

HELLO

WELCOME TO DECATUR!



A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS NEW TO DECATUR 2021



WELCOME

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. On behalf of the Decatur City Commission, we hope you find useful information in this new resident packet and again, welcome to Decatur, an All-America City.

— Mayor Patti Garrett



STOP IN AND SAY HELLO!

As you get to know Decatur, stop by the Visitors Center at 113 Clairemont Ave., Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A friendly volunteer will provide you with whatever information you need, or steer you in the right direction. There's also a Decatur information center in the lobby of Decatur Police headquarters in the Beacon Municipal Complex at 420 W. Trinity Pl.

Government

FIVE RESIDENTS SERVE ON THE CITY COMMISSION

The Decatur City Commissioners determine the policies of the city and enacts the local laws necessary for the protection of the 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. The meetings are streamed live and archived at decaturga.com/streamingvideo.

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

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, meetings are currently held online via Zoom until further notice.

See page 7 for information about commission elections.

George Dusenbury

District 1 Commissioner

Elected November 2019,
current term expires 2023
george.dusenbury@decaturga.com

Kelly Walsh

District 1 Commissioner

Elected November 2017,
current term expires 2021
kelly.walsh@decaturga.com

Lesa Mayer

District 2 Commissioner

Elected November 2019,
current term expires 2023
lesa.mayer@decaturga.com

LOCAL FACT

City Commission meetings are open to the public. While the meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm, you can walk in at any time after the meeting has started.



Tony Powers

Mayor Pro Tem,
Commissioner-at-large

Elected November 2015,
current term expires 2023
tony.powers@decaturga.com

Patti Garrett

Mayor,
District 2 Commissioner

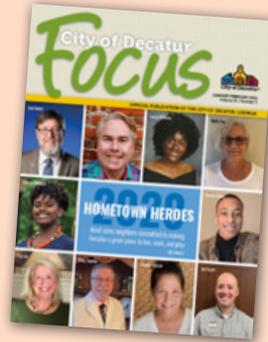
First elected November 2009,
current term expires 2021
patti.garrett@decaturga.com

Connect

WITH CITY OF DECATUR, CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR, AND DEKALB COUNTY.

CITY COMMUNICATION

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.



LOCAL FACT Community members are encouraged to submit articles for consideration to the *Decatur Focus*. Submissions should be received by the first of the month prior to the month of publication (for example, information for the April issue should be submitted by March 1).

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, select your neighborhood, and look for alerts in your email.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Most city departments have a Facebook presence including, the Police, Fire, Active Living and Children & Youth Services departments.

-  decaturga
cityofdecaturpdga
decaturfireandrescue
decaturactiveliving
decaturcys
-  cityofdecaturga
-  cityofdecaturga
cityofdecaturpd
decaturgafire

See Click Fix: Download the app, and use it to alert the city to problems or issues you discover while out and about, and then track the progress of your report.

Text alerts: Text CODAlerts to 313131 to receive news alerts and important updates from the City of Decatur.

CITY SCHOOLS OF DECATUR

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

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.

GEORGIA POWER

Power outages, street light outages, and damaged utility poles can be reported on the Georgia Power website at georgiapower.com.

DEKALB COUNTY

dekalbcountyga.gov

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.-5:30 p.m.)

678-406-7929

(after hours, holidays, weekends)

DeKalb County Water & Sewer

404-378-4475 – billing

770-270-6243 – 24 hr. emergencies

**DeKalb County
Tax Assessor's Office**
dekalbtax.org

404-298-4000

proptax@dekalbcountyga.gov



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.

Get Involved

PLAY A PART IN SHAPING YOUR NEW HOMETOWN.

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 at volunteerdecatgur.com.

Martin Luther King Jr. Service Project

The MLK Service Project helps make necessary repairs so that seniors on fixed or low incomes can remain safely in their home. Each year volunteers work on more than 30 homes, making repairs on each worth, on average, \$2,000. Residents ages 12 and over 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 or sign up to volunteer, visit mlkproject.com.

Season of Giving/Christmas Decatur

Each holiday season, residents can sign up to buy gifts or volunteer so that low-income children and seniors are able to enjoy the holidays. Wish lists are available beginning in October. For more information (or to donate), email aseasonofgiving@decaturga.com.

Citizens Police Academy

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



Some of the volunteers who serve on the city's Volunteer Boards and Commissions

background check. Go to decaturga.com/police and click on community programs.

CAPS

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

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 between 13-and 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.



MLK Service Project

Decatur CAPS volunteers



Get More Involved!

IF YOU'VE GOT TIME, WE'VE GOT OPPORTUNITIES

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 on a rolling basis for open positions before their meetings on the first or third Monday of the month. There are currently nine resident boards and commissions:

- Active Living Board
- 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

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

Decatur 101

Decatur 101 is a seven-week program, held February-April, 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 learn about the functions of City Schools of Decatur and take a Smart Growth Walking Tour. Learn more at decaturga.com/decatur101.

LOCAL FACT

The city joined the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

Better Together Advisory Board presented Clarity Fitness, Kelly's Market and Hop N Shop with "Welcoming Business" Awards in December 2020



Decatur 101 is so popular that the city conducts separate daytime and evening classes. About 115 residents take the class each year.



City of 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 mailed April 1, and must be paid June 1. The second is mailed 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.

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 bill 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 REDUCE TAXES

If you live at the property you own, you may qualify for one or more homestead exemptions or assistance programs for city taxes in 2021:

- **General homestead exemption:** Homeowners who reside at their home are eligible to apply online or in person.
- **GS-1 exemption:** The GS-1 saved most eligible homeowners \$1,579 in 2020. You qualify to apply if you're at least 62 as of Jan. 1 and your total household income does not exceed \$25,000.
- **S-1 exemption:** The S-1 saved most eligible homeowners \$202 in 2020. You qualify to apply if you are 62 or older as of Jan. 1 and the household income of you and your spouse does not exceed \$10,000, excluding retirement income. Pensions and Social Security income do not count toward income for this exemption, but income such as salary, wages, rental income, dividends and interest are included.
- **GH-2/S-4 exemption:** Regardless of income, owners who are 65 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to apply for the GH-2 and S-4. The S-4 exempts owners from school taxes; this exemption is in effect throughout 2021, subject to change through legislation and a referendum. S-4 savings vary based on the value of the home. The GH-2 saves homeowners about \$113 a year.
- **S-2 and S-3 school exemptions:** Owners who are 70 may file for the S-3 regardless of income. Owners over 80 with income under \$40,000 may apply for the S-2 exemption. These exemptions do not reduce taxes while the S-4 is in effect. However, the city encourages homeowners to apply for these exemptions in case of changes to the S-4.
- **Disabled veterans** can qualify for an exemption saving up to \$3,087 if they reside at the property and have a 100 percent disability per the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **Tax deferral** allows owners 62 and above to defer taxes on the first \$100,000 of assessed value of their home, payable with interest upon the sale or transfer of the property, allowing a deferral of up to \$3,417 annually. Additional conditions apply.
- **Year's support** provides an exemption of taxes for one year upon the death of a spouse if approved by the DeKalb County probate court.
- **Un-remarried 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.

Your potential tax savings for each exemption will vary in 2021 depending on millage rates. Once you have applied for an exemption, you do not need to re-apply. But you'll need to apply if you qualify for a new exemption based on age, income, if you are a new owner, or if you have moved within town. If you have only applied with the county, you must also apply with the city.

The city can accept homestead exemption applications for 2021 anytime between now and April 1. However, homeowners are encouraged to apply for any new exemptions by March 15 in order for your exemptions to appear on the first installment 2021 property tax bill.

For details on how homestead exemptions are calculated or to apply for the general homestead exemption online, visit decaturga.com/homestead. Applicants for all other exemptions may request a scanned or mailed application by calling 404-370-4100 or emailing taxes@decaturga.com.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

City Budget

THE 2010 STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDES CITY SPENDING.

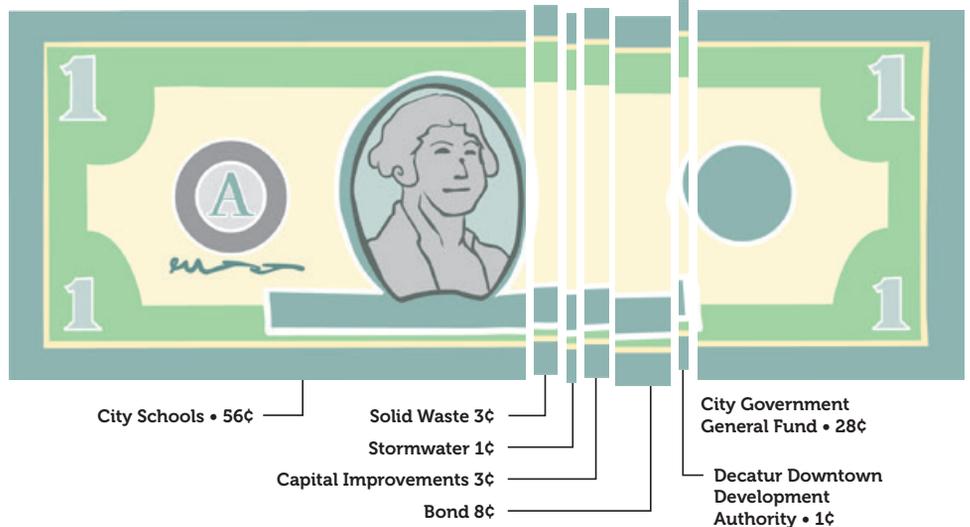
The budget allocates the city's limited financial resources to provide services based on community and organizational priorities. The city's budget preparation process begins in February and culminates with budget adoption by the City Commission on the third Monday in June. The budget period is the city's 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 on the square from 5 to 7 pm, encouraging residents to get 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 2010 Strategic Plan principles developed by Decatur citizens.

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the 2021 "Touch-a-Budget" Expo has been canceled. Be on the lookout for other opportunities to get involved in the budget process.

HOW IS A TAX DOLLAR SPENT IN DECATUR?



Vision-Based Budgeting

The annual budget is the primary implementation tool to make the community's vision in the 2010 Strategic Plan come to life. The annual budget highlights the four principles outlined in the 2010 strategic plan plus an additional principle that aims to capture the internal work

of the city government. Under each principle is a description of how the city implements the goals and tasks of that principle, past accomplishments, proposed projects for this fiscal year, performance measures and unique partnerships.

Voting

COMMISSION ELECTIONS OCCUR EVERY TWO YEARS.

Decatur City Commission elections are held in odd-numbered 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 terms – 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 for a one-year term.

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

VOTING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES

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

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 and 2 / Glenwood

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

District 1 and 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

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, 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 in order to be collected.

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 four 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 clip-

pings, and small brush must be securely tied and not exceed four feet in length or 50 pounds. Typically, the yard waste is collected in a separate truck to be converted into mulch. At times, DeKalb County will request the yard waste be collected with household waste due to mechanical or storage issues at the landfill.

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 decalurga.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, appliances that do not contain freon, and building materials (not from the work of private contractors). Each street in the city is assigned a Saturday between March and June. Check decalurga.com/neighborhood-cleanup for your assigned street.



Bags sold in packs of 10

Blue / 33 gallon
Yellow / 15 gallon
Green / 8 gallon

Where to purchase

City Hall
Hop N Shop
Oakhurst Market
Kelly's Market
Kroger on Commerce Drive
Kroger on N. Decatur Rd.
Kroger Citi Center (Memorial Dr.)
Public Works
Intown Ace Hardware
Toco Hills Ace Hardware
Publix / Emory Commons (N. Decatur Rd.)
Publix / Toco Hills (N. Druid Hills Rd.)

RECYCLING



PLACE ONLY THESE IN YOUR COMMINGLED CURBSIDE BIN

Cardboard and Paper Food and Beverage Cartons Plastic Bottles and Jugs with necks Metal Food and Beverage Cans

Flatten Boxes. Empty and rinse cartons, cans, plastic bottles and jugs with necks



GLASS BIN

Any color unbroken glass bottles and jars.

Emptied and rinsed

TIPS FOR RECYCLING IN DECATUR:

- No plastic grocery bags – Recycle at your store collection bins
- No flexible plastic containers and clamshell packaging – Recycle at CHaRM, 1110 Hill St. SE, Atlanta
- No styrofoam – save it for Decatur's twice-a-year recycling day or drop at CHaRM
- No aluminum foil and single-use trays – dispose with your trash
- No textiles, clothing, or shoes – donate to local charities or dispose with trash
- Yes to pizza boxes – recycle them at the curb with other materials

When in doubt, throw it out – Keep contaminants out of the recycling stream

Questions? Email recycling@decalurga.com or visit decalurga.com/recycling

Building Permits Q&A

PLANNING TO RENOVATE YOUR DECATUR HOME? LET US KNOW.

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 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 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.

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

Most of our permits are issued in 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 homeowners 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. The Design Environment and Construction Department 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.

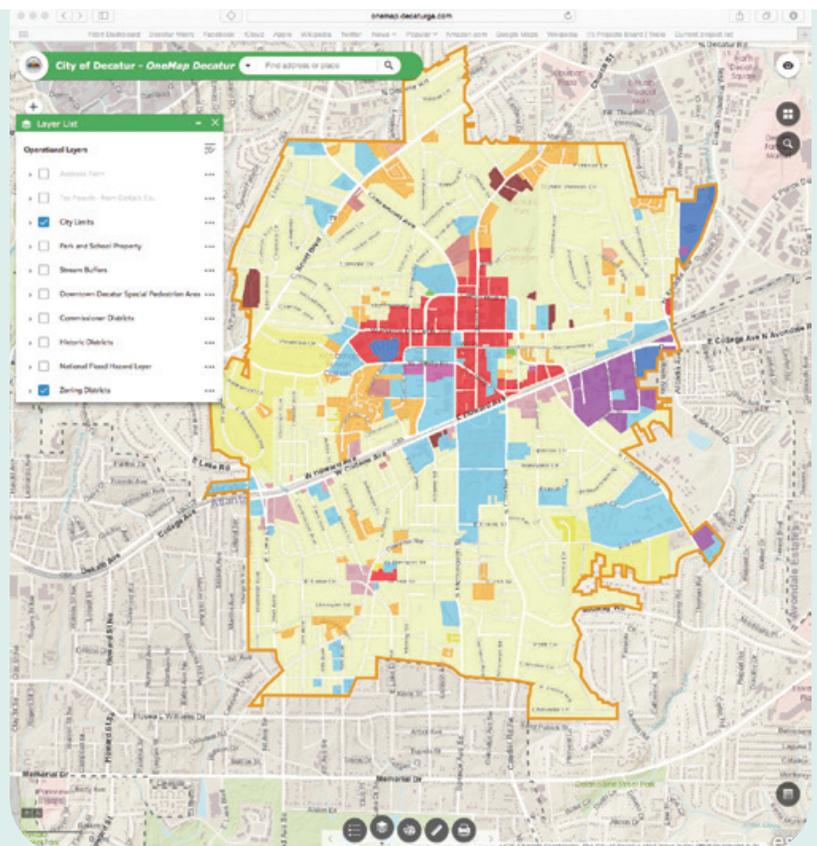
One Map

Visit onemap.decaturga.com/cityofdecatour 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
- View Safe Route to School routes
- 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 and provides minimum requirements for the protection, maintenance, and renewal of tree canopy cover across the city. Find more information at decaturga.com/trees.

Tree Removal

The tree canopy ordinance allows residential property owners to remove up to three healthy, protected trees during an 18-month period. A tree information 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. No recompense or replanting is required if only three trees are removed within the 18-month period.

LOCAL FACT

In 2020, there were 365 trees planted on City of Decatur-owned property.

Boundary Trees

Trees with 20 percent or more of the critical root zone extending across a property boundary are considered boundary trees and require a boundary tree agreement for removal. Contact the Design, Environment and Construction Division for more information.

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 wisteria, English ivy, nandina Japanese hops, and kudzu.

Native Species

While many species of trees grow in the city, there are some trees that not only thrive better, but provide a habitat to the local wildlife. Some of

the best trees to plant include ash, cedar, cherry, dogwood, hickory, magnolia, maple, oak, pecan poplar, sycamore and weeping willow. For a more extensive list of trees, contact the city arborist or check the tree list in the Unified Development Ordinance.

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 and insects.

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 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 the Design, Environment and Construction Division at 404-377-6198.

Neighbors' Runoff

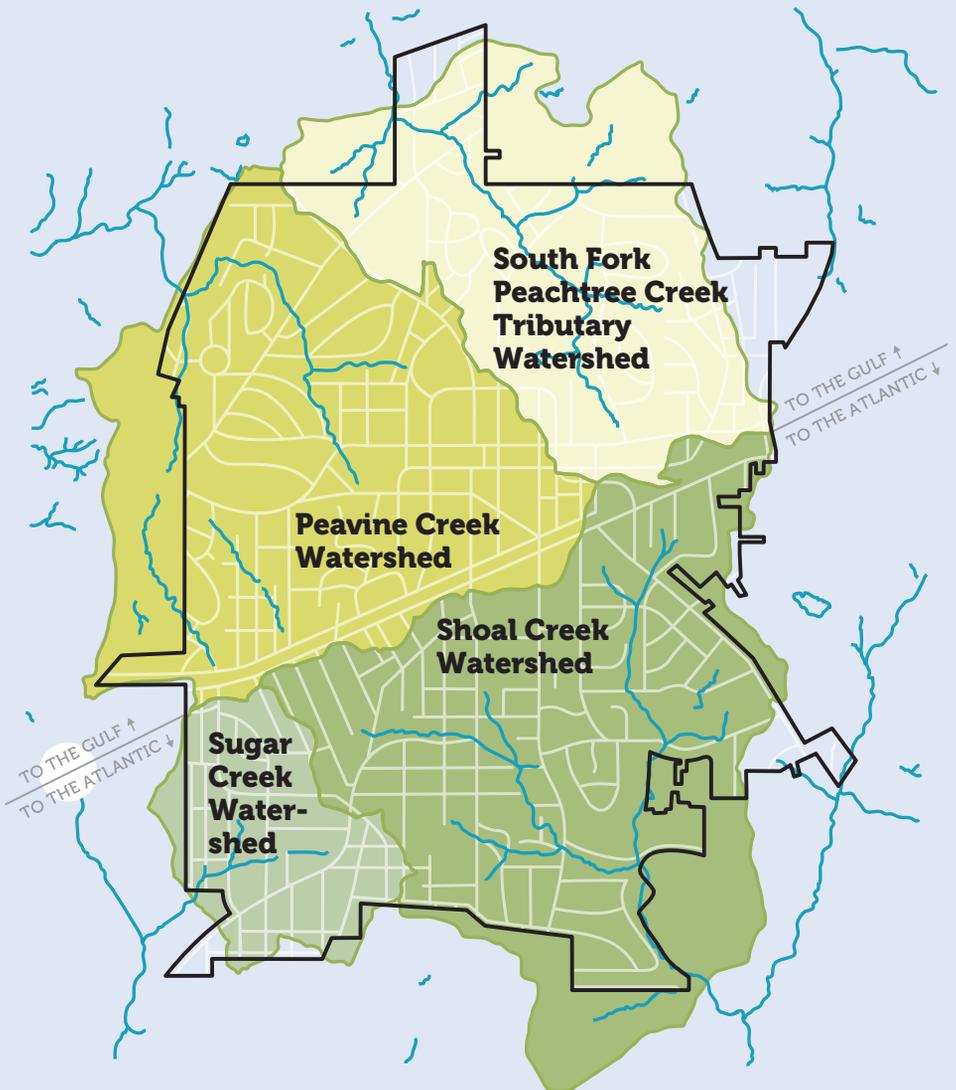
Runoff crossing property boundaries is generally considered a civil matter; exceptions include active construction sites or properties with a drainage system.

Stream Buffers

Any land disturbance within 75 feet of a creek must be permitted by the Design, Environment and Construction Division 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 the Design, Environment, & Construction Division.



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.

Active Living

DECATUR MAKES IT EASY TO BE ACTIVE.



Ebster Pool



Parks and Dog Parks

The city has numerous large and pocket parks for you to explore. See them on the map on page 16. Decatur's largest greenspace, Legacy Park, features a cross-country trail. There are fenced dog parks within Adair, Glenlake, and Oakhurst parks. Parks are open sunrise to sunset.

Tennis

Courts are located at Glenlake Tennis Center, Oakhurst Park and Scott Park. Resident fees are \$5/hr and \$10/hr for non-residents. Tennis courts are open Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and weekends, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tennis camps are normally held during the summer months.

Outdoor PickleBall

The City now offers drop-in outdoor pickleball at Scott Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., weather permitting. All levels are welcome. Bring your own paddle, balls and water.

Pools

The city has an indoor pool at Oakhurst Park, and 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. For hours and rates, check out the Summer Playbook or contact Active Living.

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.

Walking, Running and Cycling

Third Friday FUN Bike Ride (March-October)—Beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur Rec Center, the ride is designed for newer riders who would like to learn about riding in a group, though all levels are encouraged to join. Helmets are required.

Silver Spokes—Taught every Thursday morning April, May, September, October to encourage senior citizens to get back on their bikes. Pre-registration is required.

Senior Bike Rides—held the last Thursday in April and May at 10 am.

Couch to 5K—Eight-week running program meets twice a week in winter and fall.

Decatur Hiking Group—easy to moderate hikes on the last Friday of each month.

Decatur Outdoor Group – This group meets monthly for an outdoor adventure that they participate in the planning of.

Youth and Adult Athletics

Decatur Active Living 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 Active Living offers a variety of sport camps led by Decatur High School and Renfro Middle School coaches. Camps cover a variety of sports from fencing, basketball, soccer, bicycling, table tennis, gymnastics, baseball, football, karate, lacrosse, girl's softball, cheerleading, and lacrosse.

Safe Routes to School

Active Living coordinates the city's Safe Routes to School program and works with the school's parent champions to encourage children to walk/bike or ride the bus to school.

Learn more about these opportunities at decaturga.com/activeliving.

Decatur: Great for Kids

LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECATUR'S YOUNGER RESIDENTS

After School Programs

The City offers nine after school programs, eight of which are accredited, for students in grades K-8. Program sites are located in schools and city facilities. For more information, contact the Children and Youth Services Division at 404-378-1082 or check out the latest issue of the Playbook newsletter at decaturga.com/playbook.

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 and 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.

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 a public, private, or home-based schools. 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.



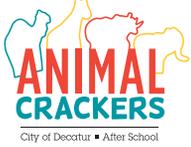
Touch a Truck

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, City of Decatur Schools, and DeKalb County are on display. Check the calendar at decaturga.com.

LOCAL FACT

The *Playbook* is published four times a year (in January, May, September, and December). The *Playbook* lists the after school programs, camp programs, and recreational sports for kids as well as athletic classes and programs for seniors. A stand-alone summer camps issue is distributed in Decatur city schools before the winter holiday break. Learn more at decaturga.com/playbook.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

	Locations	Grades
 Animal Crackers	Clairemont Glennwood Oakhurst Westchester Winnona Park	K-3rd
 Whiz Kids	5th Avenue Upper Elem. Ebster Rec. Center Talley St. Upper Elem.	4th-5th
 Project REAL	Renfroe	6th-8th



Touch a Truck is a favorite family event.

Learning about fingerprints at the Junior Police Academy



Public Safety

DECATUR'S FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Smart 911

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 Smart 911 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. 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 citizens outdoors to take shelter. **Tornado sirens are tested at 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month**, unless there is inclement weather.



IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Police non-emergency: 404-373-6551

Fire non-emergency: 404-373-5092

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Child Seat Installations

Home Inspections

Blood Pressure Checks

Fire Extinguisher Checks

CPR Training

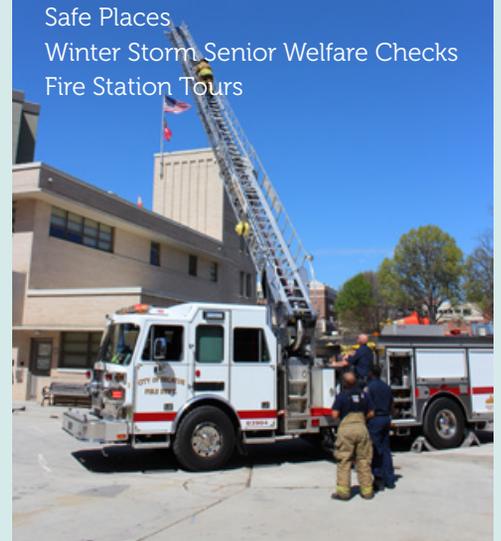
Car Fit for Seniors

Medicine Cabinet Clean-out

Safe Places

Winter Storm Senior Welfare Checks

Fire Station Tours



CONNECT WITH DECATUR PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Facebook

[cityofdecaturpdga](https://www.facebook.com/cityofdecaturpdga)
[decaturfireandrescue](https://www.facebook.com/decaturfireandrescue)

Nextdoor

Decatur Police Department

Twitter

[cityofdecaturpd](https://twitter.com/cityofdecaturpd)

Instagram

[cityofdecaturpd](https://www.instagram.com/cityofdecaturpd)
[decaturgafire](https://www.instagram.com/decaturgafire)

City Offices

ALL CITY OFFICES HAVE BEEN BUILT OR RENOVATED TO MEET OR EXCEED LEED STANDARDS*



CITY HALL

509 N. McDonough St.

City Manager's office
404-370-4102

- Budget
- Capital Bond Projects
- City Clerk

Administrative Services
404-370-4102

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

Community & Economic Development
404-371-8386

- Economic & Business Development
- Civic Engagement, Communications & Marketing
- Special Events
- Lifelong Community
- Planning & Zoning



PUBLIC WORKS

2635 Talley St.

Public Works 404-377-5571

- Solid Waste & Recycling
- Motor Maintenance
- Building & Grounds Maintenance
- Cemetery

Design, Environment & Construction 404-377-6198

- Engineering • Streets
- Stormwater
- Permitting & Inspections
- Codes Enforcement



DECATUR RECREATION CENTER

231 Sycamore St. • 404-377-0494

Active Living

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

DECATUR LEGACY PARK ADMINISTRATION BLDG.

500 S. Columbia Dr. • 404-378-1082

Children & Youth Services

- After school • Summer Camp



FIRE STATION NO. 1

230 E. Trinity Pl.



FIRE STATION NO. 2

356 W. Hill St.

Fire Department non-emergency 404-373-5092



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

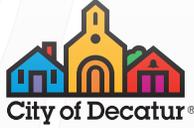
City Schools of Decatur Elizabeth Wilson Schools Support Center

125 Electric Ave.
404-371-3601

* Except the recently acquired Administration Building at Decatur Legacy Park

Voting & Facilities

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



Voting Districts

-  District 1
-  District 2