

DeKalb County Public Library

951 N. Indian Creek Drive

DEKALB COUNTY LIBRARY TRANSITION PLAN

TRANSITIONING DEKALB LIBRARIES: WHAT IT MEANS

- **Environmental Education**
 - Youth Education Programs
 - Vendor Training
 - Sustainability research and testing
- **Sustainable Landscaping Methods**
 - Modified RFP Language
 - Proper Care of New and Existing Foliage
 - Electric Tool Usage
- **Landscape Modifications**
 - Native Plant Installations
 - Mulch
 - Irrigation Systems



In 2021, Commissioner Ted Terry initiated a mission to transform DeKalb County libraries into climate-resilient hubs. The success of these pilots has paved the way for a further \$250,000 for a full 23 Library Transition Plan.

Usage	Clarkston	Chamblee	All Libraries
Flooding Mitigation	\$12,000	-----	-----
Designs, Community Engagement and Implementation	\$65,000	\$45,000	-----
Base Map	-----	-----	\$55,000

Any extra funding given for the Pilot Sites were allocated to vendor "Let Us Love Your Lawn" to complete the sites. Another \$250k allocated to the Library Transition Plan was saved by Ted Terry appointing Jamie Rosenthal to create and implement said plans.



HISTORY OF DEKALB
LIBRARY TRANSITIONS



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: ENVIRONMENTAL



Increased Biodiversity

Enhancing local ecosystems by introducing and supporting a variety of plant and animal species.



Soil Health Improvement

Implementing regenerative practices that restore and maintain soil fertility and structure.



Carbon Sequestration

Planting trees and vegetation that absorb CO₂, helping to mitigate climate change.



Reduced Chemical Use

Minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides, leading to cleaner air, water, and soil.



Habitat Creation

Providing habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, contributing to ecological balance.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: SOCIAL



More Programming: By partnering with local organizations such as Trust for Public Land, the Ray Anderson Foundation, and Friends of Library groups, communities can be guided and nourished with local resources. This includes food, education, and assistance concerning ecological and community health.

Stronger Community Connections: Fostering collaboration and stronger bonds among community members through shared projects will build a sense of safety and protectiveness in DeKalb County residents for their environments and one another.

Educational Opportunities: Providing these transitioned spaces will ensure education on sustainable landscapes and environmental stewardship for any willing participants.

Improved Public Spaces: People may gather in beautified, safe, equitable, and accessible areas, creating the opportunity to experience peaceful outdoor recreations.

Health Benefits: Decarbonization, water purification, and environmental beautification improves physical and mental health tenfold. The changes provide both a medical and chemical mechanism for improvement of human health.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: FISCAL

Cost Savings: Reducing expenses associated with traditional landscaping practices such as frequent mowing, chemical treatments, and water usage.

Grants and Fundraising Opportunities: Accessing additional funding through environmental grants and community fundraising efforts.

Economic Development: Attracting businesses and tourism by creating attractive, well-maintained green spaces.


Increased Property Values: Enhancing the appeal and value of surrounding properties through improved landscaping.

Long-term Investment: Creating a sustainable infrastructure that requires less maintenance and lower costs over time.





PHASES OF PLAN

A man wearing a blue and white cap, a dark shirt, and grey pants is using a backpack leaf blower on a green lawn. The blower is black and red, with the brand name 'Kress Commercial' visible. In the background, there is a wooden lattice fence and some greenery.

PHASE I: YEARS 1-2

Introduce RFP for
Pilot Libraries

Education at Pilots
and New Sites for
Residents and
County Staff

Completion of
Installations at
Pilots and New
Sites

Implementation
and Training of
New RFP for Pilots

Roll Out Research
and Metrics

Completing In
Progress
Transitions

Develop Resource
Guides

Implement Low-
Cost Carbon
Reduction
Initiatives

Electrification of
Landscaping
Industry



PHASE 2: YEARS 2-3



Secure

Secure Additional Funding and Grants



Finalize

Finalize Landscape Design



Expand

Expand Ongoing Education and Awareness



Complete

Complete Landscaping Electrification



Plan

Plan for Expansion to New Libraries and Beyond

PHASE 3: YEARS 4-5



**DATA
EVALUATION
AND ANALYSIS**



**PROJECT
EXPANSION
BEYOND
LIBRARIES**



**INTER-
DEPARTMENTAL
ADOPTION**



**EXPANSION OF
CLIMATE
RESILIENT
SPACES**



**UPSCALING OF
INDUSTRY
ELECTRIFICATI
ON**



**RESEARCH,
CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT,
AND
INNOVATION**



**COMMUNITY
AND
STAKEHOLDER
INNOVATION**



METRICS OF SUCCESS

- Goal setting and science-based metrics
- Decarbonizing DeKalb Government
- Ensuring a just transition
- Advocating for public policy
- Supporting integration and accountability
- Tracking and reporting progress

A photograph of a garden with several lavender plants in the foreground, their purple flowers in bloom. In the background, there is a blurred view of a building with a large window and some greenery.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

- Average cost of \$40-\$70,000 per library
- Covering Education, Landscape Transition, Designs, and Electric Transitions

LANDSCAPE TRANSITION BUDGET

**Site preparation: \$2,000-\$6,500
per acre**

**Planting: \$11,000-\$28,000 per
acre**

**Irrigation Systems: \$7,000-
\$20,000 per acre**

Hardscaping: \$10,000- \$25,000

**First Year Maintenance: \$4,000-
\$11,000**

	Per Acre	Per Square Foot
Low-End Estimate	\$30,000-\$50,000	\$0.69-\$1.15
High-End Estimate	\$60,000- \$100,000	\$1.38-\$2.30

VISION FOR DEKALB LIBRARIES AND BEYOND

Climate Resilient Landscapes In
Parks, Public Spaces, Schools and
Libraries Will Include:

- Native landscapes and shrubbery
- County-wide electrification
- Reduced Cost for Landscape Management
- Blueprint for Other Models Country and Worldwide

