interior designers and design/build contractors will assist you in permitting and construction of your project. For site and landscaping work, land surveyors, landscape architects and civil engineers will provide similar services and drawings.

Do I need to hire a contractor to do a project on my home?

Georgia state law does allow a homeowner to act as contractors for their own properties so long as it is not for the intent of what is commonly known as “house flipping.” These permits allow homeowners to self-perform or contract services without having a licensed contractor. You are only permitted to obtain permits on your own property, and if you sell the property, you cannot obtain permits on other properties within the state for 24 months after the sale. Decatur Public Works strongly recommends hiring licensed and insured contractors, trades people, and repair technicians for work on your home. These individuals have met the education, experience, and performance criteria to do work in your home safely and in a code-compliant manner.

CONSTRUCTION

Standard construction hours, based on noise provisions of Section 42-59 of the City Ordinance, are Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and no work permitted on Sundays. The City Manager can grant exceptions. In these cases, the City makes efforts to notify the public prior to any work outside the standard construction hours.

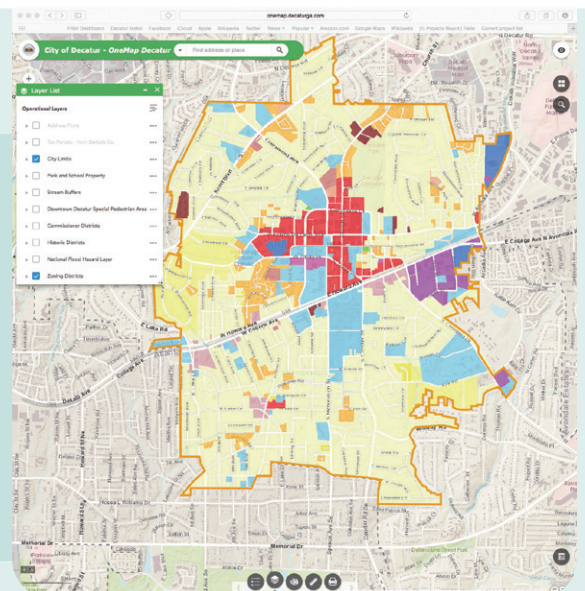
ONEMAP

Visit decaturga.com/onemap to learn more about Decatur:

- Look up parcel information and determine if the property is in the city limits
- Determine a property's zoning district
- Determine if a property is in a local historic district
- View flood hazard zones
- View sanitation, recycling, and streets sweeping schedules
- Create, save, and print maps

LOCAL FACT

The City of Decatur is nationally recognized as a Walk Friendly Community, Bike Friendly Community, Special Needs Community, and an Atlanta Regional Commission Green Community.



DECATUR LOVES TREES

Tree Canopy Ordinance

Decatur's tree canopy conservation ordinance encourages the conservation of existing tree canopy in fair or better condition and provides minimum requirements for the protection, maintenance, and renewal of tree canopy cover across the city. For more information, visit decaturga.com/trees.

Protected trees are 6 inches in diameter at breast height and not listed on the Georgia invasive species list at gaepcc.org/list. Trees less than 6 inches in diameter at breast height may be removed if the trees were not planted as a requirement for compliance with the Ordinance such as in a previously permitted project. Please email the city arborists prior to non-protected tree removals at treepermits@decaturga.com for any questions.

Tree Removal

The tree canopy conservation ordinance allows property owners to remove trees that are deemed dead, untreatably diseased, untreatably infested, or trees that have a target present and are found to be moderate or higher risk by a certified arborist. You will need an assessment report from a certified arborist to file for the DDH tree removal permit online. If your reason for tree removal is a moderate or higher risk with a target present, then the removal application must include an I.S.A. tree risk form. Please email permitting@decaturga.com to gain access to the online permitting system. Completely dead trees that have no green tree leaves or needles left during spring or summer can be removed by submitting photos and a dead tree affirmation request to the city arborists at treepermits@decaturga.com. Once the dead tree is verified by the city arborists, a tree removal permit will be created. New trees will need to be planted for no net loss of canopy. A Dead Tree Affirmation Review/Inspection fee is charged.

To find an arborist, visit treesaregood.org or georgiaarborist.org/find-tree-care for arborist searches and directories.

A tree removal permit needs to be filed with the city to track the reasons for the tree removal, the amount of tree canopy removed, and a plan for replanting if applicable.

Extreme risk trees or trees in active failure can be removed under an emergency request to the city arborists at treepermits@decaturga.com.

decaturga.com. Please include photos of the tree. A tree removal permit will need to be filed within 72 hours of the removal.

For persons wishing to increase the square footage of impervious surface on their parcel, a pre-application meeting is required to discuss the proposed project and the existing protected tree canopy. To schedule the pre-application meeting, email treepermits@decaturga.com. More information can be found at decaturga.com/trees.

Boundary Trees

A tree growing on a property boundary line between two lots where the trunk meets the ground on each property resulting in joint ownership. A tree that has 20% or more of its critical root zone extending across a property boundary and into an adjacent property that is applying for a land disturbance permit. A Boundary tree agreement must be approved by the tree owner for 20% or more impactation to the tree's critical root zone or proposed removal of the boundary tree. More information can be found at decaturga.com/trees.

Invasive Species

While some invasive plants are pretty, they can squeeze out native species, smother and kill trees, poison local fauna, and damage our local ecosystem. Consider removing invasive plants such as Chinese privet, Chinese wiste-

ria, English ivy, nandina, Japanese hops, and kudzu. Trees on the Georgia EPPC Invasive Species List, Category 1 or 2 shall not be planted or approved for canopy credit. Visit Georgia Invasive Species Council for more details.

Native Species

While many species of trees grow in the city, there are some trees that thrive and provide a habitat for local wildlife and food for pollinators. Some of the best trees to plant include black gum, cedar, Carolina silverbell, dogwood, hickory, magnolia, maple, oak, pecan, poplar, sycamore, and yellowwood. For a more extensive list of trees, visit decaturga.com/trees.

Where to Plant the Right Tree?

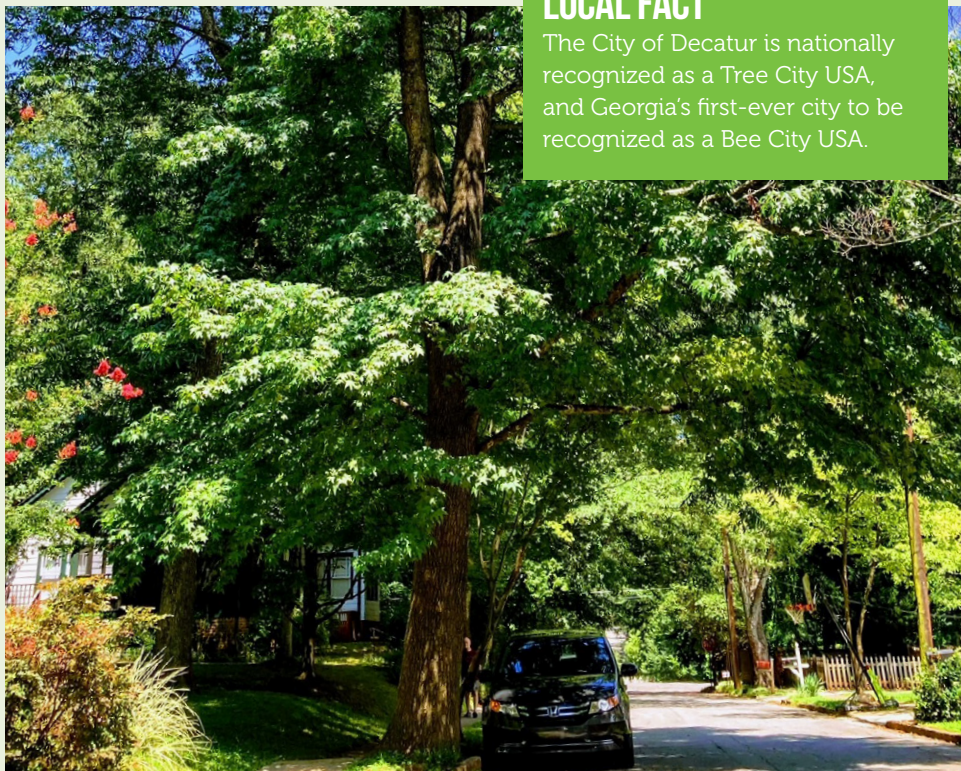
Where you plant your tree is just as important as what type of tree you plant. Think about how your tree will affect existing property lines, utility lines, the sidewalks, and how it will look as it grows taller and wider.

Leave the Leaves!

Using a tree's own fallen leaves for mulch helps to retain soil moisture, moderates soil temperature, suppresses weed growth, and provides a habitat for hibernating animals, pollinators, and insects.

LOCAL FACT

The City of Decatur is nationally recognized as a Tree City USA, and Georgia's first-ever city to be recognized as a Bee City USA.



STORMWATER & FLOODING

Controlling stormwater is a priority throughout Decatur.

Watersheds

Four watersheds are found within the city: Sugar Creek and Shoal Creek, which drain to the Atlantic Ocean, and Peavine Creek and South Fork Peachtree Creek, which drain to the Gulf of Mexico. You can do your part to protect the city's watersheds by:

- Cleaning up after your dog, even in your own backyard! Pet poo stations can be found at the parks and throughout downtown.
- Never flush medication down the toilet, instead bring it to the police department's medicine drop off cabinet.
- Keep hazardous chemicals and motor oil out of drains.
- Use nontoxic household products whenever possible.
- Get your car professionally washed.

Storm Drainage Maintenance

Drainage features outside the public right-of-way are typically owned and maintained by the property owner, including inlets, pipes, ditches, and creeks. Dumping waste into the city's stormwater infrastructure is illegal and should be reported. Report any storm structure blockage or illegal dumping to Public Works at 404-370-4104.

Neighbors' Runoff

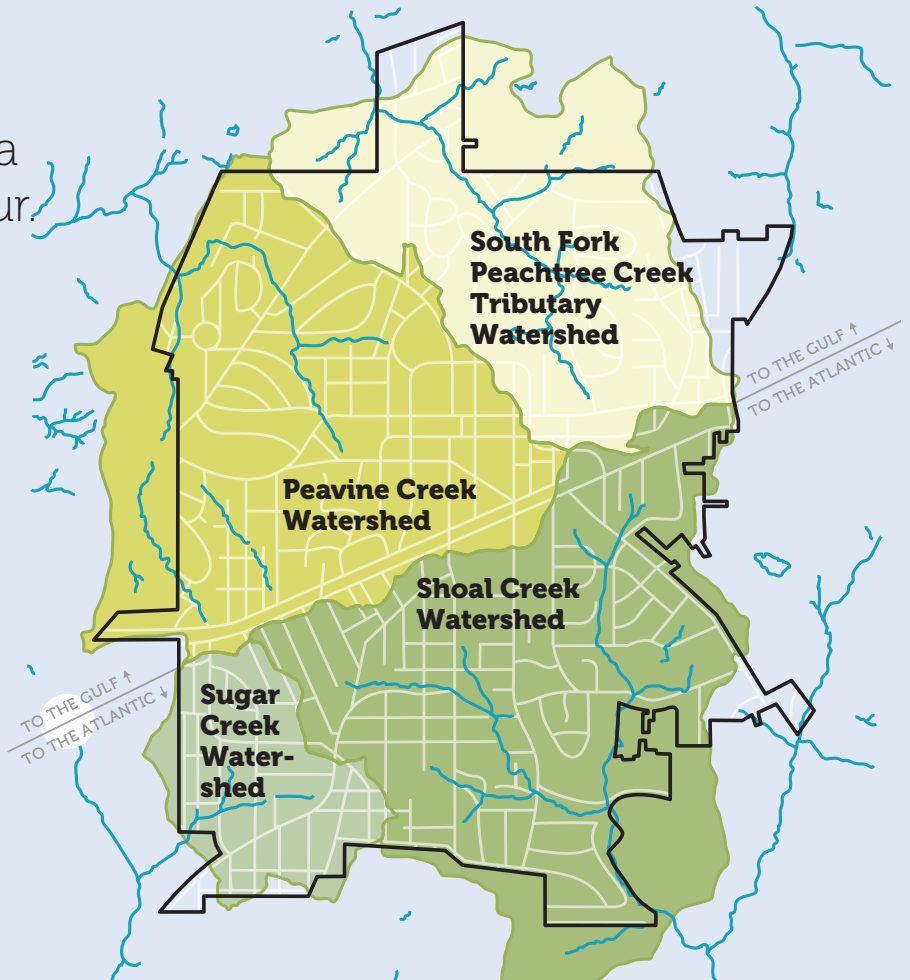
Runoff crossing property boundaries is generally considered a civil matter; exceptions include active construction sites or properties with a drainage system.

Stream Buffers

Any land disturbance within 75 feet of a creek must be permitted by Public Works to ensure compliance with stream buffer regulations. This also includes smaller projects such as landscaping or fencing.

Floodplains

Properties officially identified as being in a floodplain are required by their mortgage lenders to have flood insurance. While it is not impossible to build in a floodplain, there are specific regulations that must be followed. Any interior or exterior construction is subject to these regulations. For more information and guidance, set up a pre-application meeting with Public Works.



LOCAL FACT

In 2013 the city began large-scale improvements to the downtown drainage system. Underneath Ebster Field is a massive flood control vault, which reduces the flooding risk downtown and improves water quality.

PARKS & RECREATION

See the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at decaturga.com/masterplans

Recreation Centers

Host your next meeting, event, or program at one of our recreation centers. Be sure to check out rental prices and packages at decaturga.com/parksrec.

- Decatur Recreation Center – 231 Sycamore St.
- Oakhurst Recreation Center – 450 E. Lake Dr.
- Ebster Recreation Center – 105 Electric Ave.

McKoy Skate Park Recently Renovated

McKoy Skate Park has undergone a recent redesign, now boasting all-concrete elements. This updated park caters to skaters of all levels, offering a variety of features to suit every individual's skill and preference.

Parks and Dog Parks

The city has numerous large and pocket parks to explore including Adair Park, Scott Park, McKoy Park, Mead Road Park, Oakhurst Park, Ebster Park, Glenlake Park, Glenn Creek Nature Preserve, Hidden Cove Park, and Legacy Park, where you will find a cross-country trail. There are fenced dog parks at Adair, Glenlake, and Oakhurst parks. Parks are open from sunrise until sunset.

Cemetery

Decatur Cemetery is downtown's largest greenspace—a quiet 58-acre park. While visiting the cemetery, you will recognize many names from Decatur, DeKalb, and Georgia history. The cemetery is open every day from sunrise to sunset. Stop by the office on Bell Street to pick up a cemetery map and tour brochure.

Tennis

Courts are located at Glenlake Tennis Center, Oakhurst Park, and Scott Park. Before 6 p.m., the court fees are \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents. After 6 p.m., the court fees are \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. The fee paid is valid for two hours. Tennis camps are typically held during the summer months. Hours for tennis courts vary:

Glenlake Tennis Center – five premier courts

1121 Church St.

9 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Friday

9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday to Sunday

Oakhurst Park – two concrete courts

307 Feld Ave.

8 a.m.-10 p.m., daily

Scott Park – two premier courts with pickleball lines

231 Sycamore St.

8 a.m.-10 p.m., daily

PickleBall

Scott Park Tennis Courts now feature dedicated Pickleball lines for outdoor play. Reserve your court by contacting Glenlake Tennis Center or booking online via CommunityPass. Ebster Recreation Center holds open gym pickleball Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and various weekend days throughout the year.

Pools

The city has one indoor pool at Oakhurst Recreation Center and three outdoor pools at Ebster, Glenlake, and McKoy parks. Residents must bring proof of residency to Glenlake Tennis Center after May 1 to be issued a City of Decatur residency card and receive resident rates. Annual pool passes can be purchased at Glenlake Tennis Center. The indoor pool at Oakhurst Recreation Center operates year-round and offers lap swimming, aquatic classes, and much more. For more information on rates, check out the Summer Playbook or visit decaturga.com/parksrec.

Senior Trips & Events

Explore Georgia with our senior trips and meet new friends at our senior special events.

Walking, Running and Cycling

Bikes and Brews (March-October, 1st & 3rd Fridays) – Beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Guild+Journeyman, join us for a 6-mile, social paced ride around Decatur! After the ride we will visit a neighborhood brewery for refreshments and camaraderie. This ride is not suggested for children. Please wear a helmet and have lights on your bike.

Saturday Ride (March-October, 1st & 3rd Saturdays) – Discover the beauty of Decatur's neighborhoods as we pedal through a 5-mile or less route with pit stops along the way. Whether you're a leisure cyclist, riding with kids, or reigniting your passion for cycling, this ride is designed for all. Helmets are required, and the ride begins at Guild+Journeyman at 10 a.m.

Couch to 5K – This beginner running program meets twice each week in the fall and spring.

Walk & Talk Decatur – Lace up your sneakers and get ready to explore the vibrant streets of Decatur. Join us for a fun-filled stroll around the Decatur Square every third Thursday at 6 p.m. After the walk, join us back at Clarity Fitness for information about upcoming Decatur events and light refreshments.

Wednesday Walks – Participants meet Wednesday at Decatur Recreation Center to walk 2.5-3 miles. Meets at 10 a.m. October-April, and 9 a.m. May-September.

Decatur Hiking Group – Typically meets on a Saturday each month. All hikes are easy to intermediate exertion.

Youth and Adult Athletics

Decatur Parks and Recreation offers a variety of youth sports—baseball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, cheerleading, football, basketball, flag football, tackle football and lacrosse—as well as adult softball and basketball leagues.

Sport Camps

Decatur Parks and Recreation offers a variety of sport camps led by Decatur High School and Beacon Hill Middle School coaches, including fencing, basketball, soccer, bicycling, table tennis, gymnastics, baseball, football, karate, lacrosse, girls softball, cheerleading, and lacrosse.

DECATUR IS GREAT FOR KIDS

Lots of opportunities for Decatur's younger residents.

Out of School Time

The City offers seven after school programs, for students in grades K-5. Program sites are located in the school's building. For more information, contact 404-377-0494 or check out the latest issue of the Playbook at decaturga.com/playbook.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Decatur Parks and Recreation coordinates the City's SRTS program and works with the respective school PTA/O committee representatives to encourage children to walk/bike or ride the bus to school by hosting events and mapping safe routes for students. More information can be found at decaturga.com/srts.

Junior Police Academy

Held in June and September of each year; this weeklong interactive program educates youth 11-14 years old, about the functions and duties of their police department. Sessions include 911/communications, recruitment and training, weapons and equipment, use of force, traffic safety and enforcement, drug trends and dangers, criminal investigations, personal safety, crime prevention, and physical fitness. Participants will also complete a family and friends CPR course. Go to decaturga.com/police and click on community programs to learn more.

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 or attend public, private, and home-based schools within the city. Members of the DYC will learn about their local city government and develop into young leaders through structured monthly educational programs and team-building activities. Learn more at decaturga.com/dyc.

Touch a Truck

Each March the city holds a Touch a Truck event where children of all ages are invited to see, touch, and explore their favorite truck or equipment on wheels. Vehicles from the City of Decatur, Decatur City Schools, and DeKalb County are always on display. Check the calendar at visitdecaturga.com.

LOCAL FACT

Decatur was the first Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community in Georgia, receiving recognition 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.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS and locations

Grades K-3

Clairemont, Glennwood, Oakhurst, Westchester, Winnona Park

Grades 4-5

5th Avenue Upper Elementary, Talley Street Upper Elementary



Touch a Truck is a favorite family event.



Youth athletics

PUBLIC SAFETY

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Police non-emergency: 404-373-6551

Fire non-emergency: 404-373-5092

Smart911

The Smart911 emergency notification system is a multi-platform system that quickly notifies residents and business owners of emergency situations and severe weather requiring immediate action via telephone, text, and/or email, depending on individual preferences. In addition, the Smart911 system encourages residents and business owners to create safety profiles of vital personal and household data, including household members, photos, medications or medical conditions and even pets. Residents must opt in to receive notifications. When 911 is dialed from a registered phone number, the vital information is immediately displayed to 911 dispatcher, providing necessary information to first responders. Safety profiles can be created at smart911.com.

Text 911

The City of Decatur Police Department now accepts text messaging for the hearing and speech impaired and for others in emergency situations where a voice call is not possible due to emergency circumstances or a high volume of phone activity.

Tornado Warning Sirens

The city has seven tornado sirens located at Glennwood Elementary, Winnona Park Elementary, Oakhurst Elementary, Westchester Elementary, Agnes Scott College, Beacon Municipal Complex, and Decatur Legacy Park. During an imminent tornado threat, the sirens are sounded to alert community members to take shelter. The tornado sirens are tested at 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, unless there is inclement weather.

CONNECT WITH DECATUR PUBLIC SAFETY

Keep up with alerts, updates, news, events, classes and programs by following the Decatur Police Department on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). The Decatur Fire Department can be found on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook

cityofdecaturpdga
decaturfireandrescue

Nextdoor

Decatur Police Department

X (formerly Twitter)

cityofdecaturpd

Instagram

cityofdecaturpd
decaturgafire

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Child Passenger Safety Seat Installations

Home Safety Inspections

Blood Pressure Checks

Fire Safety Classes and Extinguisher Training

CPR and First Aid Training

Stop the Bleed Training

Official "Safe Place" location

Winter Storm Senior Welfare Checks

Fire Station Tours

Senior Fall Prevention Presentations



CITY OFFICES



CITY HALL

509 N. McDonough St.

City Manager's office

404-370-4102

- Budget • City Clerk
- Capital Bond Projects
- Records Management

Administrative Services

404-370-4102

- Finance • Insurance
- Personnel • Payroll
- Technology • Wellness

Community & Economic Development

404-371-8386

- Economic & Business Development
- Special Events
- Lifelong Community
- Planning & Zoning

Equity & Engagement

404-370-4102

- Equity
- Civic and Employee Engagement
- Communications



PUBLIC WORKS

2635 Talley St.

Public Works 404-377-5571

- Solid Waste & Recycling
- Motor Maintenance
- Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Cemetery
- Engineering
- Streets
- Stormwater
- Permitting & Inspections
- Code Enforcement



DECATUR RECREATION CENTER

231 Sycamore St. • 404-377-0494

Parks and Recreation

- Athletics • Parks and Pools
- Safe Routes to School • Gym
- Summer Camps • Meeting Space

OAKHURST RECREATION CENTER

450 East Lake Dr. • 404-377-0494

- Athletics • Gym
- Meeting Space • Stage
- Playground • Field • Pool



FIRE STATION NO. 1

230 E. Trinity Pl.

Fire Department non-emergency 404-373-5092



FIRE STATION NO. 2

356 W. Hill St.



BEACON MUNICIPAL CENTER

Police Department

420 W. Trinity Pl.

non-emergency number:
404-373-6551

E-911

In an emergency, call or text 911

Municipal Court

678-553-6655

Ebster Recreation Center

105 Electric Ave.

404-377-0494

- Athletics • Gym
- Meeting Space • Stage
- Playground • Field
- Pool

City Schools of Decatur Elizabeth Wilson Schools Support Center

125 Electric Ave.

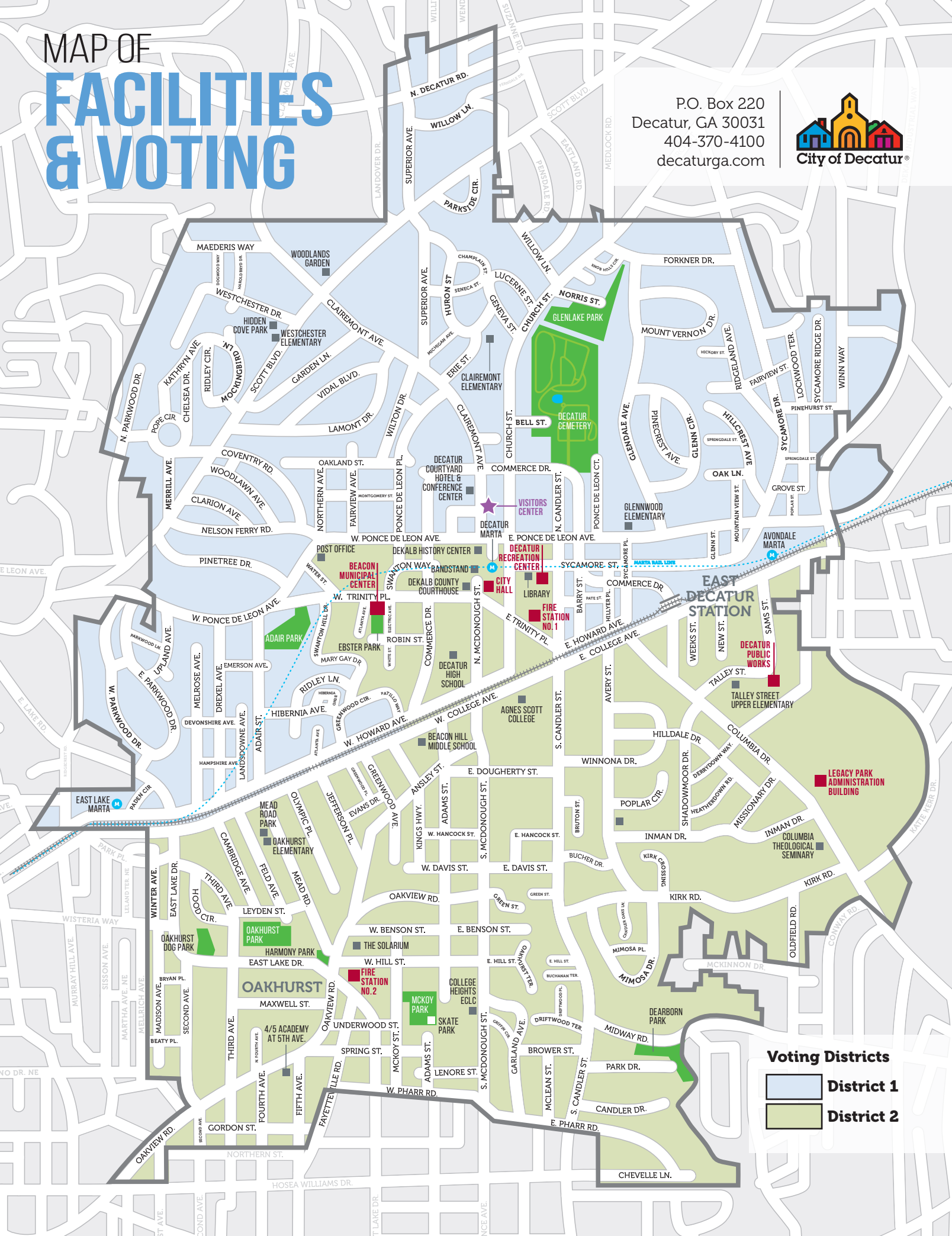
404-371-3601

DECATUR LEGACY PARK

ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
500 S. Columbia Dr.
404-378-1082

MAP OF FACILITIES & VOTING

P.O. Box 220
 Decatur, GA 30031
 404-370-4100
 decaturga.com



Voting Districts

- District 1
- District 2