



Greater Decatur Capital Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

What is Greater Decatur? At its core, Greater Decatur is simply a movement to encourage a public and private partnership toward making Decatur an even greater place to live. In order to develop a family-oriented community full of opportunity and pride, we must attract, retain, and engage our citizens through enhanced quality of life and economic prosperity initiatives. Quality of life and economic prosperity are complimenting outcomes, equally dependent on and advancing one another. More specifically, Greater Decatur is a targeted effort to identify and coordinate projects and to align them with available resources, both people and funding. There are many positive actions happening throughout our community, but it is important that these efforts complement one another instead of compete for resources.

Who is Greater Decatur? It's you. It's me. It's the individuals and business that call Decatur home. It's the grassroots organizations and volunteers that strive to serve and better our community. It's those who have chosen to stay. It's those who have chosen to return. It's those who have moved away but want to see their hometown prosper. It's all of us who want our children and grandchildren to inherit an even greater community. Several specific groups have stepped up to help lead the way in forging a greater Decatur through a concentrated and coordinated effort. Some of those organizations are listed here.

What are you asking for? We are asking for your support. The City of Decatur alongside many of the volunteer groups have worked diligently toward our common goal. The city has committed and will continue to commit significant resources toward quality of life initiatives. However, there is no way those limited resources nor the resources being sought through various state agencies and other grant opportunities can meet the entire need. In fact, many such grants require matching commitments from the local private sector. Public and private partnerships are necessary more than ever to achieve our desired goals.

What projects do you have in mind? First of all, you should know that the resources being raised will go to support numerous tangible capital projects. They are not for programming. Many of our partner organizations still have programming specific to their objectives outside of the capital campaign projects. Secondly, these funds are **NOT** to be used for infrastructure such as water or sewer lines; those projects are supported through user fees. Many of the projects we are currently focusing on center on enhancing the aesthetics and walkability of our downtown as well as expanding recreational opportunities in Decatur. A list of our current projects is included with this information. This list is not exhaustive, as new projects will surely arise as we successfully complete others.

How are city-supported capital improvement projects prioritized? The current projects are prioritized in phases based on a number of objective criteria. The identified projects that are included consider the project's overall readiness in terms of financing, site control and preparation; community and regional impact; community support; the project's ability to serve as a foundation for additional growth and improvement in future projects; potential for economic development and growth as a result



of project completion; and the ability for the city to enhance marketing of our community through project completion. In time, additional projects will be considered and factored into the list of current projects, utilizing this criteria as well.

How much are you trying to raise? We have a good understanding of the costs associated with many of the proposed projects. The city has committed to fund portions of many of the capital campaign projects. As a starting point, we've set a goal of \$3.5 million, with \$2.5 million to be utilized for Phase I projects; the remaining \$1 million will be placed in an endowment fund for project sustainability. Two funds have been established through the Adams County Community Foundation. The Decatur Community Fund is a pass-through account which will be used to supplement funding of prioritized capital improvement projects now. The Decatur Community Future Fund is an endowment fund which will be used in the future to assist in the sustainability of capital improvement projects. The intention is to annually assess contributions and allocate a percentage of gifts to the Decatur Community Future Fund to grow the endowment.

How much do you need from me? We are thankful for any amount of support you can provide...from \$5 to \$50,000 or more. Your contribution will be deposited into the Decatur Community Fund held at the Adams County Community Foundation. Your support will be eligible for a personal charitable deduction when you file your tax return.

How can I give? We are happy to accept your contribution now. Or, you can give securely online as well through the Adams County Community Foundation website at www.adamscountyfoundation.org. Please understand that charges apply for giving online. If you are unable or unprepared to contribute the entire gift at this time, we will gladly accept your contribution in equal installments during the next four years. We ask that you consider making your first installment as soon as you are able to do so. We can also invoice you for future installments if that would be helpful.

Can I give to certain projects? Yes. Contributions of \$200 or greater may be designated to a specific project. Contributions of less than \$200 will be applied to the general Decatur Community Fund and be utilized on the priority projects. If by chance you donate towards specific project and we are unsuccessful in raising the entirety of the necessary funds, your contribution will still be used toward your specified initiative, but the project may need to be modified to fit the allowable budget.

Are community organizations already involved and supporting proposed projects? Yes! Several local organizations are already heavily involved in planning and implementing the identified capital improvement projects. The following groups include:

- Decatur Main Street
- Decatur Chamber of Commerce
- Connect to Careers
- Decatur Cultural Connection
- Decatur Sculpture Tour
- Winning with Wellness
- North Adams Community Schools
- Adams-Wells Manufacturing Alliance
- Adams County Historical Society
- Adams Public Library