

HELLO WELCOME TO DECATUR!



A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS NEW TO DECATUR 2023

WELCOME HOME!

On behalf of the Decatur City Commission, 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 respective city commissioner. (Go to decaturga.com/citycommission; “Meet the Commissioners”). We take pride in Decatur. 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.

CITY COMMISSION

Five residents serve on the commission.

The Decatur City Commission determines 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.

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.

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 2025
kelly.walsh@decaturga.com

Lesa Mayer

District 2 Commissioner

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



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 2025
patti.garrett@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.

City Communication

The city communicates with residents primarily with:

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 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 extensively by the city and the police department for sharing information. Join up at 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 Decatur-based nonprofits and festivals. Most city departments have a Facebook presence. The police, Active Living, Children and Youth Services, and fire departments use their pages extensively.

Instagram: cityofdecaturga provides information about upcoming events to help you plan ahead. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so take a look.

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.

Twitter: cityofdecaturga will keep you updated on city news and emergency alerts.



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.

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

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, weekends)

DeKalb County Watershed Mgmt.

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)
Property tax: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-
5 p.m. (Memorial Drive office only)

LOCAL FACT

Decatur celebrates its bicentennial this year! To commemorate this milestone, the City has launched the 200 Stories project — an ongoing community story vault — to preserve and document the history of those who are or have been part of the Decatur community. Through the power of storytelling, participants will help shape a shared vision for the future of Decatur. There is no script — you simply volunteer to sit down and talk with an interviewer. Email 200stories@decaturga.com or call Aileen de la Torre at 678-553-6596 or Renae Jackson at 678-553-6561.

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 resident 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 volunteerdecatur.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 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 mlkserviceproject.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 make a donation), 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 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.



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



MLK Service Project



Decatur Prevention Initiative's Youth Action Team

GET EVEN MORE INVOLVED

Decatur 101

The seven-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 also learn about the functions of City Schools of Decatur and take a smart growth walking tour. 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 (you can find it at decaturga.com). The City 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:

- 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.

The Better Together Advisory Board recognized Raging Burrito and Brave + Kind Bookshop (below) with "Welcoming Business" awards for 2023.



Be a Hero

Decatur is a better place to live due to the efforts of its Hometown Heroes – individuals who go above and beyond to engage with the community by volunteering their time and resources. The Hometown Hero program began when Decatur hosted athletes from Ireland and Burkina Faso for the 1996

Olympic Games, and the city recognized the key volunteers who worked to organize street parties and receptions for the guests.

Since then, more than 300 Hometown Heroes have been recognized by the city. Nominations are solicited in the Decatur Focus each fall, so keep that in mind as you notice volunteers working hard on behalf of the city.



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. 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 household income 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. Total taxable income must not exceed \$50,000.

S-2 City school tax exemption: Must be at least 80 years of age and reside at the property. Total household income 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 \$53,000.

TAX PAYMENT ASSISTANCE The City offers a tax deferral program for homeowners 62 years of age or older with a household income not exceeding \$20,000. The taxes on the first \$100,000 of assessed value may be deferred, payable with interest upon the sale or transfer of the property. Applications for tax deferral must be filed annually on or before March 1 of the year for which the deferral is sought.

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, 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.

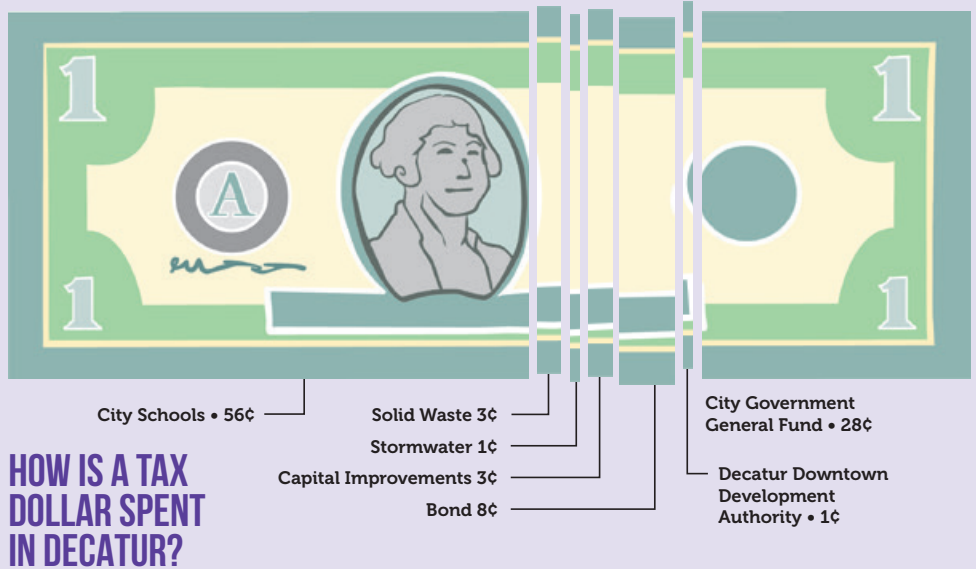
The budget allocates the city's limited financial resources to provide services based on community and organizational priorities. The city's budget preparation process begins in February and culminates with budget adoption by the City Commission on the third Monday in June. The budget period is the city's 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.



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.

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

Visit decaturga.com/cmo/page/elections-and-voting for updated polling locations. The location of 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 can check the status of polling locations at mvp.sos.ga.gov/MVP/mvp.do.

Voting Districts & Polling Places

District 1/Clairemont East

First Baptist Church of Decatur, 308 Clairemont Ave.
(Temporarily relocated to Decatur Recreation Center, 231 Sycamore St.)

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. (Temporarily relocated to Cochran Building, Decatur Legacy Park, 500 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 sanitation services. **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 four tires will be picked up as part of regular sanitation services.

Hazardous Waste

Disposal of hazardous household material is handled by DeKalb County. For 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. Please remove vehicles and do not rake or blow leaves into the street. This is considered illegal dumping and causes a delay in street sweeping. 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, 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/neighborhoodcleanup for your street's date.

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

For a free, 18-gallon recycling bin for mixed recyclables, call Public Works at 404-377-5571. Ninety-five-gallon blue carts can be purchased at Intown Ace Hardware. Glass must be recycled separately in a dedicated recycling bin. Go to decaturga.com/recycling for more information.

PAYT Bags

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

Where to Purchase

Hop & Shop
Oakhurst Market
Kelly's Market
Kroger / North Decatur Road
Public Works (*must have correct change or checks*)
Intown Ace Hardware
Toco Hills Ace Hardware
Publix / East Ponce
Publix / Emory Commons
Publix / Toco Hills



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.

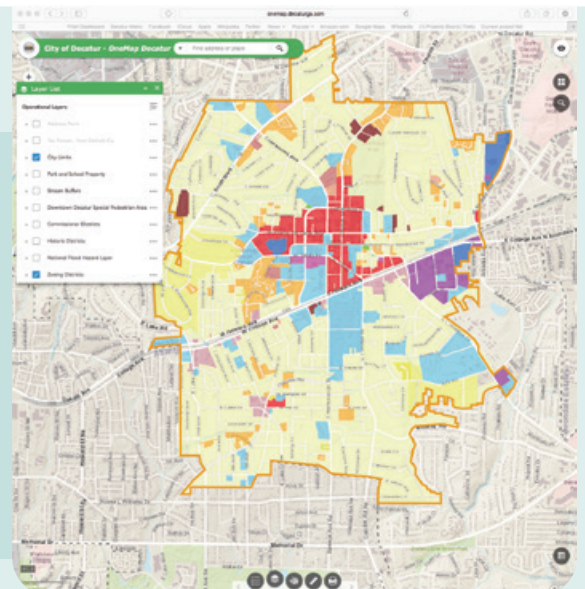
ONE MAP

Visit onemap.decaturga.com/cityofdecatur 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 Routes 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 Conservation 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. For more information, visit decaturga.com/trees.

Tree Removal

The tree canopy conservation ordinance allows property owners to remove trees that are deemed untreatably diseased or 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. Please email permitting@decaturga.com to gain access to the online permitting system. Dead trees 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, a tree removal permit can be submitted. New tree/s will need to be planted for no net loss of canopy.

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. 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. Protected trees are non-invasive trees 6" diameter at breast height. 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 resulting in joint ownership by the adjacent property owners when the trunk exists on each property. Or a tree that has 20% or more of its critical root zone

extending across a property boundary and into an adjacent property applying for a land disturbance permit. A Boundary tree agreement must be approved by the tree owner for 20% or more impaction to a 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 wisteria, 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 gaeppe.org/list/ 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 pollina-

tors. 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?

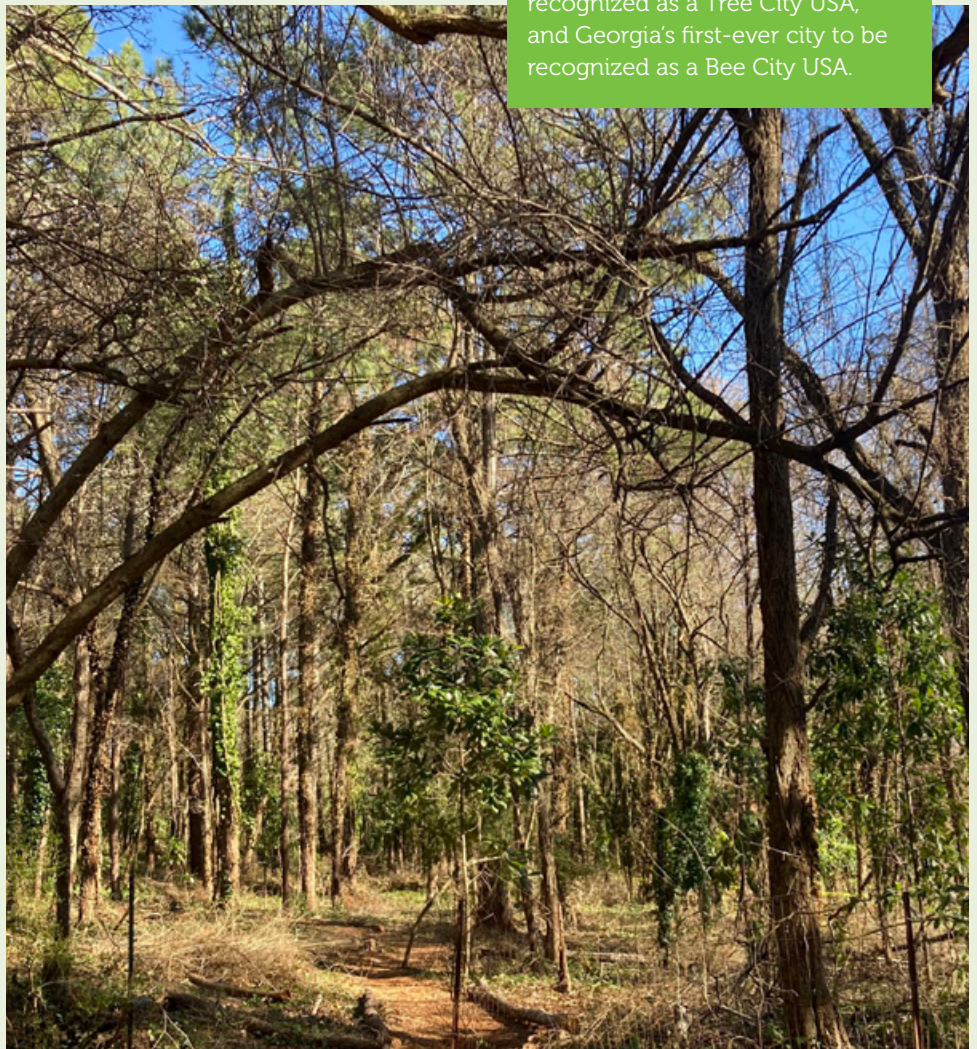
Where you plant your tree is just as important as what type of tree you plant. Think about how your tree will affect existing property lines, utility lines, the sidewalks, and how it will look as it grows taller and wider.

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 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

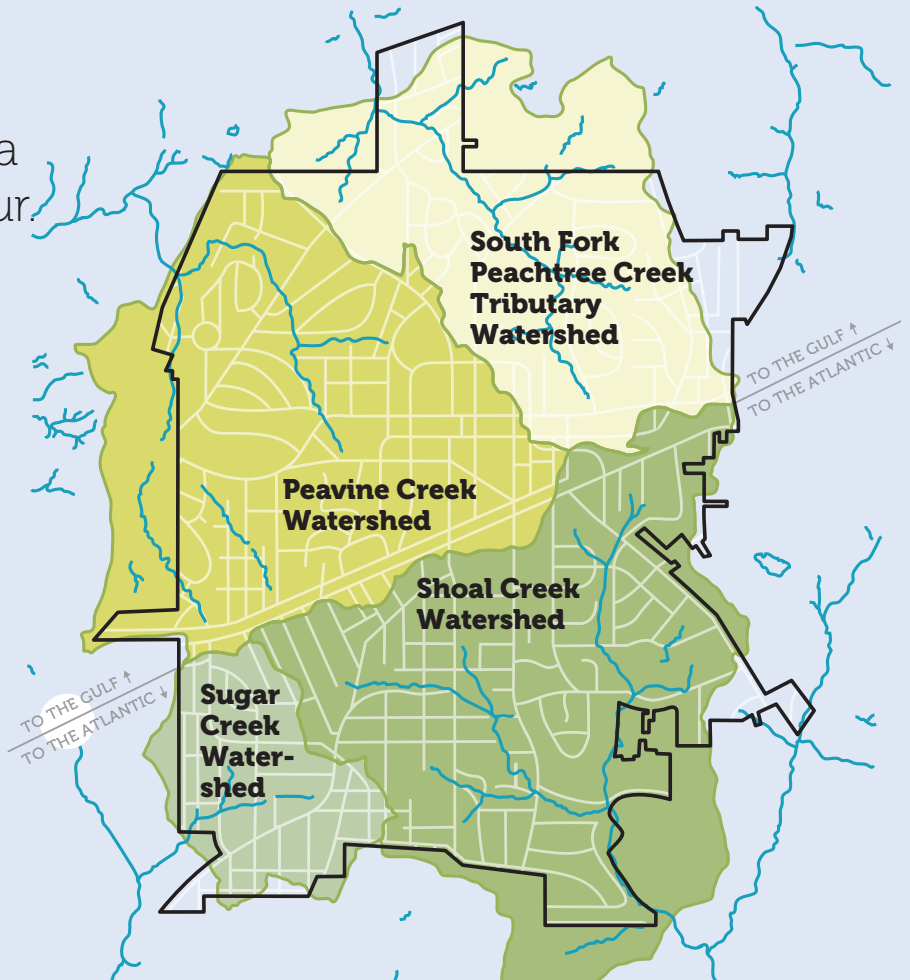
Runoff crossing property boundaries is generally considered a civil matter; exceptions include active construction sites or properties with a drainage system.

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 decaturrecreator.com

Recreation Centers

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

- Decatur Recreation Center – 231 Sycamore Street
- Oakhurst Recreation Center – 450 E. Lake Drive (photos below)
- Ebster Recreation Center – 105 Electric Avenue



New Inclusive Playground at Legacy Park

Visit Decatur's first inclusive playground at Legacy Park (500 S. Columbia Dr).

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.

Tennis

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

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. Contact Glenlake Tennis Center to reserve your court. Or join us for indoor pickleball at Ebster Recreation Center on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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 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 until sunset. Stop by the office on Bell Street to pick up a cemetery map and tour brochure.

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) – Beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur Rec Center, the ride is designed for newer riders who want to learn about riding in a group, though all levels are encouraged to join. Helmets are required.

Couch to 5K – This eight-week running program meets twice each week in winter and fall.

Trails & Ales – Here's a chance to check out some of Decatur's breweries while getting exercise. Participants will meet in person at the designated brewery, walk around the Decatur area then head back for a round of brews.

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

Decatur Hiking Group – Typically meets on the last Friday of each month. All hikes are designed for easy to intermediate exertion.

Youth and Adult Athletics

Decatur Active Living offers a variety of youth sports including baseball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, cheerleading, football, basketball, flag football, tackle football and lacrosse, as well as adult softball and basketball leagues.

Sports Camps

Decatur Active Living 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.

Facility Rentals

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

DECATUR IS GREAT FOR KIDS

Lots of opportunities for Decatur's younger residents.

After School Programs

The City offers seven after school programs, six of which are accredited, for students in grades K-5. Program sites are located in school buildings. For more information, contact 404-378-1082 or check out the latest issue of the Playbook newsletter at decaturga.com/playbook.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

The City's SRTS program works with 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.

Junior Police Academy

Held in June and September of each year, this week-long 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 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/bc-dyc.



Touch-a-Truck

Every March, the City hosts Touch-a-Truck 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 Schools of Decatur, and DeKalb County are on display. Check the calendar at visitdecaturga.com.

LOCAL FACT

Decatur Active Living was recently named 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

	Locations	Grades
	Clairemont Glennwood Oakhurst Westchester Winnona Park	K-3rd
	5th Avenue Upper Elem. Talley St. Upper Elem.	4th-5th



Touch a Truck is a favorite family event.

Safe Routes to School



PUBLIC SAFETY

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

Police non-emergency: 404-373-6551

Fire non-emergency: 404-373-5092

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. The tornado sirens are tested at 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, unless there is inclement weather.

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Smoke Alarm Checks and Installations

Home Safety Surveys

Blood Pressure Checks

Car Seat Checks and Installations

Stop the Bleed Training

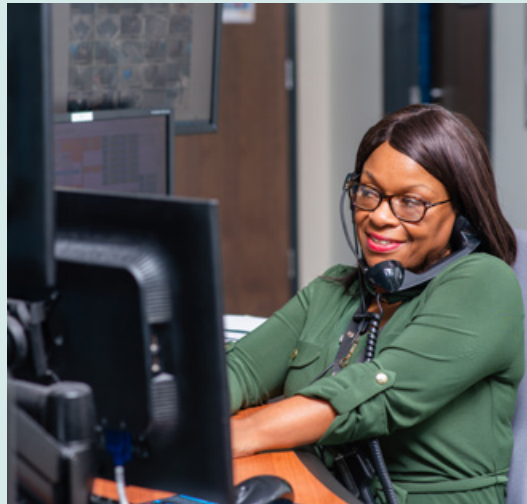
CPR Training

Fire Extinguisher Training

Station Tours Upon Request

Senior Fall Prevention

Designated Safe Place



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](https://www.nextdoor.com/decatur-police-department)

Twitter

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

Instagram

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



CITY OFFICES



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
- Special Events
- Lifelong Community
- Planning & Zoning

Equity & Engagement

404-370-4102

- Equity, Civic Engagement, & Communications

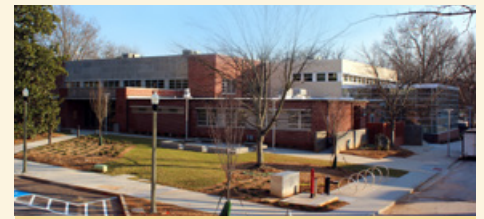


PUBLIC WORKS

2635 Talley St.

Public Works 404-377-5571

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

DECATUR LEGACY PARK

ADMINISTRATION BLDG.

500 S. Columbia Dr.

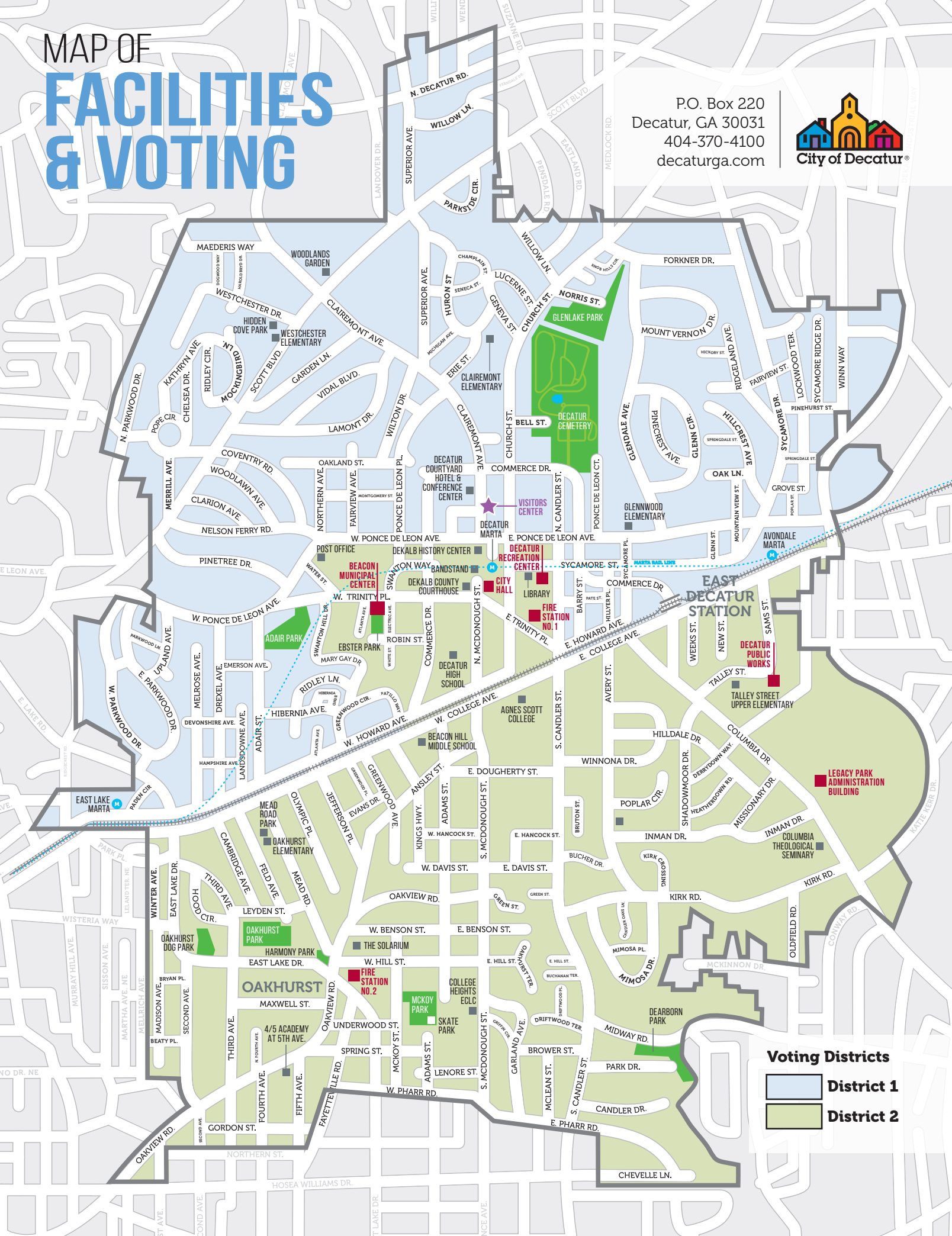
404-378-1082

Children & Youth Services

- After school
- Summer Camp

MAP OF FACILITIES & VOTING

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



Voting Districts

- District 1
- District 2