



## Decatur Historic Resources Survey Neighborhood Summary

**Date:** September 1, 2009

**Name:** Parkwood

**Property Type:** District

**Boundaries:** The proposed Parkwood historic district roughly consists of Pinetree Drive to the north, Melrose Avenue to the east, and the City of Decatur city limits to the west. East Parkwood Road is the southernmost street.

**Primary Dates of Development:** 1950s

**Physical Description:** Parkwood is a mid-twentieth century neighborhood on the western border of Decatur, with a portion inside the city limits and another outside. The boundaries proposed are those inside the city limits. The majority of the houses in the neighborhood were constructed in the 1950s, although there are a few earlier houses along West Ponce de Leon Avenue. Most houses are single story brick ranches. The ranch houses on East Parkwood Road are particularly large and well-detailed examples of the type. Houses on Upland Road are more varied in style and type, including many revival styles. The lot sizes are substantially larger and deeper than is typical for Decatur and the streets are curvilinear, which is typical of a mid-twentieth century ranch subdivision. Houses are set deeply back from the street, and front lawns are largely clear of vegetation other than grass. Back yards, however, are full of mature trees, giving the neighborhood a wooded atmosphere.

Parkwood contains 128 parcels, of which 102 (79.7%) are currently contributing historic properties, 21 (16.4%) are non-contributing, and five (3.9%) are vacant. The oldest building in the neighborhood, a brick Georgian house, was built in 1923 and is located at 815 West Ponce de Leon Avenue.

**Reason for Significance (National Register of Historic Places Areas of Significance):**  
Architecture, Community Planning and Development

**Description of Significance:** Parkwood is significant in the area of Architecture for containing numerous examples of mid-twentieth century housing, most notably a substantial number of ranch houses. Many of these ranch houses are particularly large and well designed. It is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development as an example of a mid-twentieth century ranch neighborhood. Typical features of this



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neighborhood type include large, deep suburban-style lots, heavily wooded back yards, minimally planted front lawns, driveways with carports and garages, and curving streets.

**Recommended Historic District Designation:** Local Historic District; National Historic District

