

TRANSITIONING DEKALB LIBRARIES: WHAT IT MEANS

Environmental Education

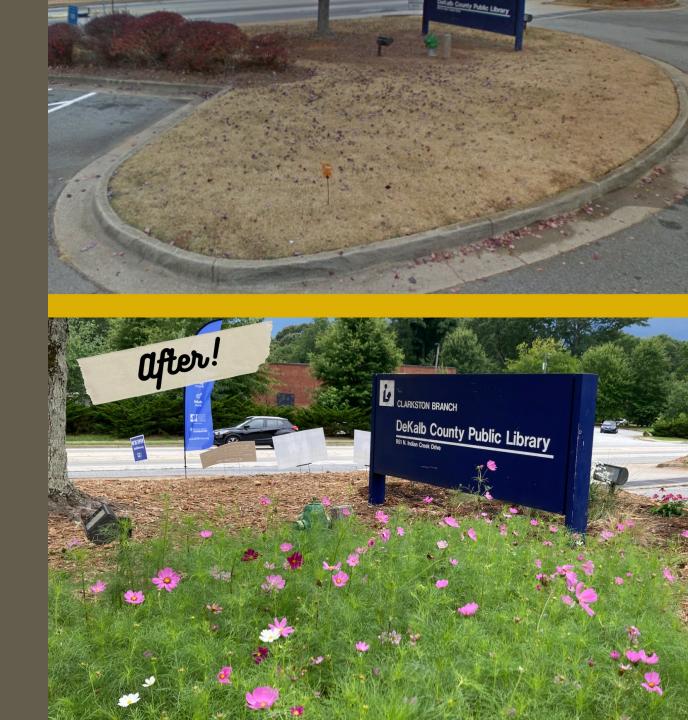
- Youth Education Programs
- Vendor Training
- Sustainability research and testing

Sustainable Landscaping Methods

- Modified RFP Language
- Proper Care of New and Existing Foliage
- Electric Tool Usage

Landscape Modifications

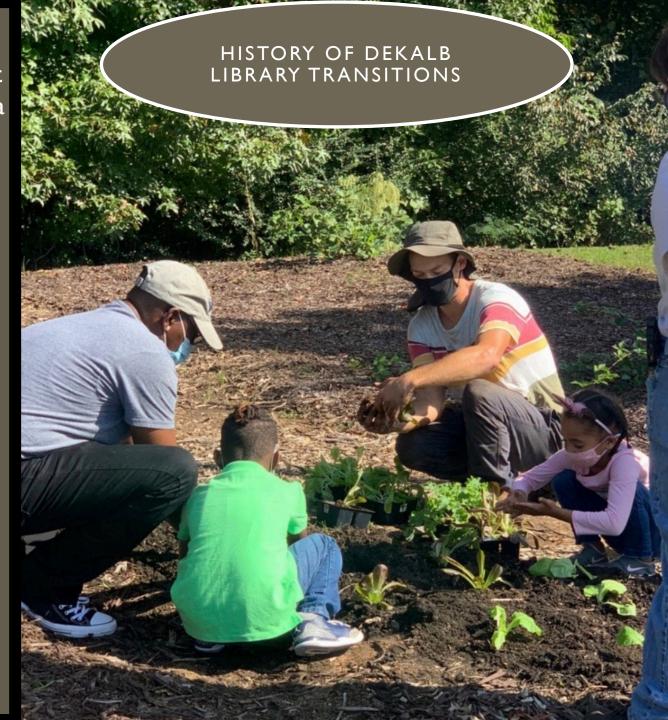
- Native Plant Installations
- Mulch
- Irrigation Systems



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.





GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: ENVIRONMENTAL





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.



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.

<u>Improved Public Spaces</u>: 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.







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

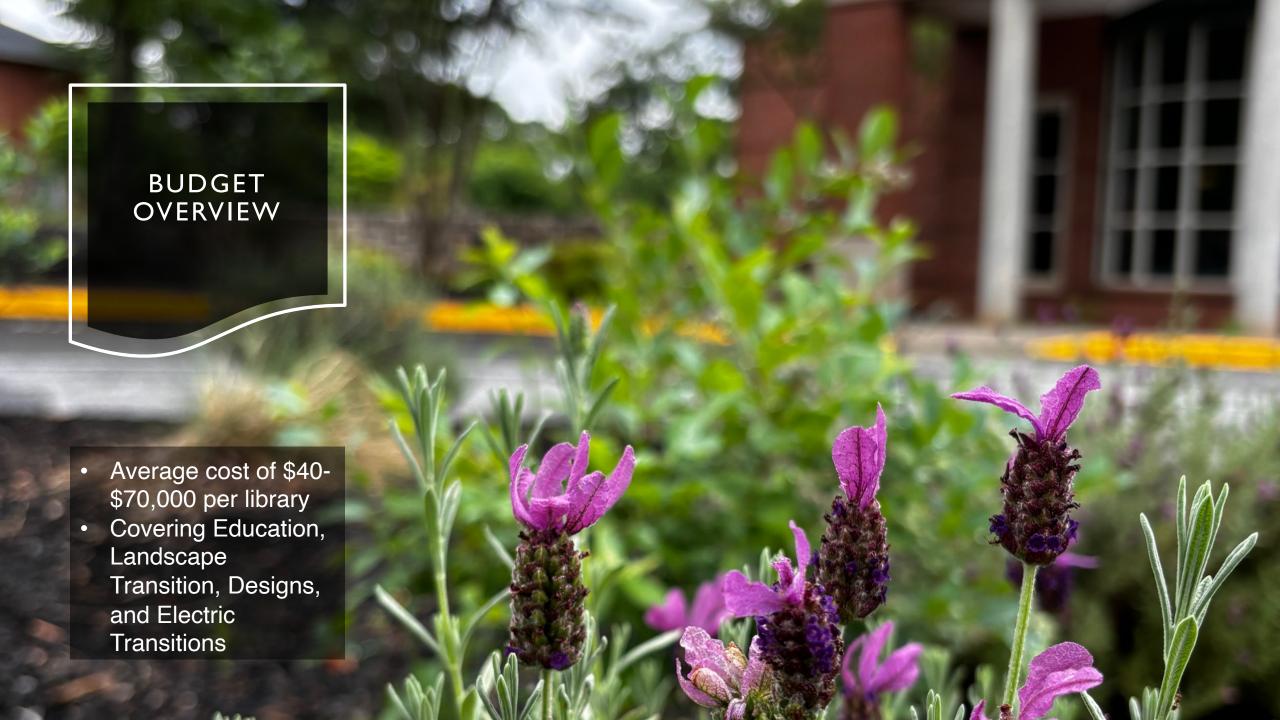
| | Secure | Secure Additional Funding and Grants |
|----------|----------|---|
| | | |
| / | Finalize | Finalize Landscape Design |
| | | |
| | Expand | Expand Ongoing Education and Awareness |
| | | |
| | Complete | Complete Landscaping Electrification |
| | | |
| المنت | Plan | Plan for Expansion to New Libraries and Beyond |





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



LANDSCAPE TRANSITION BUDGET

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

<u>Planting:</u> \$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

