

# **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

## **Public Safety Inventory & Assessment**

### **Police**

The Police Division currently employs 44 police officers, 8 dispatchers, 15 crossing guards, 10 communication personnel and 1 support technician providing 24 hours of complete coverage. The Department maintains a total of 22 patrol cars. The Department's headquarters is located at 420 West Trinity Place. The facility contains the Municipal Courtroom and two holding cells, but no permanent detention facilities. Suspects and prisoners are housed at the DeKalb County Jail. The Community Relations office, with one full-time specialist, is located in Oakhurst Village at 707-C East Lake Dr.

Police services in the City of Decatur are considered excellent and adequately staffed at this time. Immediate additions to the staff are not anticipated. In the future when potential additions are considered, increases will be proportional to population increases. Factors also considered when making staff changes are the number of calls for service, the type of crimes being perpetrated, and times of day service calls are received.

### **Fire Protection**

The Decatur Fire Department has a staff of 40 and operates out of two fire stations. Station No. 1 is located at 230 East Trinity Place in downtown Decatur and Station No. 2 is located on West Hill Street in Oakhurst Village. The Department maintains four fire engines and a service truck unit.

Recently, the Fire Department received Georgia Emergency Management (GEMA) Homeland Security and Domestic Preparedness grants to fund the purchase of an Air and Light truck, a hazardous material trailer, decontamination and logistical support equipment for the trailer and a new vehicle to pull the trailer. The grant provides the city with a wealth of disaster response gear, including decontamination facilities, level B hazardous material suits, heaters, breathing apparatus, contamination monitors, stretchers, emergency lighting and more.

The Department places a strong emphasis on fire prevention and education and conducts classes for schools, high-rise residential homes, business groups, civic groups and child care providers.

The City of Decatur provides excellent fire protection service. The two stations provide excellent geographical coverage for the entire City.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) has established a system of fire protection ratings based upon a community's available fire suppression facilities. These ratings, ranging from 1 to 10, are used by insurance companies in calculating

homeowner insurance rates. The lower the ISO rating, the lower insurance rates are for homeowners. The City of Decatur has an excellent ISO rating of 2, one of the best in the State.

### **Emergency Medical Service**

The City of Decatur does not provide emergency medical service other than emergency response, if needed, when City fire and police personnel are first on the scene of an accident. Rather, emergency medical service is provided within the City of Decatur by DeKalb County's Emergency Medical Service Division. Currently, DeKalb County EMS stations an EMS unit at Decatur Fire Station No. 1 on East Trinity Place.

Emergency medical service within the City of Decatur is considered to be excellent. The City intends to maintain its service delivery agreement with DeKalb County to provide EMS throughout the planning period.

## **Library Facilities Inventory and Assessment**

The Decatur Library, which is located at 215 Sycamore Street in downtown Decatur, is the main branch of the DeKalb County Public Library System. The Decatur Library has approximately 53,000 square feet of usable floor area and is the largest library in the DeKalb County System. The library collection exceeds 100,000 volumes. The Decatur Library also serves as the DeKalb County Public Library's administrative headquarters and as the County's main reference library.

A major renovation of the Decatur Library was completed in 1992. Library facilities and services are considered to be excellent and far exceed minimum standards established by the American Library Association (ALA).

## **Educational Facilities Inventory & Assessment**

### **Inventory**

City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is the City's independent school system with a total system enrollment of about 2,400 students. The schools are staffed by more than 200 teachers, over 70% of whom have advanced degrees.

The City Schools of Decatur consists of three neighborhood elementary schools, a citywide academy for fourth and fifth graders, a middle school, and a high school. Profiles of each are listed below.

The Early Childhood Learning Center has been located on Scott Boulevard in the Westchester School building. It was completed in 1955 and newly renovated in 1999. The ECLC serves as the home of the City Schools of Decatur Pre-k and Even Start programs. Enrollment: 120

College Heights School is currently under extensive renovation. It is anticipated to open in 2006 as the new home of the citywide Pre-k and Even Start Programs. Through a partnership with the YMCA, a program for children ages 0-3 will also be available. (As of the date of this plan, the future use of the Westchester Elementary building is undetermined. However it is anticipated the facility will remain under the management of CSD.)

Clairemont Elementary School (K-3), built in 1936, is located within the Great Lakes neighborhood. The building was renovated in 2000 with classroom additions, a new media center, a technology lab and a completely refurbished 360-seat auditorium. Additional renovations are presently underway. Enrollment: 240

Oakhurst Elementary School (K-3) was built in 1915. It was renovated in 2002 with the addition of new classrooms, a new media center, and air conditioning. Enrollment: 226

Winnona Park Elementary School (K-3) is located in the Winnona Park neighborhood. The building was erected in 1923 and a renovation, completed in the fall of 2001, added new classrooms and air conditioning. Additional renovations are presently underway. Enrollment: 280

Glennwood 4/5 Academy (4-5) is the oldest school in the City of Decatur and one of the four oldest schools in DeKalb County still in operation today. It was recently renovated and opened for occupancy in August of 2003. Special care was given to preserve the historical integrity of the building while adding new classrooms, a new media center, air conditioning, and outfitting the entire building for use of technology. Enrollment: 300

Carl G. Renfroe Middle School (6-8) is the newest school building in the school district. It was built in 1972 to service students in grades 6-8. Enrollment: 589

Decatur High School (9-12) was established in 1912, but the current building was erected in 1965 and is located in the heart of the City of Decatur, walking distance from the Courthouse Square and MARTA. Enrollment: 712

No students are currently enrolled at Fifth Avenue Elementary School. As of the date of this plan, a future use for the building has not been determined. However it is anticipated the facility will remain under the management of CSD.

Decatur City Schools are well staffed. For the 2003-2004 school year, 225 teachers were employed. Of that number 76% held a Master's or higher graduate degree. The average student to teacher ratio was 10:1.

CSD recently completed its 2004 Strategic Plan. The planning process utilized an extensive stakeholder involvement effort resulting in five main goals:

- 1) Improve academic achievement by providing the highest quality instruction and ensuring consistently challenging "knowledge work" for every student in the system.
- 2) Close the achievement gap between black and white students according to state and national test criteria.
- 3) Develop a systemic approach to providing a challenging and quality educational experience for all students.
- 4) Improve fiscal responsibility while maintaining educational quality.
- 5) Strengthen the relationship with the community.

The 2004 Strategic Plan projects no significant near-term changes in school enrollment. Since 2000, enrollment has been in the 2,300-2,400 range and is predicted to remain stable for the next five years. This is consistent with population forecasts for the City discussed in the population element of this plan. Over the next 20 years forecasts for the City actually show a slight decrease in the 0-24 population by 15%.

In addition to the public school system, there are several private schools located within the City limits. The Lullwater School, St. Thomas More Parochial School, and Waldorf School, offer instruction for grades K – 8. The Friends School offers pre-K as well as K – 8. Academe of the Oaks is a private high school for 9 – 12 grades. Decatur Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church of Decatur, First Methodist Church of Decatur and the Phoenix School offer private pre-K instruction.

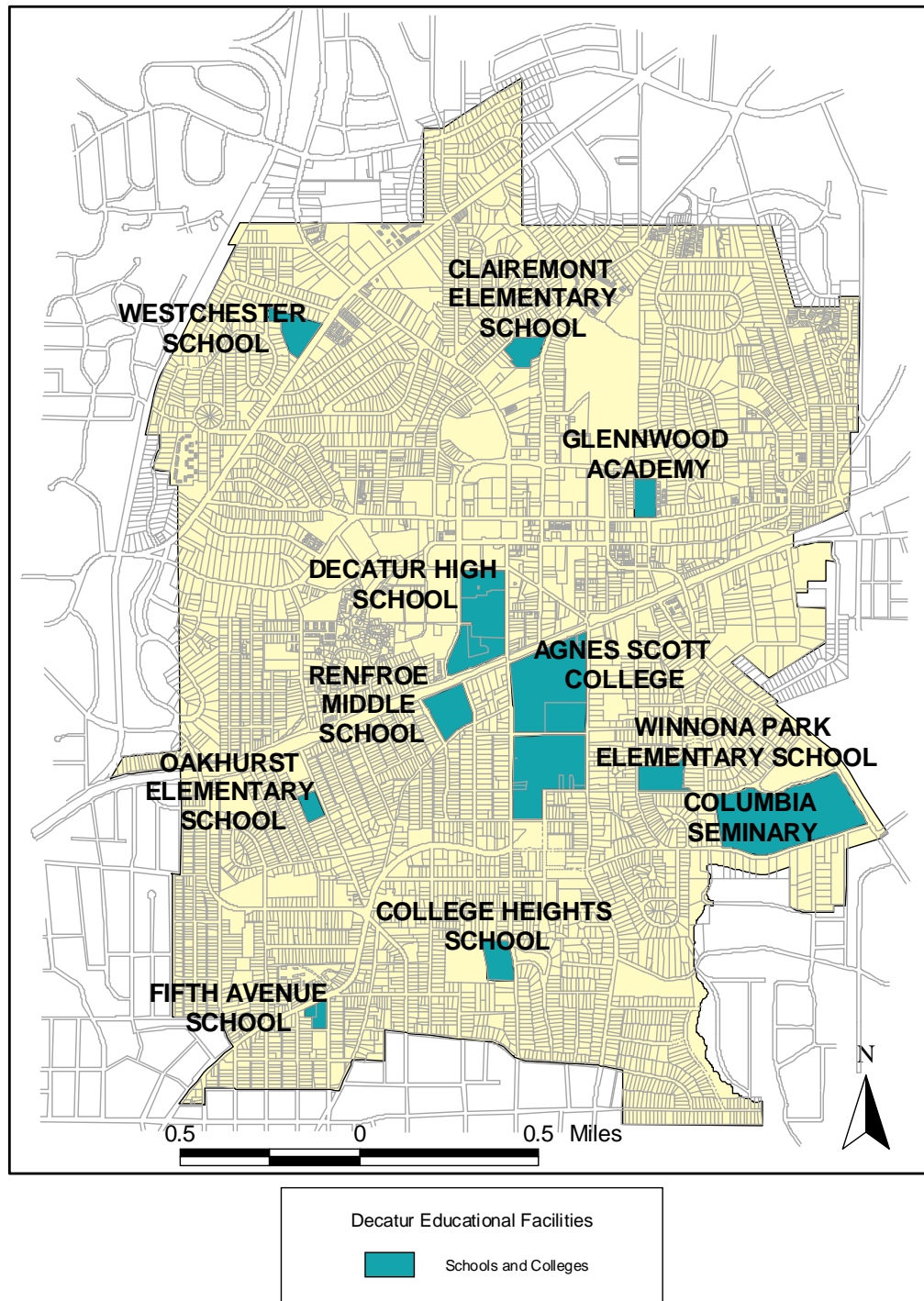
#### Higher Education

Decatur is home to Agnes Scott College, a private, nationally recognized liberal arts college for women. *U.S. News & World Report's* 2005 rankings place Agnes Scott among the Top 10 liberal arts colleges in the South (ranking No. 7) and 53rd overall among national liberal arts colleges. Founded in 1889, the college enrolls just over 1,000 students and employs 87 faculty members. The 100-acre campus is located along E. College Avenue and makes up portion of the South Candler/Agnes Scott College Historic District.

Columbia Theological Seminary is an educational institution of the Presbyterian Church. It was established in 1828 and offers five graduate degree programs. The seminary has an enrollment of 500 students and employs 36 faculty members. The 52-acre campus along Columbia Drive anchors the southeastern quadrant of the City.

Emory University is located a few miles west of the City, and DeVry University and Georgia Perimeter College are located to the east.

**Map 6.1 – Decatur Educational Facilities Map**



## **Assessment**

Given the population projections for the City, Decatur City School system facilities are adequate for meeting local needs through the twenty year planning period. Potential issues that could arise stem from the relationship between the City and the School System over facility management.

The City of Decatur owns the facilities. CSD handles the management of the resources, including maintenance and needed improvements, hiring of teachers, etc. as long as the use of the facility remains educational. If the educational use lapses, the management of the facility reverts back to the City, which has the authority to sell the facility as surplus.

It was identified through the joint Commission planning session and public meetings that the quality of the school system is very important to the leadership and citizenry of Decatur. It was cited as one of the major reasons people choose to live in Decatur. The City is committed to working collaboratively with the CSD in maintaining a high level of quality education throughout the planning period.

## **Recreation Facilities Inventory & Assessment**

### **Inventory**

Within the City of Decatur, there are 14 city-owned parks equaling 56.5 acres. The parks range in size from less than half an acre up to 17 acres and offer such amenities as tennis and basketball courts, swimming pools, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, skateboard facilities, softball and soccer fields, and nature/walking trails. Table 6.1 provides a summary of these facilities.

In terms of passive open space, the City of Decatur operates the Historic Decatur Cemetery, which provides 43 acres in the heart of the City and shares the 8.5 acre Dearborn Park with DeKalb County. Also within the City limits is The Woodlands, a 7-acre nature preserve donated to the non-profit group, Decatur Preservation Alliance (DPA). In FY 2004, the City began providing a \$50,000 year/5 year grant to the DPA for master planning activities for the parcel. The City also owns a small lot adjacent to the Oakhurst Community Garden. For a nominal fee, the parcel is leased to the nonprofit group for environmental educational purposes.

The City Schools of Decatur's elementary, middle and high schools offer additional, but limited, recreational opportunities as well. The elementary schools provide playground and open space for the neighborhoods they are located in or adjacent to. The middle school and the high school are ideally situated in the City's downtown. The middle school offers open space and the high school has a football field.

Decatur's recreational programs are offered through the City's Recreation and Community Services Department. In addition to the 14 City-owned parks, the

Recreation Department operates two recreational centers located at W. Trinity Place and Sycamore Street. The Recreation Department offers year-round programs of team sports, athletics, classes and workshops for residents of all ages. The Recreation Department also works cooperatively with City Schools of Decatur in offering affordable after-school programs.

In addition to recreational facilities operated by either the City of Decatur Recreational Department or the City Schools of Decatur, there are several of privately owned and operated recreational facilities located within the City. These include facilities operated by the following entities:

- Samuel L. Jones Boys and Girls Club
- St. Thomas More School
- Decatur-DeKalb Y.M.C.A.
- Venetian Community Pool
- Agnes Scott College
- Columbia Theological Seminary
- Decatur First Baptist Church
- First Christian Church
- First Decatur United Methodist Church

Table 6.1– City of Decatur Park Amenities

Facility	Size (Acres)	Soccer Fields	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Swimming Pool	Playground	Walking Trails	Picnic Pavilions	Special Amenity
Adair Park	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Ebster Park	5	1	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	Community Center
Glenlake Park	17	1	1	1	5	1	1	-	1	
Hidden Cove Park	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Passive
McKoy Park	9	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	Concessions Amphitheater Skate Park
Mead Road Park	0.75	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	
Oakhurst Park	8	-	2	2	2	-	1		2	Concessions
Oakview Road Park	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Passive
Parkside Circle	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Passive
Roy Moss Garden	2	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	Passive
Sycamore Park	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Passive
Scott Park	4	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	Recreation Center Community Garden
Waddell Park	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Passive
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	

Source: City of Decatur

Programs, Commissions and Initiatives

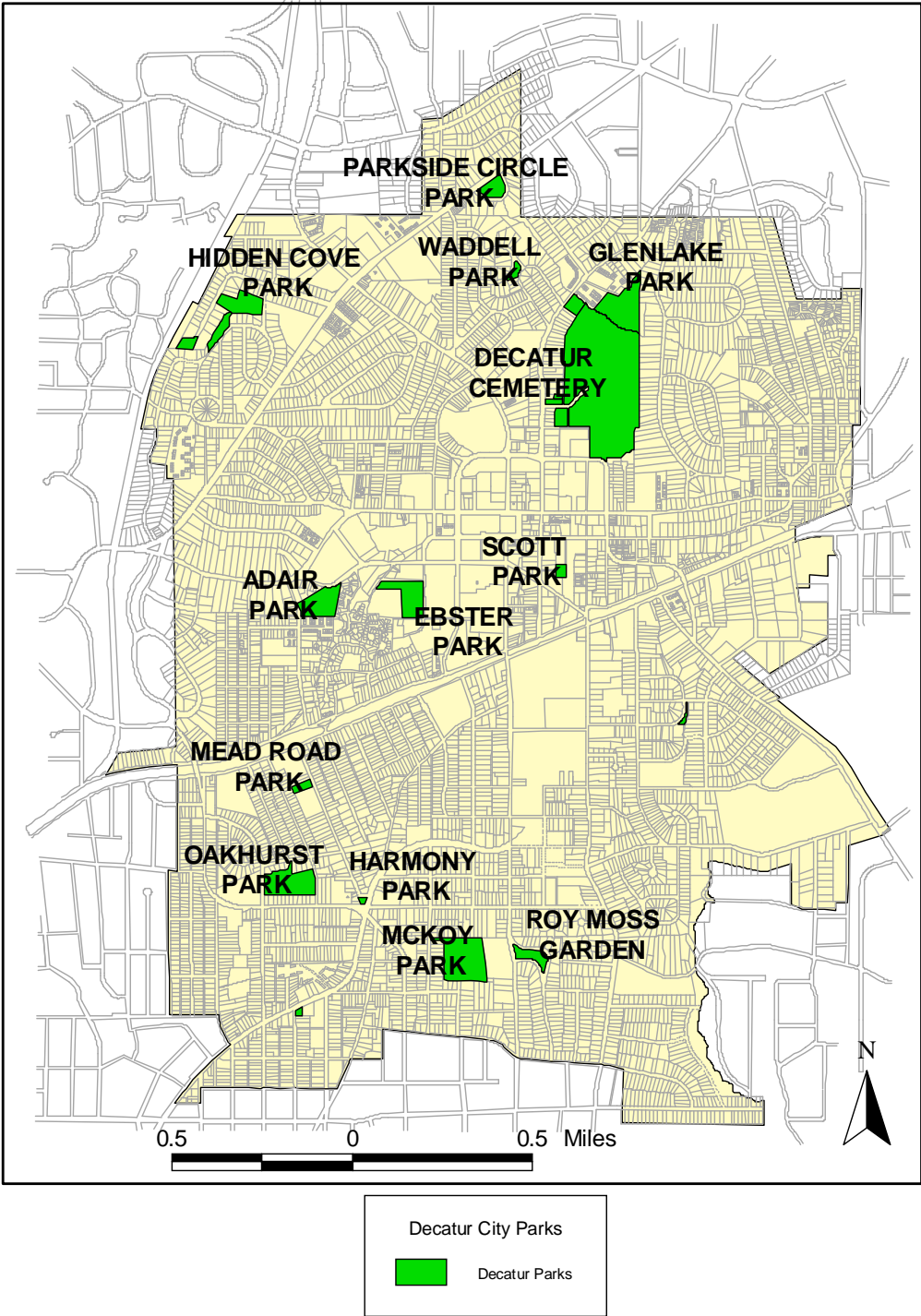
From 2001-2004, the City purchased three undeveloped lots with funds from the Georgia Greenspace Program. The properties are located on Oakview Road, Glenn Circle and East Hill Street. All the lots will be used as passive open space. The Adams Street lot is currently being leased to the Oakhurst Community Garden. The lot at Glenn Circle is planned as a nature preserve.



The Decatur Greenspace Commission was established by City Ordinance in 2002. The Commission grew out of a recommendation from the Greenspace Task Force that met from 2001-2002. The Greenspace Commission is an advisory and advocacy group for greenspace protection and enhancement in the City. It is responsible for developing and implementing a greenspace preservation strategy and advising the City Commission on greenspace-related issues.

The Greenspace Task Force and Greenspace Commission were instrumental in the formation of a preservation corridor concept. This concept sought to establish a physical connection between north and south sections of the City and link the City's historical elements with areas of greenspace. In December 2004, the Decatur Preservation Corridor Master Plan was completed. The master plan process began with the original goal of the north-south corridor concept linking four major environmental resources – The Woodlands, Decatur Cemetery, Oakhurst Community Garden, and Dearborn Park. Through public input, the scope was expanded to include two more sites, Decatur Square and Oakhurst Business District, and opportunities for overall city-wide connectivity. The result is a plan that recommends a network of connectivity improvements such as neighborhood gateways, pedestrian and bicycle streetscapes, links to most major civic and park spaces and historic landmarks, and identification of potential preservation sites.

Map 6.2 – Decatur City Parks



## **Assessment**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has been involved in developing standards for recreation, parks and open space for over 40 years. NRPA standards are the most widely used and accepted standards of their type. The standards help guide local governments design their own specific set of criteria.

The NRPA standards recommend a core system of parks with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. Based on the Census 2000 population of 18,147, the City should have a dedicated park acreage ranging from 114 to 191 acres. The existing park acreage for Decatur is 56.5 acres, a deficiency of 58 to 134 acres. The City of Decatur 2000 Strategic Master Plan identified an additional 128 acres of non-park related open space. This open space consists of land around public schools and other private recreational areas. Decatur Cemetery adds another 43 acres of passive open space.

Given the City is almost entirely built out, and considering the high cost of available land, it is highly unlikely that large tracts of land will be purchased by the City for additional dedicated park space. While communities ideally strive to meet acreage standards within public parks, the City is fortunate to have close working relationships with other public and private organizations in the community to provide additional recreational opportunities for residents.

To comprehensively address Decatur's recreational issues, the Citywide Comprehensive Athletic Facility Master Plan was completed in 2002. The master plan was initiated by an organization of seven community partners to identify critical needs of the community, opportunities for collaboration and necessary facility improvements to better meet the needs of Decatur citizens. The partners included City of Decatur, City Schools of Decatur, Decatur-DeKalb YMCA, Samuel Jones Boys and Girls Club, Columbia Theological Seminary, United Methodist Children's Home and Agnes Scott College.

Through extensive public involvement, research and assessment, the master plan resulted in a series of recommended improvements totaling \$17.7 million, to be implemented over a ten-year timeframe. The recommendations include the upgrade of park amenities, optimization of existing facilities and construction of new facilities. The plan also identifies opportunities for shared use agreements between the partners. Since the plan's completion, several projects have been initiated including the McCoy Park Skate-Park, citywide playground equipment replacement, utilization of the Boys and Girls Club pool by the YMCA and Decatur High School, and award of Community Development Block Grant for the development of a multi-purpose/soccer field at the Boys and Girls Club.

Throughout the twenty-year horizon of this plan, it will remain a challenge to significantly increase the City's dedicated park acreage through land acquisition.

However, the City remains committed to providing its residents with a variety of modern and safe recreational amenities through relationships with private and non-profit recreation sources. The City will continue to participate in the Georgia Greenspace Program and purchase appropriate properties as they and adequate funding become available. The City has also been active in pursuing funds from non-profit initiatives such as the Arthur Blank Family Foundation. The City is currently pursuing land acquisition opportunities adjacent to its portion of Dearborn Park with assistance from the Georgia State Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation grant.

## **Public Water and Sanitary Sewer Inventory & Assessment**

### **Inventory**

The entire City of Decatur is provided public water and sanitary sewer service by DeKalb County. The City of Decatur has no role in providing these services. All customer accounts are handled directly by the County.

The City of Decatur operates and maintains a citywide public storm drainage system comprised of over 2500 storm water sewer junction structures, 32 miles of connecting storm drain pipes, 12.6 miles of natural stream channels and approximately 4,000 linear feet of man-made open storm water channels. The City is a co-permittee with DeKalb County for a municipal storm water discharge permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System.

### **Assessment**

The following assessments regarding public water and sanitary sewer have been taken from the 2005 DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan (DRAFT).

#### *Water Treatment and Distribution*

DeKalb County draws its water supply from the Chattahoochee River along with Gwinnett County, North Fulton County, and the Gainesville area. Currently DeKalb County is permitted to withdraw 140 million gallons per day (MGD) from the river at the intake point on Holcomb Bridge Road in Fulton County. There are six 35 MGD capacity pumps which remove water from the Chattahoochee River providing a maximum of 210 MGD to three raw water storage reservoirs. The newly constructed 43-acre reservoir No. 3 has a capacity of 324 MG and together with the 37.7-acre No.1 reservoir and the 28.8-acre No.2 reservoir, both under renovation, provide the County with a total capacity of one billion gallons which feed into the County's water treatment plant, the Scott Candler Filter Plant. This facility also includes 16 settling basins, 32 high rate storage filters, and a total capacity of 66.5 millions of gallons of treated water storage capacity. Approximately, 255 MGD can be delivered to the distribution system through service pumps. The County is currently in the process of constructing a new water production facility, which, when completed in 2005, will be able to process 150 MGD and has the capability of expanding to 200 MGD.

Plans are also underway to design a new raw water pump station for DeKalb County as well. In conjunction with the station improvements, the Water and Sewer Division will also install a new 96-inch pipeline from the river to the reservoirs on Peeler Road. This pipeline will parallel the other three existing water supply lines that are now in use. Within our planning window, this intake will provide water to a million customers in the metropolitan area. Anticipated cost for this project is \$45,000,000. These expansion projects should assist in providing ample water capacity for the next twenty years.

#### *Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater Facilities*

In total, there are approximately 254,000 sewer customers in DeKalb County. These customers are served by 2,000 miles of sewer pipeline. Because the county's drainage patterns rarely conform to political boundaries, the county has established a number of shared facilities and joint use agreements with adjacent municipalities and counties. There are two primary drainage basins in the County which are delineated to the north and south by the CSX Railroad.

Currently DeKalb County works in conjunction with the City of Atlanta and Fulton and Gwinnett Counties to provide wastewater treatment services to the portion of the county located north of the CSX Railroad east-west line. Sewage is sent to the R. M. Clayton Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) under a formal agreement with the City of Atlanta which has been in place since 1954. In accordance with this agreement, the County shares the cost of operation and maintenance of three Atlanta plants. The City of Atlanta's R.M. Clayton WWTP serves the areas of the Peachtree and Nancy Creek basins with a capacity of 122 MGD. Fulton County's Johns Creek Plant and Big Creek Plant serve the small portions of DeKalb County north of Mount Vernon, Tilly Mill and Peeler Roads. Gwinnett County's Jackson Creek Plants serve two small basins in the northeastern portion of DeKalb.

To the south of the railroad, sewage flows to Atlanta's Entrenchment Creek Plant and to DeKalb's Snapfinger and Pole Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plants. A small portion of southeast DeKalb is served by Atlanta's South River Treatment Plant. All of these plants including DeKalb's Pole Bridge and Snapfinger plants are Advanced Secondary Waste Treatment (ASWT) plants. In 2003, the Snapfinger plant operated at 71.72% capacity and the Pole Bridge plant operated at 36.19% capacity. Between these two plants, there is a total design capacity of 56 MGD.

#### *Future Water and Sewage Capacity*

A flow study completed in the 1980's showed that the biggest problem in DeKalb County's sewer and water system is deteriorating water lines and the need to replace old pipes which are substandard or made out of high maintenance materials. As a result, ongoing projects include surveying, inventorying, identifying and replacing old and undersized pipes. Other projects include maintaining and repainting interiors and exteriors of water tanks, further

automating sewage treatment plants, and replacing existing water meters with more efficient electronic meters. Projects planned in the immediate future include the pipe maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation projects, installation of relief lines along the upper half of Nancy Creek and in other areas of the County, removal of pump stations where possible, surveying North Fork and South Fork of Peachtree Creek to reduce infiltration and expansion of sewer service to Stone Mountain Park and the remaining areas of the county.

Long term capital improvement issues include continual replacement of older water and sewer lines, the construction of an additional water storage tank and pumping station near the Mall at Stonecrest (Turner Hill), and construction of DeKalb County's portion of the wastewater tunnel from the R.M. Clayton Treatment Plant to the Utoy River as part of the City of Atlanta's Phosphorus Reduction Program. Overall, DeKalb County's sewage treatment facilities will be adequate to serve the county until 2015, with the exception of the Pole Bridge Plant which may need to be expanded towards the latter part of this twenty-year time period. By 2015, it is expected that the Pole Bridge Plant will be operating closer to capacity and consideration should be made at that time for a new facility.

## **Storm Water Management Inventory and Assessment**

Decatur is located on the Atlanta Plateau in the north central part of the Georgia Piedmont. Topography is rolling, with elevations ranging between 900 and 1,070 feet above sea level. Decatur has four primary watersheds--Peavine Creek Tributary, South Fork Peachtree Creek Tributary, Shoal Creek and Sugar Creek Tributary--and is bisected by the sub-continental drainage divide, with water on the north side of the City draining to the Gulf of Mexico and water on the south draining into the Atlantic Ocean.

Decatur's location along the drainage divide limits the potential for flooding. Issues generally concern flooding in floodplains and other areas close to streams during heavy rains. In terms of water quality, a large part of the City is residential which limits the negative effects it has on receiving streams. Impacts to the four major watersheds intersected by the City are limited as well since Decatur occupies a very small percentage of the overall contributing area.

The City adopted its first storm drainage ordinance in 1972, with comprehensive revisions in 1977, 1990, 1997, 2001, and 2004. The City presently requires on-site storm detention systems for all new developments with its Post-development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment ordinance. Ordinances related to storm water volumes and water quality include ordinances regulating Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection, Floodplain Management/Floodplain Damage Prevention, and Stream Buffer Protection, Litter Control, and Conservation Subdivision/Open Space Development.

In 1999, the City implemented a Storm Water Utility under the City Engineering Department to provide a means of funding its storm water management plan. The Utility is responsible for the maintenance and upgrades to the storm water system including pipes, culverts, inlets, manholes, headwalls, flumes, concrete channels and related appurtenances. It is also responsible for the enforcement of environmental regulations, and for the City's compliance with Clean Water Act requirements and other environmental regulations related to storm water. It is estimated that the City's Storm Water Utility will generate approximately \$750,000 per year to fund the storm water improvements and management plan based on its current (existing) fee schedule.

To address the City's storm water needs on a long-term basis, a Storm Water Master Plan was completed in 2004 and adopted in 2005. The report included an inventory and assessment of the City's existing storm drainage system, an evaluation of system performance during storms, and recommendations for improvement. The report found that parts of the City storm drain system function adequately during moderately intense storms while other parts showed overflows during low intensity storms. Most of the significant overflow problems were associated with the densely developed core downtown area. To remedy these issues, the report recommends \$6.4 million in critical improvements and the installation of Best Management Practices during the development or redevelopment of properties within the City. The City plans to undertake the improvements over the next twenty years.

## **Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Inventory and Assessment**

### **Inventory**

Backyard and curbside collection of household garbage is carried out on a weekly basis by the City of Decatur Sanitation Department. Commercial, business, and apartment garbage collection is also offered by the City, and provided by private companies such as BFI as well.

The City of Decatur instituted a "Pay-as-You-Throw" refuse collection system in July 1998 in an effort to meet state requirements to reduce landfill deposits. Under the program, residents pay an annual fee for collection of garbage and trash and collection and disposal of yard trimmings, furniture, most appliances and recyclables, and for street sweeping. Residents purchase special plastic bags from local supermarkets, hardware stores and other local suppliers to use for disposing of garbage. The cost of disposal is included in the cost of the bag. Business operators pay fees based on the size of their commercial container and the number of service visits each week.

Once collected, solid waste is transported by the City to DeKalb County's transfer station on Memorial Drive and ultimately disposed of at the County's Seminole Road landfill. Yard trimmings are collected separately and delivered to the compost facility at the landfill.

The City also conducts a voluntary residential curbside recycling program. Recyclables include newspapers, cans, magazines, catalogs, glass bottles, telephone books, plastic, junk mail, mixed office paper, corrugated cardboard and pasteboard. Recycling services are contracted out to a private recycling contractor.

### **Assessment**

Because of its size and the absence of landfill opportunities within the City, the City of Decatur will likely rely on DeKalb County to meet its solid waste disposal needs. The City is participating with DeKalb County in the preparation of its Solid Waste Management Plan, as required by the State Solid Waste Management Law.

The City's "Pay-as-You-Throw" and recycling programs have been successful at helping to achieve the State's required 25% per capita waste reduction goal mandated by the Solid Waste Management Act. From FY 1997-1998 to FY 2002-2003 landfill deposits have decreased by 13% and tonnage of recyclables has increased almost 100%.

## **General Government Inventory & Assessment**

### **Inventory**

The City of Decatur's City Commission Meeting Room and administrative offices are located at the City Hall, 509 North McDonough Street. The Downtown Development Authority is housed in the south wing of the building. Presently, City Hall has about 9,700 square feet of floor area. The current Commission meeting room provides seating for about 30 persons.

Beginning in Mid 2005, City Hall will undergo a major 12-month renovation. The proposed City Hall improvements include an addition on the second floor and a new Commission meeting room. For ADA compliance, the improvements will also include a new elevator and new wheelchair accessible rest rooms. The proposed additions will enlarge the building to about 15,600 square feet. The proposed Commission room will provide seating for about 100 persons.

The City Engineering, Sanitation, and Motor Maintenance Departments are located in the Leveritt Public Works Building, at 2635 Talley Street. The 16,900 square foot, two-story building, houses offices, central supply storage and the vehicle maintenance garage. A large exterior area is used for parking and storing of vehicles and equipment.

### **Assessment**

In June 2002, the Capital Needs Assessment Task Force, established by the Decatur City Commission, published a report evaluating various city owned properties and recommendations for improvements.



The recommendations cited by the report for City Hall include the need for additional office space, public space, and ADA compliance. These improvements are being addressed by the planned renovations. The renovated facilities are anticipated to be fully adequate for the 20 year planning horizon of this plan.

The Task Force's report also states the need for additional exterior space at the Public Works building. This need is anticipated to increase as the amount of material and equipment associated with the Storm Water Utility operations and compliance with clean water regulations increases. The report further states the need for ADA accessibility features on the second floor as well as telephone and electrical upgrades. The City's Public Works facility may be relocated within the twenty-year planning period to accommodate future municipal needs.

## **Hospitals and Other Public Health Facilities Inventory and Assessment**

### **Inventory**

Located within the City of Decatur's downtown is DeKalb Medical Center at Decatur. Also known as Decatur Hospital, the center is a 102-bed facility whose specialties include outpatient surgery, ophthalmology, podiatry and gynecology. It also is home to a 44-bed Long-Term, Acute-Care unit.

Adjacent to the City is the DeKalb Medical Center, a 525-bed acute care hospital which includes the former DeKalb General Hospital and a variety of clinics and service facilities. Located to the northwest of the City is the Emory University medical complex which includes the Emory Children's Center, Emory University Hospital, and Wesley Woods Center for older adults.

Grady Health System, one of the largest public hospitals in the Southeast is located a few miles away in the City of Atlanta. The complex includes the 900+ bed Grady Memorial Hospital and Hughes Spalding Children's Hospital.

### **Assessment**

The array of medical services, both private and public, available to the City of Decatur residents are considered to be excellent and will meet the needs of the City's residents through the planning period.

## **Community Facilities Community Vision and Goals**

The Community Facilities Community Vision is to provide high quality community facilities and services to ensure a continuing high level of service and enhanced quality of life for City residents.

- Continue to work closely with DeKalb County to support the provision of

those services that the County provides to Decatur residents.

- Conduct on-going periodic assessments that ensure that fire and other emergency services are provided in the most cost effective manner.
- Continue coordination with City Schools of Decatur in providing outstanding educational services to Decatur residents.
- Continue to upgrade, and improve neighborhood recreational facilities and programs.
- Implement the recommendations from the 2005 Storm Water Master Plan.
- Continue participation in the Georgia Greenspace Program to expand Decatur's open space resources.