

Long Range Planning NEWSLETTER

October 2023

DeKalb County
Planning & Sustainability

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Big news! Planning and Sustainability is hosting the annual celebration of World Planning Day on November 8th! Each year, planners around the world engage in activities that highlight the importance of planning and this year, we are inviting the whole community to join us!

The event will be held at 178 Sams St, Decatur, GA 30030, at the DeKalb County Government Service Center from 9 AM till 3 PM. There will be a host of vendors and workshops conducted throughout the day.

Interested in participating?

[Register here!](#)

Planning Academy

Our division is working on a new initiative called DeKalb Neighborhood Planning Academy, or Planning Academy for short. This initiative has been created to teach interested participants about the planning process so that they are better equipped for making an impact in their community. Set to release early 2024!

Small Area Plans

One of the primary tools to guide development within Activity Centers is through the use of Small Area Plans (SAPs). These plans allow policy makers and the community to guide development, policies, and investments at a much finer level of detail than can be provided in the comprehensive plan. Goals and conditions regarding SAPs can be found in the DeKalb 2050 Unified Plan.



Stone Mountain PATH Trail

This project will bring together cross-jurisdictional stakeholders to help align planning goals and regulations to create more affordable housing, multi-modal transportation options, and places for the community to work and play along the Stone Mountain PATH Trail.



Presidential Pkwy/ Embry Hills

The Presidential Pkwy/Embry Hills study will include an analysis of existing conditions that impact the ability to create a livable, pedestrian friendly environment associated with the boundary of the study.



Candler Road Corridor Public Art

The Candler Road Corridor SAP will focus on providing public art installations along the corridor. More information to come.

Transit Oriented Development

Transit-Oriented Development, or TOD, means development that is vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and genuinely integrated with transit that supports both local community development and regional economic development.

Indian Creek Station

The Indian Creek Station Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Master Plan is an opportunity to transform this end-of-line station into a transit-oriented community that connects people to opportunity, drives sustainable community development, and promotes regional prosperity.

There will be an open house conducted later this year. More information regarding the TOD to come!

Visit the Indian Creek TOD website [here!](#)



Memorial Drive Revitalization



The primary goal of the Memorial Drive Revitalization Plan is to provide a vision for the area. Work towards a consensus among business owners and the community. Create a revitalization strategy for this important corridor that includes beautification, vibrant businesses, mixed use development, and living wage employment opportunities.

Good Neighbors Day Out

On September 30th, 2023, the East Memorial Drive Revitalization Foundation (EMDRF) hosted its inaugural DeKalb County Good Neighbors Day Out event.

Dozens of vendors were present at the event sharing information about their services, upcoming events, and community resources. Throughout the event, the host of the event Shantae Hereford introduced several speakers including but not limited to Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, State Senator Kim Jackson, and more.

The EMDRF is looking forward to growing the event each year, and they are looking forward to 2024!

[Visit the EMDRF Website Here!](#)

Community Action Groups

Since the Memorial Drive Revitalization plan's adoption, DeKalb County has been working on numerous plan initiatives. The Community Action Groups (CAG) is designed to be the community advocacy needed to move the needle on various projects.



Trees and Trails

Trees and Trails hosted their Public Engagement meeting on August 2nd, 2023. The presentation can be [found here!](#)
The survey can be [found here!](#)



East Memorial Drive Revitalization Foundation (EMDRF)

EMDRF will be hosted their Good Neighbors Day Out event at Memorial Square, on September 30th. They are working on other projects, information to come soon!

Lift DeKalb

Plans to create a Community Development Corporation as well as a website to inform, educate, and gather community feedback. Information to come.

F.A.M.E.

In process of finalizing a location and date for a Paint by Numbers event on Memorial Drive. Information to come.

Stay Engaged!



REGISTER HERE



Engage DeKalb is Live!

DeKalb County's Planning and Sustainability department has launched Engage DeKalb! This engagement platform is a new way for you to provide input to county staff quickly and easily. Whether you have 5 minutes or more time to share, you can learn what is happening in your local government and share your thoughts.

We want to hear what you have to say on projects, programs, and topics that affect you and your neighbors. New projects will be added onto Engage DeKalb so be sure to register and keep updated on major projects happening around DeKalb County.

Get involved and [register here](#) or visit engagedekalb.dekalbcountyga.gov.

DeKalb County...

Business Registry

The DeKalb County Long Range Planning Department has established a Business Registry to get business owners more involved in decisions affecting their communities. Once a company registers as a business with DeKalb County, they become part of the Business Registry.

Neighborhood Registry

The DeKalb County Long Range Planning Department has established the Neighborhood Registry to get residents more involved in decisions affecting their neighborhoods and to improve participation. Neighbors and neighborhood organizations that are not already on the Neighborhood Registry are invited to join. So far, the registry has over 500 people.

[Register Here!](#)

WELCOME OUR NEW RANGERS ON BOARD



LaSonji Marshall
Revitalization Coordinator

LaSonji Marshall has over 20 years of experience in public relations and has received her masters degree in Business Education from the University of West Georgia. LaSonji is ready to dig into her new position.



Aprell King
Transportation Planner

Prior to joining DeKalb, Aprell King received her Executive Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Southern California in 2020. Aprell enjoys spending time with her son, fur baby, family, and friends in her spare time.

Meet the Long Range Planning Team!



Cedric Hudson
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Have further questions regarding the material covered in this month's newsletter?
Contact Nicole Marchant at nvmarchant@dekalbcountyga.gov or plansustain@dekalbcountyga.gov