

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. Re-processed Oct 2020, J Blomqvist

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

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

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

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

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