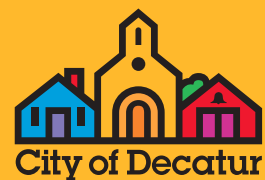




TURNING POINTS

Honoring Our Roots,
Shaping Our Future



City of Decatur®

ANNUAL
REPORT
2025-2026



BY THE NUMBERS

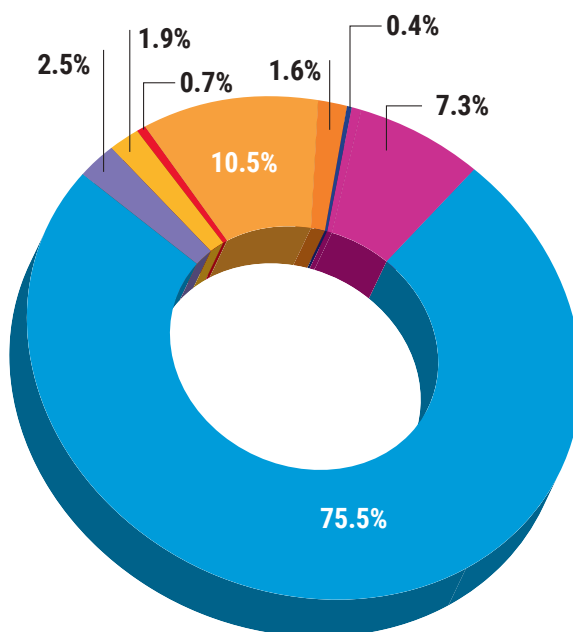
The City Commission adopted the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget in June. Behind these numbers is a bold work plan to embrace the goals of the Destination 2030 Strategic Plan. Learn more at decaturga.com/budget.

General Fund Revenues

FY 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

"Where the Money Comes From"

SOURCE	AMOUNT	
Taxes	35,904,930	75.5%
Licenses, Permits & Inspections	1,174,400	2.5%
Penalties, Fines & Forfeitures	855,300	1.9%
Interest	355,000	0.7%
Charges for Current Services	5,012,560	10.5%
Intergovernmental Revenues	745,320	1.6%
Miscellaneous Revenue	191,700	0.4%
Sale of Fixed Assets	10,000	0.0%
Operating Transfers	(200,070)	-0.4%
Appropriation From (To) Fund Balance	3,459,020	7.3%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$47,541,160	100.0%

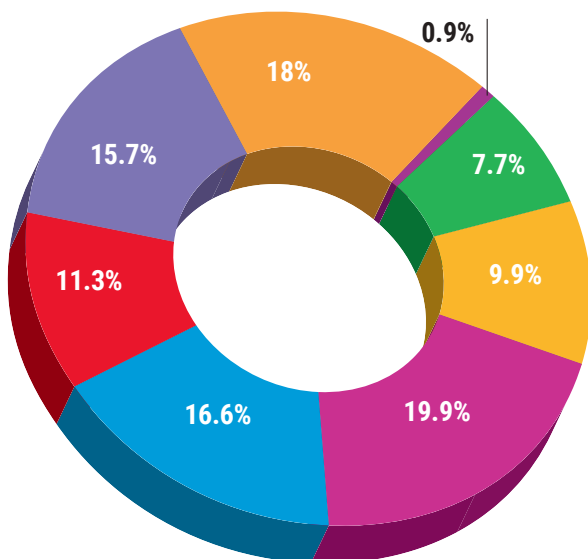


General Fund Expenditures

FY 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

"Where the Money Goes"

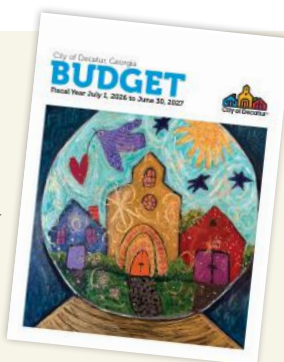
DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	%
Governmental Control	413,960	0.9%
General Government	3,666,510	7.7%
Community & Economic Development	4,683,120	9.9%
Administrative Services	9,463,760	19.9%
Police	7,890,250	16.6%
Fire	5,380,790	11.3%
Public Works	7,467,010	15.7%
Parks & Recreation	8,575,760	18.0%
TOTAL	\$47,541,160	100%



DECATUR LOVES ART

The Budget as Art Collection expands with an original mixed-media painting by local artist Jodi Florence. "Uniquely Treasured" invites you to pause and see Decatur the way Jodi has always seen it: as a vibrant, one-of-a-kind world worth cherishing. Inspired by her lifelong connection to the city, Jodi knows this is a special place you hold close and protect. The piece celebrates Decatur's unique spirit and reflects the community's care and commitment to keeping it that way. The artwork reflects that public funds are distributed and reinvested in the community, carrying out the goals of the community's strategic plan and working to achieve the City's vision:

Decatur will foster an equitable, thriving, and welcoming community for all, today and in the future.

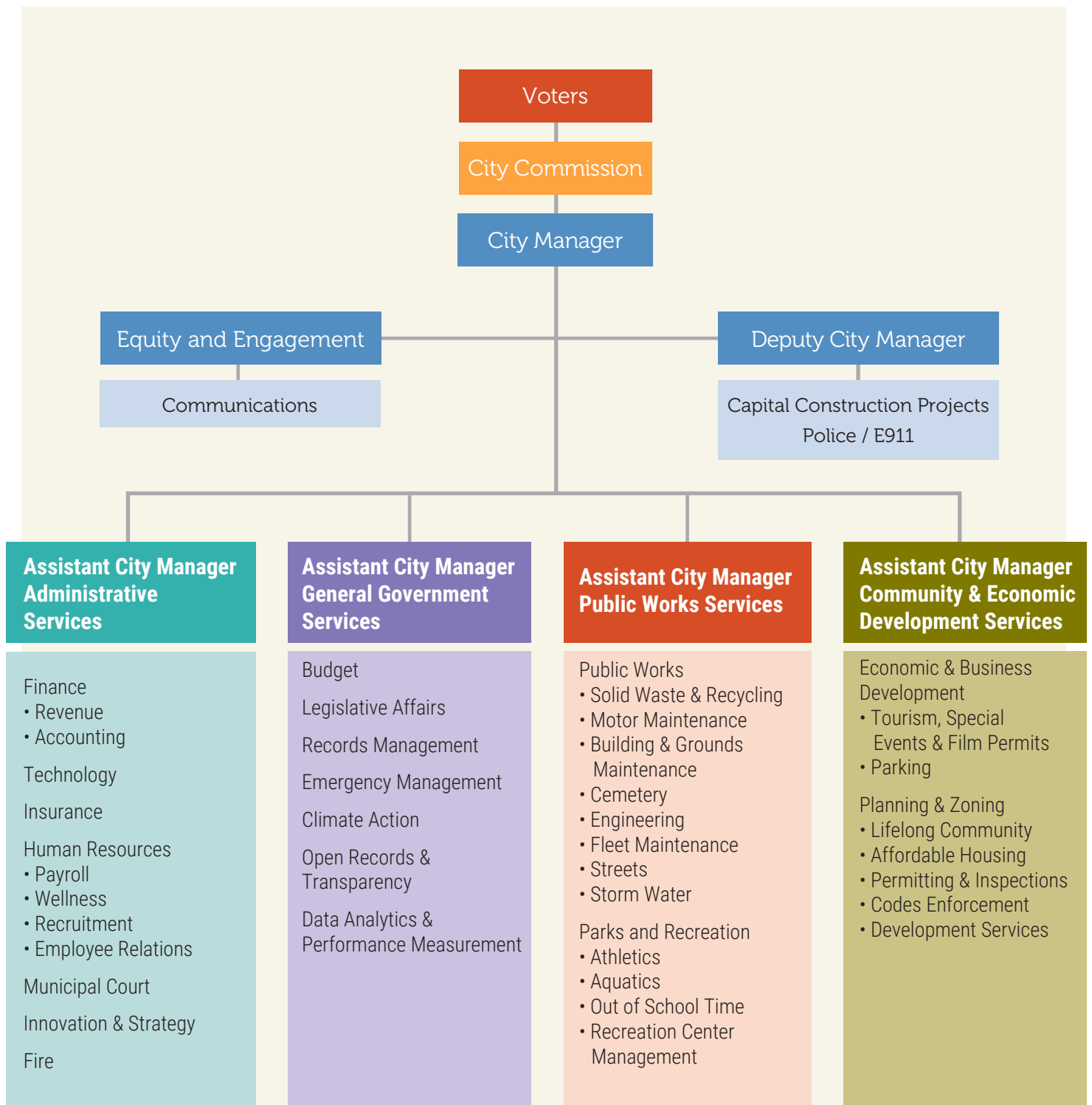


DISTINGUISHED BUDGET

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Decatur, Georgia for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications device.

CITY ORGANIZATION



DECATUR CITY COMMISSION



**Commissioner
CHERYL
KORTEMEIER**
District 2
Elected
November 2025

**Mayor Pro Tem
LESA FRONK**
District 2
First elected
November 2019

**Mayor
TONY POWERS**
At-Large
First elected
November 2015

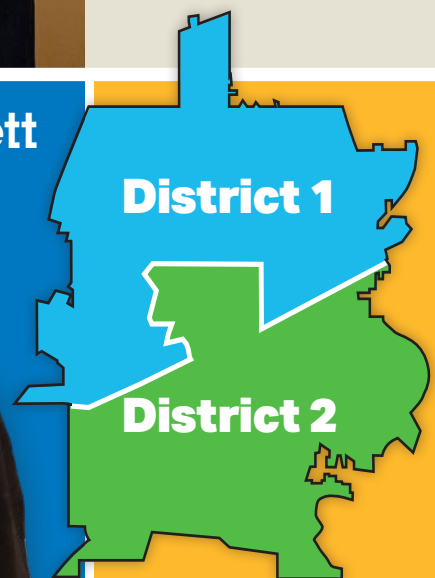
**Commissioner
GEORGE
DUSENBURY**
District 1
First elected
November 2019

**Commissioner
MARK ARNOLD**
District 1
Elected
November 2025

Five City Commissioners are elected in nonpartisan elections for overlapping four-year terms — two from District 1, two from District 2, and one At-Large (citywide). Each January, Commissioners elect two of their fellow members to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

A Legacy of Leadership: Mayor Patti Garrett

After 16 years of service to the City of Decatur (six as Commissioner and ten as Mayor), Patti Garrett concluded her tenure in January 2026. During her time in office, Decatur experienced transformative growth rooted in equity, sustainability, and community. Key milestones of her leadership include the transformation of Legacy Park, the City's pandemic response and launch of the Decatur United fund which raised \$60,000 for residents in need, the installation of the Empathy sculpture honoring Congressman John Lewis, Decatur's recognition as a UNICEF USA Child Friendly City, and the adoption of the Destination 2030 Strategic Plan. Her commitment to an equitable, thriving, and welcoming Decatur continues to shape the community she served.



District 1

District 2

**DECATUR
VOTING
DISTRICTS**

Questions about your city, county and state election districts? Visit the Georgia "My Voter Page" website at mvp.sos.ga.gov.

DECATUR'S CITY COMMISSION REFLECTIONS

Decatur has always been a city that leads with its values. Looking forward, what opportunities excite you most — and what do you want future residents to say about the community we're building today?

Mayor Tony Powers The intentional decisions that were made created an even stronger sense of community that lead our family to purposely choosing Decatur over anywhere in the country. We planned for sustainable growth and fostered an inclusive environment where everyone thrived.



Mayor Pro Tem Lesa Fronk I hope that future residents of Decatur recognize that their community was built on values that prioritized the wellbeing of its people.

Commissioner Mark Arnold I would like future residents to say that our Decatur ancestors created a well-balanced urban environment that offers a great list of amenities, encourages an active lifestyle, protects the environment, and everyone feels welcome.



Commissioner George Dusenbury We planted trees in whose shade we will never sit.

Commissioner Cheryl Kortemeier I want future residents of the City of Decatur to say they feel welcome, valued, and connected. Our elected leaders, city staff, and community volunteers work hard to make Decatur a place where people feel they belong and can thrive at all stages of life. I want residents (today and in the future) to know where to find information so they may stay informed, engaged, and make the most of what our city has to offer. I also hope they will say that Decatur is a community where they had the opportunity to get to know their neighbors. After all, it is the people around us and the connections we build together that give our lives meaning and create lasting memories.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Throughout this report, you will see icons that represent the six focus areas of the City's Destination 2030 Strategic Plan. These icons help illustrate how each accomplishment and accolade aligns with community priorities. Many initiatives touch multiple goals — because in Decatur, everything is connected.



WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES



The City of Decatur welcomed a diverse range of new businesses during the 2025–26 fiscal year, reflecting the continued strength and diversity of Decatur's small business community.

Roaring Social

1920s speakeasy-inspired bar at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Playa Bowls

Açaí and smoothie bowl café at 335 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Kiss & Tale Romance Bookshop

Independent romance bookshop at 340 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



Belén Bistro + Market Argentina

Argentinian bistro and market at 115 Sycamore St.

Teriyaki Madness

Fast-casual teriyaki restaurant at 143 Clairemont Ave.

Foxtail Coffee Co.

Specialty coffee shop at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Fork and Vine Social

Restaurant and gathering space at 910 W. College Ave.



Strand & Vine Hair Co.

Hair salon at 308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Delirium Vinyl

A record store at 308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite D

Mellow Mushroom

Beloved pizza restaurant, reopened at 340 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Little Empire

Children's clothing and resale shop at 533 W. Howard Ave.

Revival Women's Health

OB/GYN practice at 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.

Keller Williams Realty Metro Atlanta

Real estate office at 101 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.



WELCOME NEW CITY EMPLOYEES

The City of Decatur welcomed 37 new full-time staff during the 2025–26 fiscal year. These new appointments strengthen the City’s ability to deliver quality services, deepen community relationships, and fulfill the goals of operational excellence and equity.

Monique Boyer

Equipment Operator II/Sanitation

Tracey Bradley

Recreation Supervisor

DeAndra Brown

Athletics Manager

Niki Brown

Civilian Detective

Eric Byrne

Senior Engineer

Zachary Christie

Fire Apparatus Operator

Kantrell Clinton

Firefighter I

Lafaye Crowder

Police Officer

Hikeem Daniel

Recreation Coordinator

Dominic Orlando

Deputy Fire Chief

Caleb Fields

Police Officer

Jason Holder

Firefighter I

Xavion Jackson

Firefighter I

Tajuan Joseph

Firefighter I

Dajhea Jones

Communications Coordinator

Ishmel Johnson

Equipment Operator I/Sanitation

Corey Lumpkin

Firefighter I

Malachi Mahaffey

Athletic Coordinator

Kirk McRae

Crew Superintendent

Dylan McGregor

Crew Worker/Grounds Maintenance

Felicia Moore

Homeless Strategy Manager

Antonio Moore

Equipment Operator II/Sanitation

Mone Garnett

Administrative Assistant

Russell Nichols

Athletic Coordinator

Teresa Patrick

Recreation Coordinator

Jewel Pettiford

Police Officer

Molly Phegley

Communications Coordinator

Temilade Quadri

Crew Worker/Grounds Maintenance

Ashley Rush

Recreation Coordinator

Jessica Smith

Equipment Operator II/Sanitation

Ashlee Smith

Court Clerk

Kristina Vereline

Firefighter I

Lam Vuong

Police Officer

Cedric Walker

Crew Worker/Grounds Maintenance

Patrick White

Recreation Coordinator

Anthony Wilson

Fire Apparatus Operator

Brandon Wordlaw

Firefighter I

These new appointments and promotions fulfill the goals of operational excellence and equity.



YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

Recognized at the 2026 State of the City Address, the following employees were honored for their years of dedication to the Decatur community:

35 YEARS David Junger, Deputy City Manager

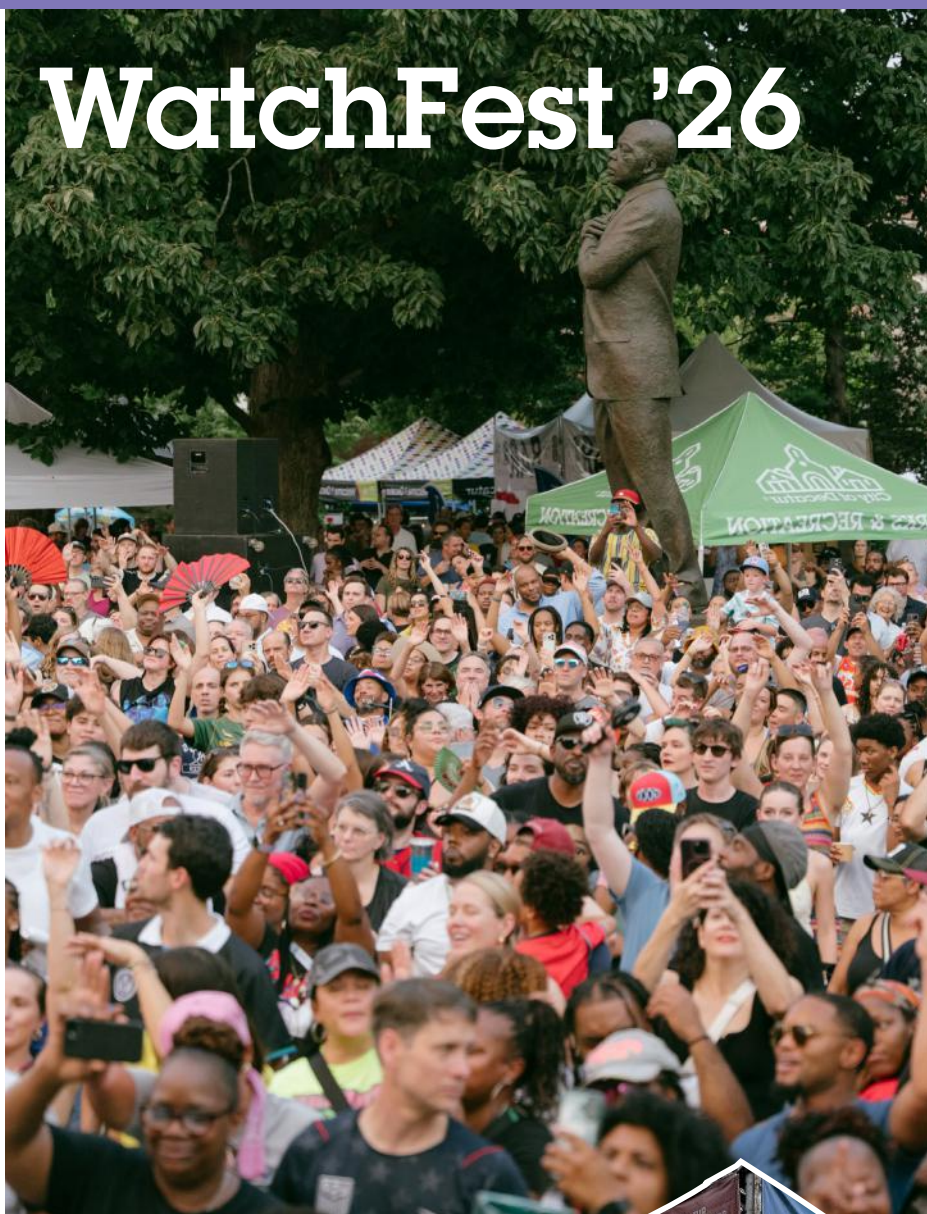
25 YEARS Antranette Robinson, Communications Officer, Public Safety-E911

20 YEARS Cynthia Hardnett, Codes Enforcement
Claire Miller, Innovation and Strategy Director
Anthony Thompson, Public Works
Darius Wilbern, Public Works-Motor Maintenance

15 YEARS Jabari Cole, Parks and Recreation
Durell Coleman, Fire Lieutenant



WatchFest '26



From June 11 to July 19, 2026, Decatur hosted WatchFest '26 — a free, 34-day FIFA World Cup celebration on the newly transformed Decatur Square. The event featured outdoor screenings on three large screens, a Big Boi opening concert, an Indigo Girls closing concert, multilingual volunteer ambassadors, and community programming throughout the tournament. The City allocated a \$300,000 special event fund to support the celebration. WatchFest '26 positioned Decatur as a regional destination and showcased the Square's new potential as a premier gathering space. A Recycle with Purpose initiative collected aluminum cans and cups throughout the event, with proceeds benefiting the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation.



A Walk for Peace

On December 30, 2025, 19 Buddhist monks, accompanied by Aloka the Peace Dog, stopped in Decatur on day 66 of a 2,300-mile walk from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington, D.C. The community gathered at the Beacon Municipal Complex for a peace gathering, reflecting Decatur's spirit as a welcoming and compassionate city.



Charter Review Commission Launches

In August 2025, the City launched a Charter Review Commission — a 29-member community body working in partnership with the National Civic League to review and recommend updates to Decatur's city charter, which was last revised in 2001. The eight-month process included a public kickoff on August 7 and reflects the City's commitment to transparent, community-driven governance.





The Decatur Minute Live

The first season features Mayor Garrett's legacy, the City Manager's priorities, the budget process, a newcomer's guide to Decatur, a Meet the Mayor conversation with Mayor Powers, and a WatchFest '26 preview. The monthly podcast is available wherever you stream.



Decatur Square Transformation Complete

After years of planning and community input, the Town Center 2.0 Plan Phase I - Decatur Square Transformation was completed in time for WatchFest '26. The reimagined downtown plaza features a new performance stage near the Historic Courthouse with a green room, an expanded lawn and hardscape, and a large viewing screen. The project reflects the City's vision for a welcoming, adaptable, and accessible heart of downtown.



Honoring Mary Frances Early

In April 2026, Decatur and Agnes Scott College came together to honor Mary Frances Early, the first African American to graduate from the University of Georgia in 1962, a civil rights trailblazer, and the first African American elected president of the Georgia Music Educators Association. The celebration, held at the Joyful Noise Gospel Concert, recognized her extraordinary legacy and her deep ties to the Decatur community. At the city commission meeting in June, Mayor Tony Powers proclaimed June 14 Mary Frances Early Day in her honor.



A Historic Turning Point



In January 2026, the Decatur City Commission elected Tony Powers as Mayor, making him the first Black male mayor in the city's 200-year history. Lesa Fronk was simultaneously elected Mayor Pro Tem. This historic moment reflects the City's ongoing commitment to equity, representation, and a community where all residents see themselves in their leadership.





Huron at Champlain Bioretention Project

A ribbon cutting in December 2025 celebrated the completion of the Huron at Champlain Bioretention Project in the Great Lakes neighborhood. The new bioretention basin captures and filters stormwater, reduces localized flooding, and incorporates traffic calming features, a model of green infrastructure that serves both environmental and mobility goals.



Keep Decatur Beautiful

This fiscal year, Decatur became an official affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and launched the Keep Decatur Beautiful



initiative. New litter pickup stations — created by local artist Simone Wilson — were installed at Decatur Recreation Center, Oakhurst Park, and McKoy Park, making it easier for residents to keep shared spaces clean and beautiful.



Compost Now: Decatur Goes Curbside

In April 2026, the City of Decatur launched a citywide curbside composting program in partnership with Compost Now. The opt-in program provides weekly pickup and a 7-gallon bin. The program built on a successful 100-household pilot and brings Decatur one step closer to its goal of significantly reducing waste sent to landfills. Decatur FC's zero waste initiative added momentum: in Season Two, the team diverted 755 pounds of waste from landfills (a 61% improvement) using compostable serveware from Clarkston-based Better Earth and Green Team volunteers, with waste processed by Compost Now into soil for public planting projects.



Electrify Decatur: Helping Residents Make the Switch



The City's Electrify Decatur program continued to expand, with the launch of the Home Energy Navigator Program, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, offering free 30-minute virtual consultations for residents. Monthly Home Efficiency Series workshops covered topics including heat pumps, solar panels, and water heaters. Georgia Home Energy Rebates of up to \$16,000 are available to eligible residents. These efforts advance Decatur's Clean Energy Plan commitment to achieving 100% clean electricity by 2035.



Hometown Habitat Awards

The Environmental Sustainability Board recognized five Decatur households this fiscal year through the Hometown Habitat Award program, celebrating residents who are reimagining their outdoor spaces with sustainability and biodiversity in mind. Honorees included the Amick family (terraced vegetable garden), the Ziemer family (woodland garden with rescued plants and rain gardens), the Harry family (mature tree canopy and raised vegetable beds), the Cauthorn family (rain garden system that solved chronic stormwater flooding), and the Michelle Mergler and George Hughes family (green ecosystem). Commissioner Dusenbury shared a personal reflection on the program in the May 2026 Focus.



MARTA NextGen Bus Network Launches

In April 2026, MARTA launched its NextGen Bus Network, improving transit service in and around Decatur. Route 15 now runs on a 15-minute frequency between Decatur and key destinations including Emory, the CDC, Buckhead, and South DeKalb. The long-standing gap between Decatur and Avondale MARTA stations has been eliminated, and new direct connections now link Decatur to Toco Hills, Lenox, Tucker, Northlake, Emory Decatur Hospital, Stone Mountain, and Stonecrest.



Safer Streets for All

Following adoption of the Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan in 2025, the City secured speed reductions on five state routes: College Avenue (35 to 30 mph), Scott Boulevard (40 to 35 mph), South Candler Street, Clairemont Avenue, and Commerce Drive. These reductions address a critical finding that 85% of Decatur's fatal and severe crashes occur on roads posted at 35 mph or higher, and reflect the City's data-driven commitment to protecting pedestrians, cyclists, and all road users.



South Columbia Path Phase III Complete

In May 2026, the City celebrated the completion of Phase III of the South Columbia Multi-Use Path with a ribbon cutting ceremony at Legacy Park. Community members, City leadership, staff, and partners gathered to mark the milestone and to celebrate Decatur once again earning the highest Bicycle Friendly Community ranking in Georgia, a Silver-level designation from the League of American Bicyclists. The path links neighborhoods, schools, parks, and destinations through safer walking and biking infrastructure, supporting Safe Routes to School connections for Talley Street Upper Elementary and Winnona Park Elementary.



FY 2025-2026 ACCOLADES

Detective Sgt. Robert Lindsey Named 2025 DeKalb County Police Officer of the Year

Awarded by the DeKalb County Chiefs' Association for investigative work on a 2021 homicide case involving a multi-agency effort that resulted in a murder conviction and multiple felony charges.



Renae Jackson Named Vice President of 3CMA

Decatur's own Renae Jackson was named Vice President of the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA), a national organization of nearly 2,000 members. Her leadership at the national level reflects the strength of Decatur's communications and community engagement work.



Gael Doyle — 2026 Thomas O. Davis Public Service Award

Gael Doyle, Communications Coordinator for Parks and Recreation, was honored for her exceptional work connecting residents to programs and to one another since joining the City in 2021.



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



Dr. Charlie McAdoo, Falcons Fan of the Year

Decatur educator and community leader Dr. Charlie McAdoo was named the NFL's 2025 Atlanta Falcons Fan of the Year, attending Super Bowl LIX in San Francisco and the 2026 NFL Draft.



Hank Ritger — Eagle Scout, BSA Troop 134

Hank Ritger earned the rank of Eagle Scout with a service project that improved the outdoor learning space at Winnona Park Elementary School.



Laura Strickland — Gold Medal, 2025 U.S. Pickleball Open

Decatur's Laura Strickland took home a gold medal in the 4.5 division at the 2025 U.S. Pickleball Open in Naples, Florida.

Decatur FC — Undefeated Season, Division Champions

In Season Two, Decatur FC completed an undefeated regular season, claimed the Peachtree Division Championship, and earned a #3 national ranking. Attendance increased by more than 60% over the previous season, with free admission for youth. The team's zero waste initiative diverted 755 pounds from landfills, making Decatur FC a model for sustainable community sport.



Amplify Decatur Music Festival

The Amplify Decatur Music Festival donated \$20,000 this year to the Decatur Cooperative Ministry and Decatur Education Foundation. Since its founding, the festival has contributed more than \$645,000 to organizations addressing homelessness and poverty, including more than \$430,000 to Decatur-area groups.



Decaturish Reader Awards

Decatur destinations swept multiple categories in the Decaturish Reader Awards, with wins including Best Park (Legacy Park), Best Community Event (Oakhurst Porchfest), Best Information Services (Decatur Visitors Center), Best Networking Group (Decatur Business Association), Best Shopping & Entertainment Plaza (Decatur Square), Best Library, Best Farmers Market, and Best Senior Activity Center (Decatur Recreation Center).



2025-2026 Welcoming Business Awards

The Better Together Advisory Board, in partnership with the Decatur City Commission, recognized five businesses for creating inclusive, accessible, and community-centered environments: Green Office Golf, Black, woman, and veteran-owned indoor golf studio that mentors local youth; Trellis Horticultural Therapy Alliance, wheelchair-accessible garden at Legacy Park; Kemper Pelvic Physiotherapy, offering LGBTQIA+-affirming, gender-

inclusive care; Oakview Coffee, a diverse, all-ages neighborhood shop; and Oakhurst Market, a community market that supports neighborhood schools and businesses.



USA TODAY 10BEST Nominations

Decatur earned national recognition with two USA TODAY 10BEST nominations: Brick Store Pub for Best Beer Bar and La Madrina – Three Taverns Brewery for Best Beer Label.



UNICEF CFCI Teen Leadership Team

Now in its fourth year, the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) Teen Leadership Team grew to 42 students this fiscal year. Projects included a Period Equity initiative, a mental health toolkit, a composting program at Decatur High School, and playground accessibility recommendations submitted to the City Commission.



RESIDENT BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Many Decatur residents serve on volunteer boards, commissions, and task forces. They are appointed to these volunteer groups by the City Commission and staffed by City of Decatur employees. If you have an interest in serving, or if you'd like more meeting information, visit decaturga.com/bc.

MEETING LOCATIONS

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

Planning Commission

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

For more information, contact Kc Krzic, 404-371-8386 or email kc.krzic@decaturga.com.

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

Board Accomplishments:

- Held public hearings on rezonings, land use plan amendments, and special exception requests, and forwarded recommendations to the City Commission.
- Reviewed and recommended approval of updates to the City of Decatur Streetscape Design Guidelines.
- Completed an annual training by UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government for Planning Commission Officials.
- Members provided guidance and input on the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.



Decatur Youth Council

The Decatur Youth Council (DYC) is a city-sponsored, community-based leadership program for high school students who live within the City of Decatur and attend public, private, and home-based schools.

For further information, contact Meredith Roark, 404-370-4102, meredith.roark@decaturga.com.

Meetings: First Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m. (except June through August).

Board Accomplishments:

- Created and shared two public service announcements with the community – one about the importance of local elections and the other about Narcan use.
- Donated \$750 to Joe's Fund from proceeds raised during another successful Fair OFF the Square event.
- Provided youth perspective during the Charter Review process and the Comprehensive Plan Update process.



Zoning Board of Appeals

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

For more information, contact Kc Krzic, 404-371-8386 or email kc.krzic@decaturga.com.

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

Board Accomplishments:

- Held public hearings on variance requests and engaged applicants and community members before rendering decisions.
- Continued to support stormwater solutions for stream buffer variances that incorporated permeable pavers, rain gardens, and other green infrastructure to improve water quality along neighborhood streams.
- Members provided guidance and input on the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.





Environmental Sustainability Board

Provides recommendations to the City Commission regarding the city's environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives. Assists with implementation of city projects that impact the natural environment to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners in the City of Decatur. Participation is open to anyone who is interested.

For more information contact David Nifong at david.nifong@decaturga.com.

Meetings: Fourth Monday of each month, 4-6 p.m. Visit decaturga.com/bc-esb for meeting locations.

Board Accomplishments:

- Administered the Hometown Habitat Award program, recognizing five Decatur households for reimagining their outdoor spaces with sustainability and biodiversity in mind.
- Partnered on the Solar for All program to help connect income-eligible Decatur homeowners with access to residential solar.
- Advanced the Electrify Decatur program, including outreach to contractors and coordination with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority.
- Continued the heat sensor monitoring project, installing sensors at multiple parks and engaging high school students to collect and report data.
- Sponsored a table at the Regenerative Youth Summit at Legacy Park to connect students with environmental stewardship efforts.
- Supported expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at City facilities.



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Serve as advocates and advisors on projects and programs that help citizens safely incorporate physical activity into their daily routines. They also support Decatur's ongoing efforts to improve sidewalks and intersections, calm traffic and expand the network of bike paths and walking trails. It seeks to educate residents about obesity and lifestyle issues and implement programs designed to change behavior and encourage healthier habits.

For more information contact Nancy Brune at nancy.brune@decaturga.com.

Meetings: First Tuesday of each month, 6-7 p.m., at Legacy Park, 500 S. Columbia Dr.

Board Accomplishments:

- Developed four focused working groups: Athletics, Core Facilities & Greenspace; Funding, Partnerships & Financial Sustainability; Equity, Access & Community Engagement; and Health, Wellness & Inclusive Programming
- Participated in review meetings and feedback sessions related to the City's Comprehensive Plan update.
- Participated in Decatur 101 presentations to increase public awareness of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Facilitated conversations with members of the local pickleball community.
- Began preliminary efforts related to a potential comprehensive summer master swim program for 2027.
- Met with representatives from DeKalb County Parks and Recreation to explore opportunities for collaboration and shared best practices.
- Initiated a review of relevant ordinances and governing documents as related to Parks & Recreation.
- Created and launched Hoop Helpers, a parent-led volunteer group that supports youth basketball operations.



Decatur Development Authority and Decatur Downtown Development Authority

These authorities are charged with planning, organizing, and financing projects that will revitalize and redevelop Decatur's commercial business districts. The DDA focuses on the historic commercial downtown central business district and works to market a positive image for the city.

For further information, contact Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386, angela.threadgill@decaturga.com.

Meetings: Joint meetings on the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m.

Board Accomplishments:

- Disbursed \$171,079 to 40 small businesses.
- Issued \$108,331,071 in taxable revenue bonds to finance the acquisition and construction of the AMLI Mixed-Use project at 720-750 Commerce Drive.



Better Together Advisory Board

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

For more information, contact Renae Jackson, 678-553-6561, renae.jackson@decaturga.com

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Board Accomplishments:

- In partnership with the Decatur City Commission, presented the annual Welcoming Business Award to Green Office Golf, Kemper Pelvic Physiotherapy, Oakhurst Market, Oakview Coffee, Trellis Horticultural Therapy Alliance.
- Welcomed three new board members: Karen DeGrammont, Raghu Kakarala, and Brady Radford.
- Had board representation on the City's Charter Review Commission.



Lifelong Community Advisory Board

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

For more information, contact Angela Threadgill, 404-371-8386, angela.threadgill@decaturga.com

Meetings: Fourth Monday each month at 6:30 p.m.

Board Accomplishments:

- A designated board member actively participated in the City's Comprehensive Planning process, ensuring older adults' needs were considered in the City's community vision.
- Published articles in The Decatur Focus about aging-related issues and resources.
- Hosted three gatherings of the Connection Café, a supportive program for residents living with dementia and their caregivers operated in partnership with the Dementia Spotlight Foundation at the Decatur Recreation Center. Two more are scheduled in the new fiscal year.
- Drafted universal design recommendations for new construction and remodeling of single-family homes to support accessibility and aging in place.
- Shared Smart911 information and registration materials at community events for older adults.



Historic Preservation Commission

Ensures that renovations and new construction in Decatur's five Local Historic Districts (McDonough-Adams-King's Highway District, Ponce de Leon Court, Old Decatur, Parkwood, and the Clairemont Historic District) are consistent with the character of the neighborhood.

For more information, contact Aileen de la Torre, 404-371-8386, aileen.delatorre@decaturga.com.

Meetings: Third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (no meeting in July)

Board Accomplishments:

- Created the Beacon Hill Local Historic District to help tell the vibrant story of Decatur's African American population.
- Held public hearings and approved Certificates of Appropriateness for additions, accessory structures, window replacements, façade repairs, and other exterior changes throughout Decatur's Local Historic Districts.
- Approved the installation of residential solar panels in the Old Decatur Local Historic District, balancing clean energy goals with the preservation of neighborhood character.
- Began planning a centennial celebration of the Ponce de Leon Court Local Historic District for Preservation Month in May 2026.
- Began evaluating future Local Historic District designations, including Decatur's downtown core, the Decatur Cemetery, and Decatur Square.



THE ROAD AHEAD

Building on the progress of this fiscal year, the City of Decatur remains focused on the inclusive, sustainable, and community-driven goals outlined in our Destination 2030 Strategic Plan. Here are the priorities we'll be focusing on in the year ahead:

- ▶ Comprehensive Plan and Clean Energy Plan Update
- ▶ Ebster Teen Activity Area Construction
- ▶ Legacy Park Affordable Housing — final 66 units completion
- ▶ Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Strategy
- ▶ Downtown Square Programming and Activation (post-WatchFest)
- ▶ Digital Suggestion Box
- ▶ Business Recruitment Services
- ▶ Downtown Parking Enhancements
- ▶ Expanded and Improved Communications Services
- ▶ Heat Mitigation Strategy

