

## DeKalb History Center

### DeKalb Parks and Recreation Part of the Robert W. Espy IV Collection

**Scope and content:** The documents were found in the basement of the Pythagoras lodge in downtown Decatur and were given to the history center by Bob Espy to become part of his family collection. This collection is a selection of records kept by the DeKalb Department of Parks and Recreation, 1952 until 1995.

**Provenance:** Gift of Robert Espy, 2011. ACC # 2010.28.

**Access:** Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citation should be as follows:

Description of specific item; DeKalb Parks and Recreation, DeKalb History Center Archives

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2011, 2012.

**Size:** 16 document boxes.

**Organizational history of DeKalb Parks and Recreation:** A bond program in 1952 started the ball rolling to set up the department, and the official inaugural date is 1955. In its first ten years, the department primarily set up picnic areas, baseball fields and pools. In 1962 more money came in and construction of recreational facilities began and staff was hired. Soon after, community programs were begun. The department is today called Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs.

The park system includes: 130 parks consisting of approximately 6,000 acres of parkland and open space, 151 playgrounds, 2 golf courses, 105 tennis courts, 90 pavilions, 158 ball fields, 13 recreational facilities, and even more.

\*Information from: <http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/parks/>

**Description:** The files were found in the basement of the Pythagoras lodge which had been used for storage by the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Department. In the effort to clean up the building, some documents were lost, so this collection represents only a part of the original collection. This part of the Espy collection is documents from the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation department and includes information on local parks, summer activity programs, applications for Land Water Conservation Fund money, scrapbook, financial information about repairs and expansions of parks and services and bids for Olympic tennis stadium venues.

**Subject Headings:** Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main Entry: DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Department

Subject/Added Entries:       Decatur (Ga.)  
                                       DeKalb County (Ga.)  
                                       Olympic Games (26th : 1996 : Atlanta, Ga.)  
                                       Parks--Design and construction.  
                                       County government.

**Folder List**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	1962-1966 Scrapbook, Access copy	1962-1966
	2	1962-1966 Scrapbook, original	1962-1966
	3	1975 April releases and anniversaries	1975
	4	1985 LWCF formal application	1985
	5	1985 LWCF Pre-applications	1985
	6	1985 LWCF pre-applications	1985
	7	1986 Land Water Conservation Fund application	1986
	8	1987 Recreation fund budget request	1987
2	1	Accident Review Board	1984-1986
	2	After School program	1985
	3	Arabia	1994
	4	Arabia	1995
	5	Audio visual manuals	
	6	Avondale Dunaire appraisal	1984-1985
	7	Avondale Dunaire maps and surveys	1985-1987
	8	Avondale Dunaire surveys	1986
	9	Biffle park	1983-1984
3	1	Benefits of parks and recreation	1994-1995
	2	Blackburn park	1972-1989
	3	Blackburn park, adult mens softball	
	4	Blackburn tennis center	1974-1986
	5	Bond: Arabia mountain master plan	1988-1991
4	6	Bond projects: Arabia mountain property swaps	1990
	1	Brookhaven park	1971-1989
	2	Browning courthouse relocation	1983-1987
	3	Browning recreational study	1976
	4	Browns mill park	1975-1992
	5	Budget	1995
	6	Budget	1996

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
5	7	Candler Celebration 1 of 3	1985
	8	Candler Celebration 2 of 3	1985
		Performer Jerry Reed	
	1	Candler Celebration 3 of 3	1985
	2	Central Hairston property	1984-1986
6	3	Community development	1988-1990
	4	Condemnations/conversion properties	1986-1988
	1	DeKalb county salary survey	Sep 1995
	2	Dunwoody Park	1983
	3	Dunwoody park nature trail schedules	1983-1984
	4	Exchange park	1961-1989
7	5	Friendship park deeded to City of Clarkston	1976-1991
	6	Friends of Arabia mountain	1994
	7	General DeKalb county government RPCA budget	1986-1987
	8	Glenwood pool	1952-1963
	9	Grants-Federal-small business administration	1983
	10	Grants-Federal-Jobs Bill	1983
	11	Gresham Park	1962-1989
	1	Hamilton recreation center	1978-1989
	2	Henderson park	1972-1995
8	3	Henderson park	1980-1987
	4	Ideas for stencils-flyers	
	5	Jim Cone-photographs	1970s
	6	Klondike park	1962-1978
	7	Lake Ivanhoe-parcel 18 260 3 1	1982
	8	Land and water conservation fund	1981-1983
	9	Lawrenceville/Seaboard	1971-1983
	1	Lawsuits-potential/pending 1 of 3	1983-1992
9	2	Lawsuits-potential/pending 2 of 3	1991-1992
	3	Lawsuits-potential/pending 3 of 3	1990-1993
	4	Lithonia park acquisition	1987-1989
	5	Lithonia city pool	1978-1984
	6	Lithonia Park	1976-1987
	1	Lithonia pool	1984-1989

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
10	2	Longdale park	1963-1985
	3	Lullwater park	1975
	4	LWCF	
	5	LWCF 1986	1985-1986
	6	LWCF 1986 extra copy of project applications	
	7	Mark Trail center	1962-1982
	8	Mary Gay House	1978-1979
	9	Mason Mill park	1966-1989
	10	Mathis Dairy – Soapstone	
	1	Miscellaneous maps	
11	2	Murphey Candler park	1951-1989
	3	Negatives	
	4	Old courthouse lawn	1990
	5	Olympic tennis stadium	
		DeKalb proposed sites	1991
	6	Olympic tennis stadium proposal	1991
	7	Olympic tennis stadium Sugar Creek	1991
	8	Our Country, Our Future	1994
	9	<i>Outdoors in Georgia</i> March 1977-November 1977	
	10	<i>Outdoors in Georgia</i> November 1978, December 1978	
	11	Panola state park	1971
	12	Park impact fee	1992
	1	People for parks brochure	
12	2	Pleasantdale park	1962-1988
	3	Project-S.S. Adams tract/Lithonia park acquisition	1987-1989
	4	Project-S.S. Avondale Dunaire park sale	1985-1989
	5	Project-S.S. major resource task force: Davidson Arabia mountain	1987-1992
	6	Project-S.S. Parcels 6 & 42, Lithonia park acquisition	1987-1989
13	1	Promotions-news releases	1987
	2	Promotions-public meeting-Arabia mountain	1988
	3	RPCA organization	1973-1990
	4	Recreation parks and cultural affairs budget	1985-1986

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
13	5	Redan park	1964-1989
	6	Shows/matches...dog	1978-1983
	7	Special populations	1984-1994
14	8	State grants	1971-1987
	9	Stationery examples	
	10	Stonehaven	1969-1973
	1	Sugar Creek golf course	1970-1989
	2	Surplus properties-no interest in retaining	1986-1991
	3	Swanton house (DeKalb Historical Society)	1973-1978
	4	Tobie Grant advisory board	1984-1985
	5	Tobie Grant advisory board financial records	1982-1984
	6	Tucker recreation center	1982-1989
	7	Tucker recreation center advisory board	1981-1984
15	1	Wade Walker park 1 of 2	1987-1990
	2	Wade Walker park 2 of 2	1971-1987
16		Oversized maps and other ephemera	

Room 034-PSF Box 21 Negatives (Dunwoody park and Candler celebration, Jerry Reed), Jim Cone

Ephemera such as CPR dummies, sports equipment, t shirts and mugs in museum storage.