

# Explore

Decatur-Morgan

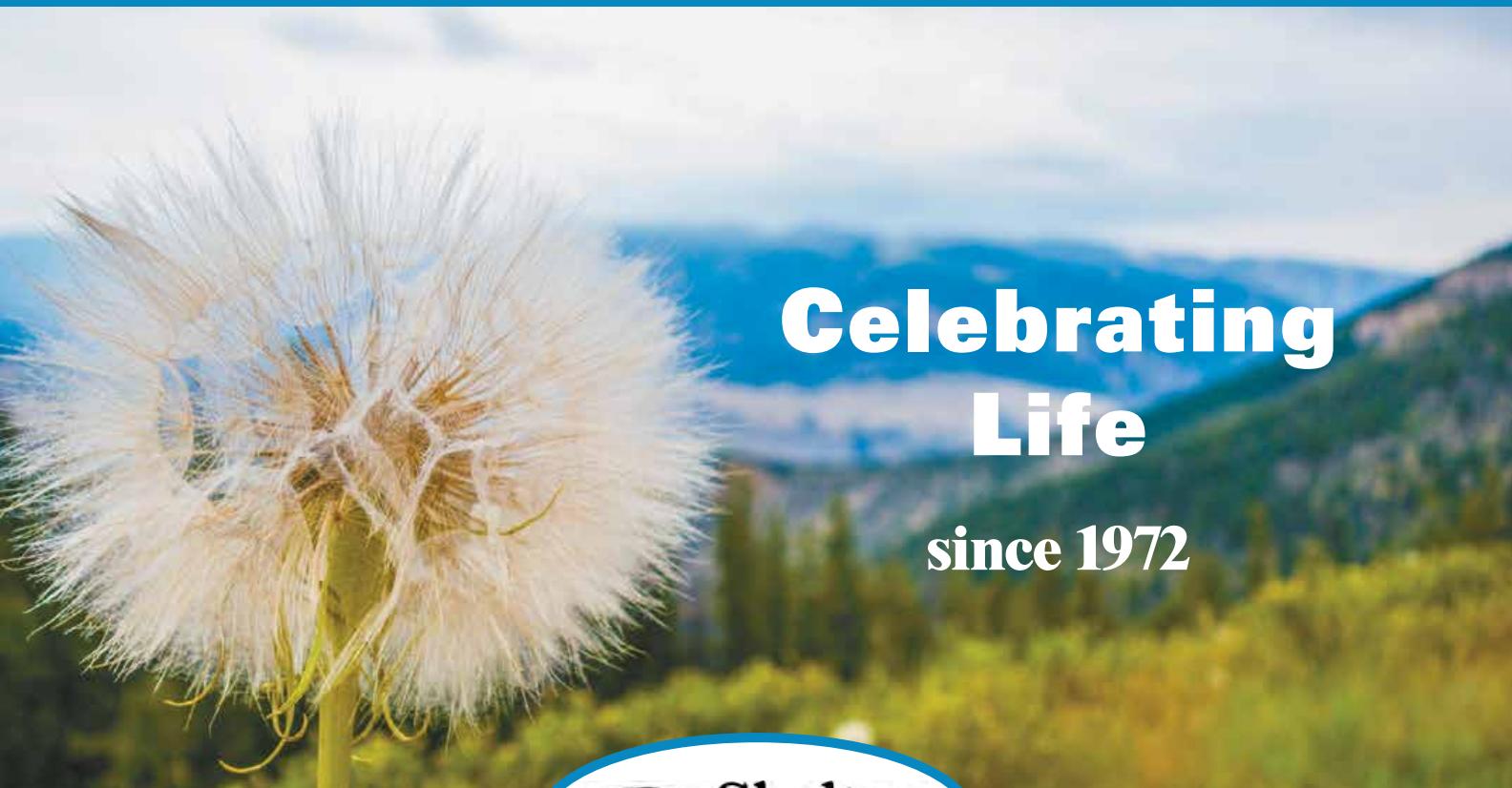
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# Explore

Decatur-Morgan

2025-26

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## Welcome to Decatur and Morgan County

Whether you're visiting Morgan County or moving here, you'll find plenty to do, from experiencing modern science and exploring the outdoors to learning more about the Civil War and railroad history.

In Decatur, the 35,000-acre Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge offers an escape into nature for hikers, bicyclists, boaters, anglers and hunters. The refuge features exhibits at the Visitors Center, photography blinds, a two-story observation building and an outdoor classroom.

For indoor fun, head to the Cook Museum of Natural Science. Highlights of the 62,000-square-foot facility include a 15,000-gallon saltwater aquarium, an immersive cave, an interactive sand table and live animals.

For fun and cooling off during the summer months, it's hard to beat Decatur's Point Mallard Aquatic Center. It includes one of the nation's first wave pools, water slides, a lazy river and children's play area.

If you prefer simpler pursuits, immerse yourself in Decatur's natural beauty that revolves around the Tennessee River. The city also has a burgeoning arts community. Visual arts exhibits are open throughout the year at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center and Alabama Center for the Arts.

History buffs will be interested in Decatur's Historic Railroad Depot and exhibits at the Morgan County Archives.

Have fun exploring.

### About the cover

North Alabama's waterways offer adventures for boaters, anglers, birdwatchers and hikers. Popular recreation spots include the Tennessee River, Flint Creek and Wheeler Lake. Photo by Jeronimo Nisa. Design by Stephen Johnson.



# Explore

Decatur-Morgan

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## AMANDA G. SCOTT, CPA Revenue Commissioner - Morgan County, Alabama



The Revenue Commissioner is elected by the people of Morgan County for a six year term and is responsible for the mapping, appraising, assessing, and collecting of ad valorem taxes as levied by the government. The office collects approximately 62 million dollars annually.

Since my election in 1996, I have made every effort to serve you and simplify the process of ad valorem property tax for the citizens of Morgan County. To accomplish this goal, our website offers online property tax data, tax maps, and online payment services to the public. We have satellite offices in Hartselle and Lacey's Spring for your convenience.

I appreciate the support and trust you have placed in me as Revenue Commissioner of Morgan County. It is my goal and privilege to continue to serve you, and I look forward to every opportunity to make a difference for you and Morgan County.

Thank you,

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Mailing Address  
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Decatur, AL 35602

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Second Floor  
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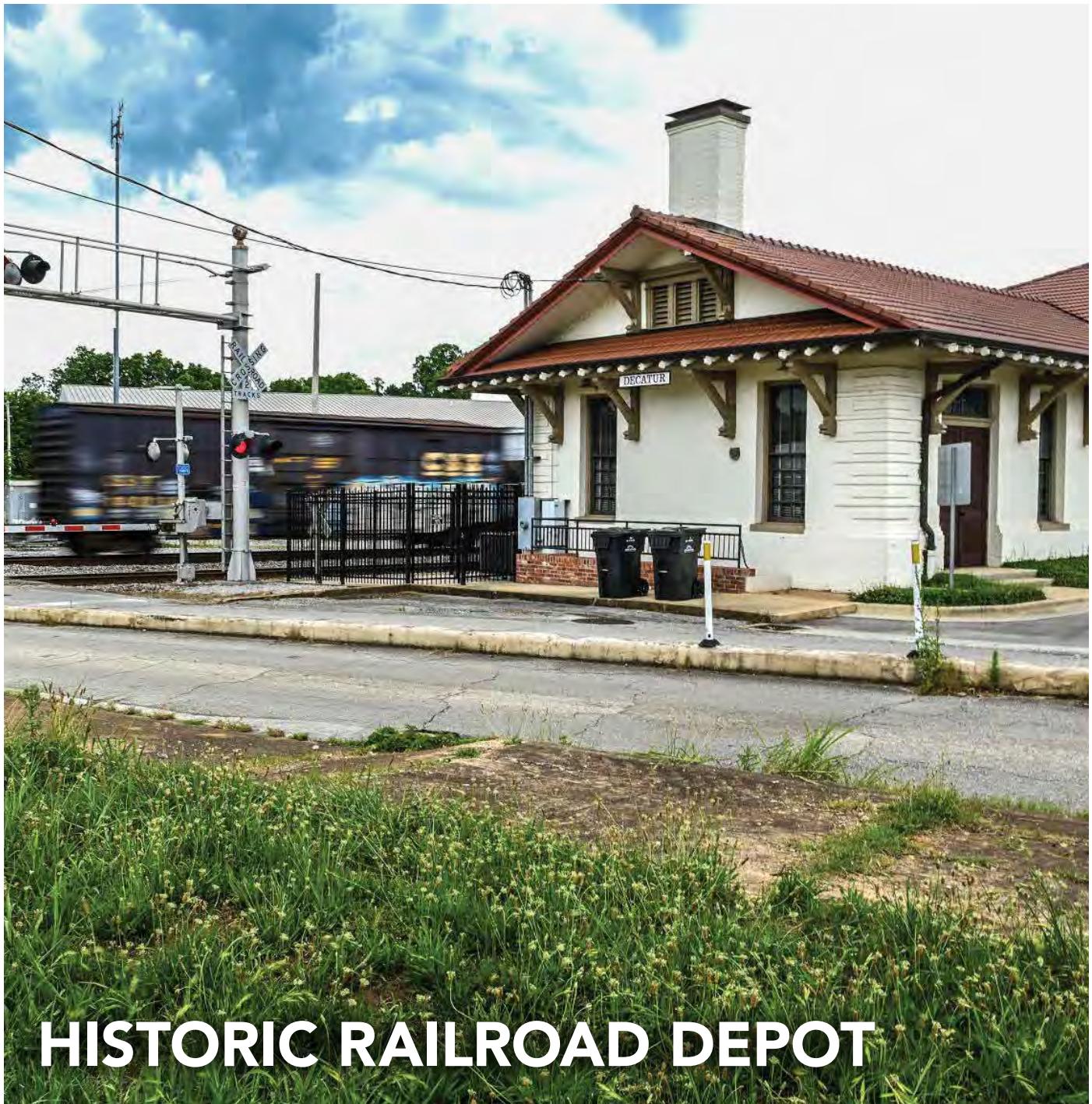
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## HISTORIC RAILROAD DEPOT

Decatur turned its historic depot into a museum that includes a model train layout depicting the city. It's also known as a hot spot for watching real trains because both CSX and Norfolk Southern have tracks behind the depot where their trains operate. Built by Southern Railway in 1905, the restored depot also features railroad memorabilia, artifacts and photographs. Notable pieces include the original depot superintendent's desk,

the baggage cart and benches, all from 1905. In November and December, the museum features a holiday layout children of all ages can operate. Restored in 2015 and 2016, the building's original features include the doors and brick and plaster walls. The museum celebrates Decatur's railroad heritage, which dates back to the 1830s when the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains, the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur railroad, was built.

### DECATUR'S HISTORIC RAILROAD DEPOT

**Address:** 701 Railroad St. N.W., Decatur

**Website:** [decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)

**Hours:** Tour times: 1-5 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday

**Admission:** Free



## MORGAN COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Morgan County Archives is a hidden jewel with professional exhibits about the area's role in the Civil War, the Scottsboro Boys Trial and the country's development from post-Reconstruction to the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Scottsboro Boys exhibit includes rare photographs of one of the trials in the case, held in Decatur, that produced landmark changes in the nation's legal system. Located in the 1927 Tennessee Valley Bank Building, the archives also serves as a repository for county records and is an invaluable resource for area historians.

### MORGAN COUNTY ARCHIVES

**Address:** 624 Bank St. N.E., Decatur

**Website:** [morgancounty-al.gov/departments-services/archives](http://morgancounty-al.gov/departments-services/archives)

**Hours:** 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,  
Tuesday-Friday

**Admission:** Free



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## CARNEGIE VISUAL ARTS CENTER



The Carnegie Visual Arts Center houses rotating exhibits featuring paintings, sculptures, photographs and fabric art created by local, regional and national artists. Past exhibits included works by folk artist Mose T, the Gee's Bend Quilters, David Gordon, who worked on "SpongeBob SquarePants," the late George Rodrigue, who created the "Blue Dog," and biophilia artist and visual ecologist Doug Baulos. Built in 1904, the building that houses the arts center originally served as Decatur's first public library. Focused on expanding beyond the arts center's walls, the Carnegie installed exhibits at the Somerville Public Library and Huntsville International Airport.

### CARNEGIE VISUAL ARTS CENTER

**Address:** 207 Church St. N.E., Decatur

**Telephone:** 256-341-0562

**Website:** [carnegiearts.org](http://carnegiearts.org)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday;  
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**Admission:** Donations accepted

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# JESSE OWENS MUSEUM AND PARK HONORS OLYMPIC LEGEND

By Catherine Godbey

Staff Writer

**G**et an up-close look into the life and achievements of one of the country's greatest Olympians — Jesse Owens.

The Oakville-based Jesse Owens Museum and Memorial Park stands 100 yards from Owens' birthplace in Lawrence County. In 1936, Owens, the son of a sharecropper, dismantled Adolf Hitler's ideology of Aryan supremacy by winning four gold medals at the Olympic Summer Games in Berlin.

Owens topped the podium in the long jump, the 100 and 200 meters and the 4X100-meter relay.

The museum and memorial park feature the 40-minute documentary "Jesse Owens: Return to Berlin," photographs, Olympic memorabilia, replicas of Owens' uniforms, shoes, medals, birth home, a gold medal tree and long jump pit, where visitors



can test their athletic ability and see how they compare to the Olympic athlete.

The idea for the park began three decades ago when James Pinion, who was working as the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's agent coordinator in Lawrence County,

met Therman White. They discussed developing a park in honor of Owens. In 1995, Pinion convinced the Olympic Torch Committee to reroute the torch run to go through Oakville.

The Jesse Owens Memorial Park was dedicated in June 1996 and the museum was completed in 1998.



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Pinion's wife, Nancy Pinion, who started volunteering at the museum in 2005 after retiring from a 25-year teaching career, serves as the site's director.

"The more I work here, the more passionate I become about sharing Jesse's legacy," Nancy Pinion said. "I had no

idea how many people Jesse touched and how many people respect Jesse until I came here. I feel fortunate that I'm in a place and time that I can be part of Jesse's legacy."

From Owens' story, Nancy Pinion hopes visitors feel inspired.

"Jesse faced many obstacles. He was a sickly child, faced racism and, as the son of sharecroppers and grandson of slaves, extreme poverty," she said. "I want the children to know that, despite the obstacles you face, you can be successful, humble and focused. The museum is here not just to promote his legacy, but to share his story to young people who might be discouraged and need someone to be their hero."

The museum welcomes 40,000 to 90,000 guests each year. The museum at 7019 Lawrence 203 in Danville is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$7.

## JESSE OWENS MUSEUM AND PARK

**Address:** 7019 Lawrence 203, Danville

**Website:** [jesseowensmuseum.org](http://jesseowensmuseum.org)

**Telephone:** 256-341-4900, option 1

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Admission:** \$7



# OLD STATE BANK

Built in 1833, the Old State Bank, one of four structures in Decatur that survived the Civil War, has served as a hospital, guardhouse, bank and dance hall. While the inside is temporarily closed to visitors, take time to view the building's façade. The columns still show scars from bullets fired during the Civil War.

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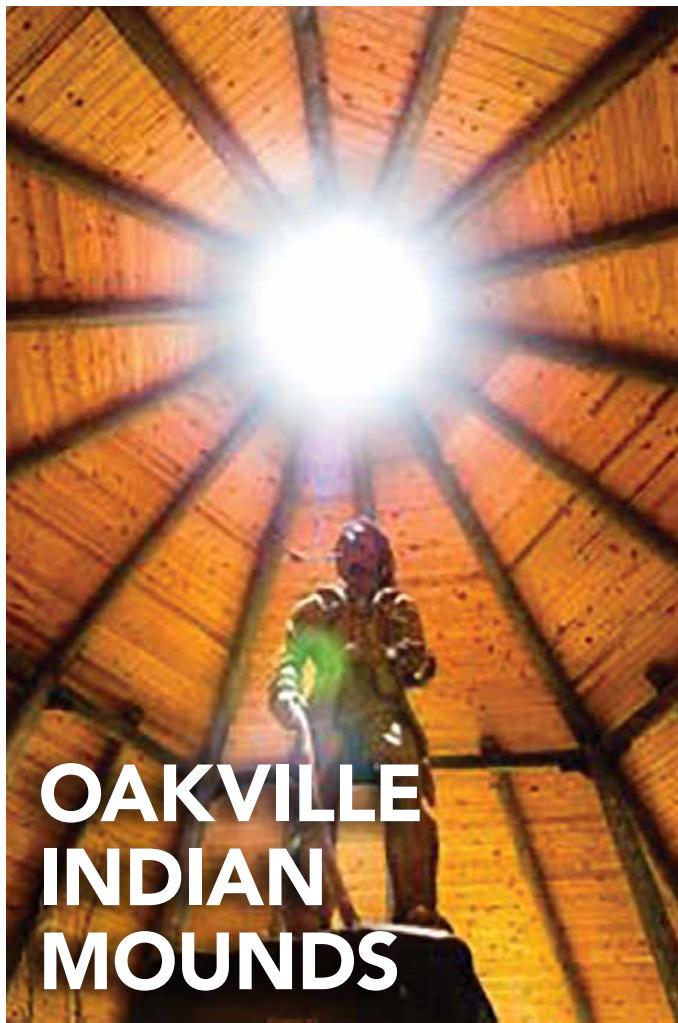
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## OAKVILLE INDIAN MOUNDS

**H**ome to a museum, artifacts dating back to 10,000 B.C. and what historians believe to be the largest Woodland mound in Alabama, Oakville Indian mounds spotlights north Alabama's Native American history. With thousands of artifacts, the museum provides a look into the area's beginnings when Creek, Yuchi, Shawnee, Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians lived in Oakville. In 1924, a team from the Smithsonian identified five mounds, including two that remained intact. Covering 1.5 acres and 27 feet high, the Oakville Ceremonial Woodland Mound is the largest Woodland mound in Alabama. The Oakville Copen Mound covers a quarter of an acre and rises 20 feet high. The site also features a statue of Sequoyah, the Old Settlers cemetery, hiking trails and fishing opportunities.

### OAKVILLE INDIAN MOUNDS

**Address:** 1219 Lawrence County 187, Danville

**Telephone:** 256-905-2499

**Hours:** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday

**Admission:** Free



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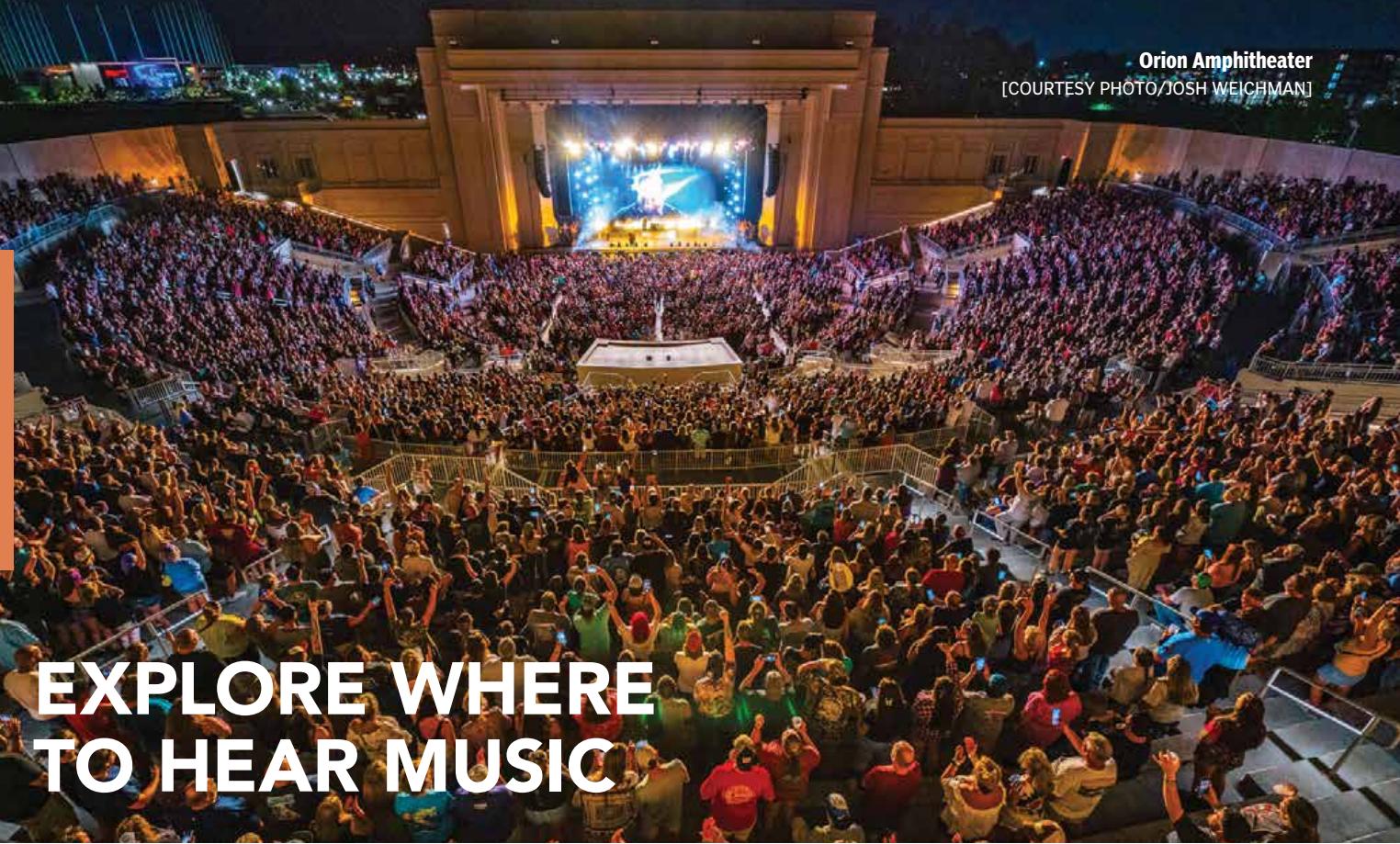
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Orion Amphitheater

[COURTESY PHOTO/JOSH WEICHMAN]

## EXPLORE WHERE TO HEAR MUSIC

### Princess Theatre Center for the Performing Arts

112 Second Ave. N.E., Decatur  
256-350-1745

Known for its art deco styling and neon marquee, the Princess Theatre in downtown Decatur offers large-scale concerts and intimate singer-songwriter sessions.

Founded as a livery stable in 1887, the Princess Theatre transformed into a vaudeville playhouse in 1919. Over the years, the 677-seat theater has hosted George Washington Carver, Lyle Lovett, Shovels & Rope, the Indigo Girls, Brandy Clark, Ricky Skaggs, Travis Tritt, John Paul White and Marty Stuart.

The 2025 lineup includes the Secret Sisters, Shinyribs, The War and Treaty, Leftover Salmon and The Alabama Troubadours.

The second Thursday of every month, a popular singer-songwriter series takes place in the theater's intimate upstairs space.

The theater also hosts comedians, magicians, plays and more. For more information, visit [princesstheatre.org](http://princesstheatre.org).

### Orion Amphitheater

701 Amphitheater Drive N.W.,  
Huntsville

Inspired by ancient Roman designs, the outdoor Orion Amphitheater in Huntsville opened in May 2022. The concert line-up for 2025 includes Willie Nelson & Family, the Camellia Music & Arts Festival with Kehlani, Gucci Mane, J.I.D. and Big Boi, The Avett Brothers, Kansas & 38 Special, Melissa Etheridge and the Indigo Girls and more. [theonionhuntsville.com](http://theonionhuntsville.com).



Princess Theatre



### Mars Music Hall

[COURTESY PHOTO/AMY CLEVINGER]

### Propst Arena

700 Monroe St. S.W., Huntsville  
256-533-1953

With a seating capacity of 10,000, the Von Bruan Center's Propst Arena is one of the area's largest concert venues. The venue also hosts ballets, monster truck events, the Harlem Globetrotters and Huntsville Havoc hockey games. For information on upcoming events, visit [vonbrauncenter.com](http://vonbrauncenter.com).

### Mars Music Hall

700 Monroe St. S.W., Huntsville  
256-533-1953

Completed in 2020, Mars Music Hall's space can hold 1,575 and features a balcony. Shows for 2025 include Judah & the Lion, Wyatt Flores, The Molly Ringwalds and more. For information on upcoming shows, visit [vonbrauncenter.com/marsmusic.com](http://vonbrauncenter.com/marsmusic.com)

### OUTDOOR TUNES

During the spring, summer and fall, Decatur, Athens and Huntsville hold outdoor concerts featuring local and regional musicians.

### Decatur Park Concerts

Free outdoor musical performances take place in Decatur's Founders Park



Decatur Park Concerts

on Bank Street and Church Street in April, May, September and October. Held on Monday evenings at 6 p.m., the concert series has featured the sounds of big band, rock, jazz, blues and country artists. Food trucks are typically on site. Make sure to bring lawn chairs or a blanket.

### Athens Concerts

In Athens, the Merchants Alley Happy Hour Music Series takes place every Friday night in May and June in the

alleyway on Jefferson Street. The free concerts start at 6 p.m.

Athens also hosts Fridays After Five on the Limestone County Square the final Friday in April to July.

### Concerts in the Park

Huntsville's Concerts in the Park take place weekly from the first Monday in June to the first Monday in August at Big Spring International Park. The free concerts begin at 6:30 p.

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# MURAL, MURAL ON THE WALL

Playing the Sound of the Wind:  
The Fiddler's Song.

Across north Alabama, works of outdoor art – from oversized butterfly wings to a celebration of the area's music scene – cover area buildings. To view the public art, follow this guide to murals in Morgan, Lawrence and Limestone counties.

## DECATUR

### Sonny Side Mural

Alley between Johnson and Grant streets and Second and First avenues in Southeast Decatur

Using vibrant pinks, greens, oranges and blues, North Carolina artist Britt Flood completed the mural in the Johnston Street alley in April 2024. The mural at Sonny Side, named after the late Sonny Craig, features symbols of the city, including images of fire azaleas, mountain laurel wildflowers, sandhill cranes, hot air balloons, mallard ducks, a fisherman, and more. The natural wildlife Flood experienced hiking Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge influenced the design.

### Tribute to Jimmy 'Yellowhorse' Webster

113 Sixth Ave. N.E.

Completed in July 2020, the artistic tribute to Decatur icon Jimmy "Yellowhorse" Webster stands 15 feet tall and 40 feet long. Internationally known artist Michael McPheeters, better known as

"Mister Mural," painted the multicolored war horse surrounded by geometric designs on the side of Webster's Karate. The mural celebrates the Native American culture in north Alabama and the influence of Webster, who founded Webster's Karate.

### Decatur Naturally'

253 E. Moulton St.

On the corner of East Moulton Street and Fourth Avenue, Decatur High fine arts students painted a mural

celebrating the city's nature. Painted in blues, reds, oranges and yellows, the mural depicts a river, mountains and a hot air balloon.

### 'What Lifts You' Wings

219 Second Ave. S.E.

For an interactive mural, stop by the "What Lifts You" art piece in the parking lot off Grant Street between First and Second avenues in downtown Decatur. Painted by noted muralist Kelsey Montague, the large-scale 15-foot-tall





Jimmy "Yellowhorse" Webster tribute mural.

delicate wings feature peacock feathers with hints of pink, green and blue. Position yourself within the wings and let somebody take your photo getting ready to fly.

### 'Homecoming'

206 Second Ave. S.E.

Depicted on the side of a building on Second Avenue in downtown Decatur, "Homecoming," which features a young girl holding a flower, pays tribute to the artist's sister.

Adam Stephenson, a Decatur native, used a photograph of his late sister, Lara Chander Whitehead, as a flower girl at a wedding, to create the mural.

"I've had this photo of my sister for a long time. I've kept it with me in my sentimental belongings. I knew I always wanted to do something with it. I like her pose in it and the innocence of it. This is how most of us who knew Lara remember her," Stephenson said.

### 'A Stitch in Time'

624 Bank St. N.E.

Measuring 24-by-8 feet, the mural on the Morgan County Archives building on Bank Street depicts Decatur's history. Images representing the Spirit of America Festival, Rhodes Ferry Landing, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Cherokee heritage, architecture of the Albany Historic District and the state bird and flower adorn the piece designed by Las Vegas artist Markus Tracy.

Elementary students at Walter Jackson, Frances Nungester and Austinville assisted Tracy with the quilt-like folk art design.

### Car Quest Auto Parts

2202 Danville Road S.W.

Artist Adam Stephenson completed his

second mural in Decatur in 2023. The mural on the side of the Car Quest Auto Parks building features three cars — a Chevelle, a Mustang and a Ford F100. Each of the cars represent a loved one who died.

### HARTSELLE

#### 'Home Sweet Hartselle'

113 Sparkman St. S.W.

Envisioned by Rachel Howard, owner of Raw Images, the "Home Sweet Hartselle" mural features the phrase surrounded by bricks painted in pinks, oranges and blues.

### ATHENS

#### Merchants Alley

Merchants Alley is a public space off Jefferson Street where people can relax, listen to live performances and enjoy art. The alley features several art components, including the "Playing the Sound of the Wind: The Fiddler's Song" mural



"What Lifts You" Wings

by Adam Stephenson of a person playing the violin — a tribute to the city's Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention — and a tribute board to Limestone County native and Grammy Award winner Brittany Howard.

### Coca-Cola Mural

On the side of Market & Monroe, 100 Market St. West in Athens, artist Brian Tull created a 1900's-style Coca-Cola mural of a woman holding a six pack of cokes in glass bottles. The mural was commissioned after the owners of Market & Monroe found photos of an old Coca-Cola mural on the side of the building.

### Other outdoor art

In downtown Decatur, stop by the Alabama Center for the Arts, 133 Second Ave. N.E., where a 30-foot-tall metal owl sculpture created by Fairhope artist Bruce Larsen stands. Larsen's sculpture features found and reclaimed material, such as gears and scrap metal. Two of his pieces, a dragonfly and heron gateway, appear at Delano Park's Riverwild Garden, on Gordon Drive Southeast between Eighth and Ninth avenues.

For outdoor art on a smaller scale, search for the turtles on the Downtown Turtle Trail. Envisioned by Lucy Orr, a 2021 graduate of Decatur Heritage Christian Academy, the trail features 10 bronze sculptures of turtles connected to sites in Decatur and the city's history.

Decatur's murals also include "Heavenly Muse-IC" painted by Tracey Lane Sykes at 726 Bank St. N.E., and "Well, Hello" painted by Glenn Mitchell at 13 Vine St. N.W. In Hartselle, a mural featuring a woman in a bridal gown covers the wall of the Something Blue Bridal Shoppe, 224 Main St.

The "Headed into New Heights" mural on the corner of Tennessee Street in historic Courtland completed in 2021 celebrated the opening of a Lockheed Martin facility in town. The mural, painted by Huntsville artist Jessie Andrews, highlights Courtland's history in Army fighter pilot training during WWII as well as Lockheed Martin's advancement in the missile defense industry.

Last year, artist Lee Shepherd completed a mural at the Athens Farmers Market at Doug Gates Park. The mural includes a honeycomb, bees and sunflowers.



# ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The modern style of the Alabama Center for the Arts complex makes it one of the jewels in Decatur's growing downtown arts scene. The complex includes one building for the performing arts, including theater and music, and a separate building for visual arts, from painting to pottery to computer design. Windows along the visual arts building on Second Avenue Northeast offer passers-by a glimpse at exhibits on display in the gallery. The center's displays range from national watercolor exhibits to life-size sculptures to creations by the area's youths. Along with the gallery, the Alabama Center for the Arts' performing arts building is home to Calhoun Theatre, Athenian Players and Calhoun Community College's showband. The building also houses the Alabama Arts Hall of Fame, which pays tribute to actors Dean Jones and Nell Carter, musicians the Drive-By Truckers and Emmylou Harris, composer Henry Panion III, author Truman Capote, photographer Tillman Crane, artists Nall Hallis, Richard Zoellner, Mildred Nungester Wolfe, the quilters of Gee's Bend and Bruce Larsen, and dancer Wes Chapman.



## ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**Address:** 133 Second Ave. N.E., Decatur

**Telephone:** 256-260-4293

**Website:** [alabamacenterforarts.org](http://alabamacenterforarts.org)

**Hours:** 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Thursday;  
8 a.m.-noon, Friday

**Admission:** Free

# POND SPRING



The former home of Gen. Joe Wheeler, who served as a lieutenant general for the Confederacy during the Civil War and as a general for the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War, sits on Alabama 20 between Courtland and Hillsboro. The 50-acre Pond Spring plantation includes the general's home, a log cabin built before 1818 and later used as slave quarters, a log barn, a 19th century ice house, family cemeteries and gardens. Annual events at the site include a plant sale in the spring and a birthday party for Wheeler in September.

## POND SPRING

**Address:** 12280 Alabama 20, Hillsboro

**Website:** [ahc.alabama.gov/properties/pondspring/pondspring.aspx](http://ahc.alabama.gov/properties/pondspring/pondspring.aspx)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday

**Admission:** Fees charged

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# LOWE MILL

Lowe Mill in Huntsville can please your senses of sight, smell and taste. It has more than 200 artists and artisans and 150 working studios, including some serving food. Housed at a former textile mill, Lowe Mill has cigar box guitar makers, ceramicists, painters, printmakers, jewelry makers, musicians, sculptors, woodworkers, book binders, distillers, tea makers and more.

## LOWE MILL

**Address:** 2211 Seminole Drive S.W., Huntsville

**Website:** [lowemill.art](http://lowemill.art)

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday



ATTRACTIOnS



# EARLYWORKS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

EarlyWorks specializes in interactive exhibits. Created and designed to connect children with the history and heritage of north Alabama, the museum features giant-sized instruments, a Kidstruction zone and a talking tree. Children can explore a 46-foot Keel-boat, try on clothing from the 1800s and trade wares at the General Store. The museum recommends that kids 10 and older bring along a companion to maximize their fun.

## EARLYWORKS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

**Address:** 404 Madison St. S.E., Huntsville

**Telephone:** 256-771-7578

**Website:** [earlyworks.com](http://earlyworks.com)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday

**Admission:** Fees charged

# SERVING UP FUN AND FITNESS:

## Pickleball in north Alabama

By Catherine Godbey

Staff Writer

Pickleball, one of America's hottest sports, serves up a combination of fun, fitness and camaraderie. The Sports & Fitness Industry Association named pickleball, with an estimated 13 million players, the fastest-growing sport in the nation for the past three years.

That popularity has taken root in north Alabama.

More than three dozen courts are available to pickleball novices and enthusiasts in Morgan, Lawrence and Limestone counties.

### Decatur

To connect with the Decatur pickleball community or find a pick-up game, visit [facebook.com/groups/decaturpickleball](https://facebook.com/groups/decaturpickleball).

**Point Mallard Park:** 12 indoor courts at 2901 Point Mallard Circle S.E.

**Julian Harris Park:** 4 outdoor courts at 1922 McAuliffe Drive S.W.



Big Spring Memorial Park in  
Athens [JERONIMO NISA]



Walter Jackson Park  
[JERONIMO NISA]

**Aquadome Recreation Center:** 3 indoor courts at 1202 Fifth Ave. S.W.

**Walter Jackson Park:** 2 outdoor courts at 1950 Park St. S.E.

**Pop Oliver Park:** 1 outdoor court at 1751 16th Ave. S.E.

### Hartselle

To connect with the Hartselle pickleball community, visit [facebook.com/groups/574431254469957](https://facebook.com/groups/574431254469957).

**West Park Gym:** 2 indoor courts at 1469 Targum Road

### Priceville

To connect with the Priceville pickle-



Point Mallard Park  
[JERONIMO NISA]

ball community, visit [facebook.com/groups/1259407044939761](https://facebook.com/groups/1259407044939761)

**Priceville Event Center:** 4 indoor courts at 250 Marco Drive

### Athens

To connect with the Athens pickleball community, visit [facebook.com/groups/athensalabamapickleball](https://facebook.com/groups/athensalabamapickleball)

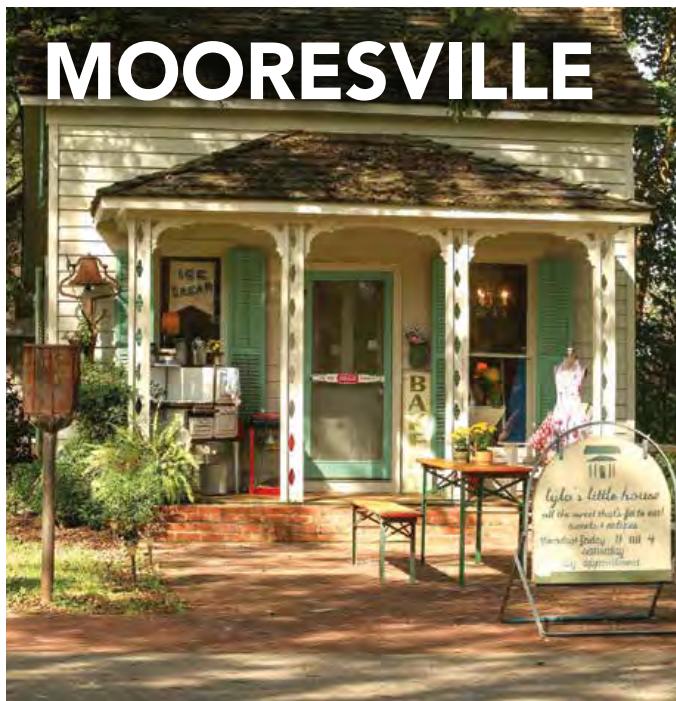
**Athens Recreational Center:** 8 outdoor courts and 2 indoor courts at 271 U.S. 31 North

**Big Spring Memorial Park:** 6 outdoor courts at 350 Market St. East

**Swan Creek Park:** 6 outdoor courts at 100 U.S. 31 North

### Moulton

**Moulton Recreation Center:** 3 indoor courts at 13550 Court St.



Mooresville, the Limestone County town “older than the state,” is home to a church where James Garfield, the 20th president of the United States, preached in 1865, a post office built in 1840 and the Stagecoach Inn and Tavern built before 1825. Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, worked in Mooresville while serving as a tailor’s apprentice. The town also served as the filming site of Walt Disney’s “Tom & Huck.” The quaint town currently houses a bike shop, candy store, coffee house, biking and hiking trails and a farm. Created by Laurence and Natasha McCrary in 2011, the three-acre 1818 Farms – a nod to the year of the town’s formation – is home to Southdown Babydoll sheep, chickens, pigs and goats. During Christmas, guests can visit some of the town’s historic buildings and homes. [1818farms.com](http://1818farms.com)



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# DECATUR PARKS

## DELANO PARK

*Sixth Avenue Southeast to Somerville Road and Prospect Drive to Gordon Drive*  
[delanopark.org](http://delanopark.org)



Stop and smell the roses before jumping in the splash pad and playing on the playground at Delano Park, the oldest park in the city. The 28-acre park features a rose garden, splash pad, tennis courts, playground, trail of history, 1-mile-walking/running trail, picnic shelter and sculptures of animals. Alabama's first licensed female architect, Carolyn Corthner Smith, designed the park's stone structure in the 1930s.

## RHODES FERRY PARK

*100 Market St. N.E.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



Set on the banks of the Tennessee River, Rhodes Ferry Park offers visitors a chance to play and learn. Along with a playground, walking path and pavilions, the park features historical markers about the Trail of Tears and Benson Field, Decatur's

football stadium from 1931-1947. The park also serves as a docking spot for a cruise line and a prime spot for flying kites.

## FRAZIER PARK

*309 Cherry St. N.E.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



Celebrating Decatur's Southern heritage and Japanese influences, the calm and serene Frazier Park includes a Japanese Tea Garden, a Southern garden, a fountain and small stream.

## ARCHERY PARK

*2900 Point Mallard Circle S.E.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



Calling all Robin Hoods and Katniss Everdeens, this is the park for you. Archery Park includes a 20-target course, a 12-foot-high platform and targets ranging from 5 to 50 yards. Archers, 16 to 65, must have a valid hunting or heritage license.

## HOSPITALITY PARK

*4799 U.S. 31 North*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



A popular spot for anglers, Hospitality Park sits along the north side of the Tennessee River and also features a birding trail.

## A.C. BANKS PARK

*705 McCartney St. N.W.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



With two playground areas, a baseball field and pavilions, A.C. Banks Park is a centerpiece of the Northwest Decatur community, often host to gatherings and reunions.

## JACK ALLEN RECREATION COMPLEX

*2616 Modaus Road S.W.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



The 10-field soccer complex also includes a playground

complete with a balance beam, ladder, rock wall, slides, climbers and more. The park also is home to a Flying Dragon disc golf course. The 18-hole course spans 13 acres.

## PINES PARK

*1612 Fifth St. N.W.*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



With swings, slides, benches, picnic tables, multi-purpose court with bleachers and a one-half mile walking trail, Pines Park attracts visitors young and old.

## FOUNDERS PARK

*Church Street and Bank Street*  
[decaturparks.com](http://decaturparks.com)



Home to Decatur's outdoor concert series in the spring and fall and Christmas tree trail during the holidays, the two-acre green space sits at the footsteps of the Old State Bank. The park also is home to the city's Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which honors families who lost loved ones in the military.



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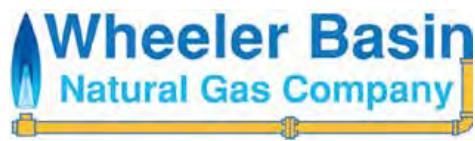
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# HARTSELLE PARKS

## SPARKMAN PARK

1102 Main St. S.W.

[hartselle.org](http://hartselle.org)

A centerpiece of Hartselle, Sparkman Park features baseball and softball fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, a walking trail and disc golf course. The park sits next to the city's Aquatic Center and SNAP Playground for all children.

## JOHN MARK STALLINGS SNAP PLAYGROUND

406 Nanceford Road S.W.

[hartselle.org](http://hartselle.org)

Named after the son of former University of Alabama football coach Gene Stallings, the John Mark Stallings SNAP Playground was built to be accessible by all children, specifically individuals with disabilities. Features include slides, climbing bars, music instruments, a periscope, sensory panels, elevated sand pile, pulse tennis table, seesaw and more.



# MOULTON PARKS

## H.A. ALEXANDER PARK

13550 Court St.

[cityofmoultonal.com](http://cityofmoultonal.com)

H.A. Alexander Park, an entertainment staple of the Moulton community, features baseball fields, softball fields, tennis courts, walking track and playground.

## MOULTON SPLASH PAD

College Street

[cityofmoultonal.com](http://cityofmoultonal.com)

Located next to H.A. Alexander Park, the splash pad, open Memorial Day to Labor Day, includes seven water features to entertain young children.

## ALEXANDER MINI PARK

Byler Road and College Street

[cityofmoultonal.com](http://cityofmoultonal.com)

Just south of the splash pad sits Alexander Mini Park. A celebration of nature, the 10-acre park features mature hardwoods, a creek and an amphitheater where Moulton's Music in the Park concert series takes place during the summer months.

# Fan Zone:

## CHEER ON AREA SPORTS TEAMS



ATTRACTI

North Alabama loves sports.

Just pass by Toyota Field, home of the Rocket City Trash Pandas, on game days, or see the flocks of fans clad in hockey jerseys streaming into the Von Braun Center for Huntsville Havoc games, or hear the shouts of “goal” echoing from Huntsville City Football Club games at Joe Davis Stadium.

The Tennessee Valley offers excitement for baseball, hockey and soccer fans.

Baseball fans can cheer on the Trash Pandas, in its fifth season, from April

to September. Beyond the action on the field, the games also include activities that make minor league baseball games endearing, from fireworks to astronaut races to bring-your-dog-to-the-ballpark games.

The 2025 home opener for the Trash Pandas, part of the Los Angeles Angels’ farm system, will be April 4. The last home game of the regular season will be Sept. 14. The Trash Pandas compete in the Double-A Southern League with the Birmingham Barons, Chattanooga Lookouts, Tennessee Smokies, Mississippi

Braves, Pensacola Blue Wahoos, Biloxi Shuckers and Montgomery Biscuits.

The \$47 million Toyota Field off Interstate 565 in Madison is 20 minutes from downtown Decatur. Tickets start at \$9. [milb.com/rocket-city](http://milb.com/rocket-city).

When not hosting baseball games, Toyota Field serves as a community center. Past events include concerts, fall festivals, movie nights, food festivals and holiday light shows.

Think a community in the South can’t be a hockey community? Think again.



The past 10 years, excluding 2020-2021 due to COVID, the Huntsville Havoc averaged an attendance of more than 4,000 people for home games.

Like the Trash Pandas, the Havoc's games are filled with audience participation events, including small dog and baby races on the ice. The Havoc plays in the Southern Professional Hockey League with the Birmingham Bulls, Evansville Thunderbolts, Fayetteville Marksmen, Knoxville Ice Bears, Macon Mayhem, Pensacola Ice Flyers, Peoria Rivermen, Quad City Storm and Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs.

The Havoc's season runs from October to April. Tickets start at \$14. [huntsvillehavoc.com](http://huntsvillehavoc.com).

A newcomer to the north Alabama sports scene is the Huntsville City Football Club. The club posted eight wins, 15 losses and five ties in its second season. Games take place at Wicks Family Field at Joe Davis Stadium. [mlsnextpro.com/huntsvillecityfc](http://mlsnextpro.com/huntsvillecityfc).



# NEARBY GOLF COURSES

ATTRACTI0NS

**T**he options are varied for those looking for a round of golf in Morgan County and the surrounding areas.

Point Mallard, a public course, offers 18 holes covering 6,988 yards close to the waters of Wheeler Lake. The course, designed by John LaPoy, is part of the Point Mallard Park complex in Decatur.

Burningtree Country Club is a private club that offers special opportunities to golfers wanting to test their skills on the 7,000-yard course across 180 acres. The course was

designed by prolific golf course designer George W. Cobb, who wanted to create attractive layouts that the average golfer would find enjoyable.

The course is home to the annual Spirit of America Classic. It has also hosted qualifying rounds for the U.S. Amateur Championship.

Quail Creek Resort in Hartselle features a par-71 course that covers 6,500 yards. It was co-designed by John C. Eyster Sr. and Matthew L. Nail.

## MORGAN COUNTY

### Point Mallard Golf Course

2600A Point Mallard Drive, Decatur  
Pro shop: 256-341-4925

### Burningtree Country Club (Private)

2521 Burningtree Drive, Decatur  
Pro shop: 256-355-5982

### Quail Creek Resort

233 Quail Creek Drive, Hartselle  
Pro shop: 256-784-5033

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

### Southern Gayles Golf Course

22230 Mooresville Road, Athens  
Pro shop: 256-232-9888

### Canebrake Club (Private)

23015 Founders Circle, Athens  
Pro shop: 256-232-2412

## MADISON COUNTY

### Hampton Cove Course

450 Old Highway 431, Owens Cross Roads  
Pro shop: 256-551-1818

## Sunset Landing

346 James Record Road SW, Huntsville  
Pro shop: 256-464-5050

## CULLMAN COUNTY

### Chesley Oaks Golf Course

1035 County Road 1583, Cullman  
Pro shop: 256-796-9808

### Terri Pines

700 Pine Hill Drive, Cullman  
Pro shop: 256-739-0738



## PERFORMING ARTS

**Dream Weavers:** The community theater group, which reorganized after a 10-year hiatus, began offering acting experiences for youth thespians and introducing newcomers to the stage in 2017. The casts, which number 100 and more, have staged "Moana Jr.," "The Wizard of Oz," "Beauty and the Beast, Jr.," "Descendants: The Musical," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and more. [dreamweaversct.com](http://dreamweaversct.com).

**Bank Street Players:** Since re-forming in 2012, Bank Street has performed sold-out productions of "1776," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oklahoma," "Hairspray" and "White Christmas." In December 2022, Dream Weavers and Bank Street Players partnered to present "ELF." [facebook.com/bankstreetplayers](http://facebook.com/bankstreetplayers).

**The Athenian Players:** Headed by Hugh Long, the Athenian Players of Athens State, which calls the Alabama Center for the Arts in downtown Decatur home, staged productions ranging from Greek tragedies to Shakespearean comedies to modern

dramas. The theater group's resume includes "Hamlet," "Log Cabin," "A Comedy of Errors," "American Idiot" and "Evil Dead: The Musical."

**Calhoun Theatre:** Headed by Calhoun Community College faculty member Lauren Cantrell, the Calhoun Theatre Department performs at the Black Box Theater at the Alabama Center for the

Arts. The theater group has staged "Legally Blonde," "Macbeth," "Little Shop of Horrors," RENT," "Sweeney Todd," "tick, tick...Boom" and more.

**College Street Players:** The Hartselle community theater group appeals to both youth and experienced actors. The group's offerings range from "Aladdin Jr.," "Seussical Jr." and





“Peter Pan Jr.” to “The Lion King, Jr.,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “Into the Woods.” [collegestreetplayers.org](http://collegestreetplayers.org).

**Outlet Stage Company:** Decatur’s newest community theater company formed in 2023. In the first two years, the company has staged “Songs of a New World,” “The Last Five Years” and “Heathers.” [outletstagecompany.org](http://outletstagecompany.org)

**Curtain & Lights Theater Company:** Based out of first Baptist Church in

Decatur, the Curtain & Lights Theater Company, headed by Heather Anderson, stages one to two shows a year. Past shows include “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Little House on the Prairie: The Musical” and “Charlie Brown Christmas.”

**Orchestra Sul Ponticello:** In 2014, Viljar Weimann, who died in 2024, created Decatur’s first orchestra, Orchestra Sul Ponticello. In recent years, the orchestra has performed



compositions by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Vivaldi and Verdi and selections with singers, including “Barber of Seville,” “La Boheme” and Handel’s “Messiah.” [facebook.com/orchestrasulponticelloAL](http://facebook.com/orchestrasulponticelloAL).

**Dancers Inc.:** The studio in Decatur teaches students ages 4 through high school styles of dance ranging from jazz and tap to modern and ballet. Attending Dancers Inc.’s annual production of “The Nutcracker” at the Princess Theatre has become a holiday tradition for many. [facebook.com/dancersincorporated](http://facebook.com/dancersincorporated).

**Huntsville Symphony Orchestra:** Under the direction of Gregory Vajda, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra brings to life the music of classical composers and popular bands. The orchestra also provides live music for films. [hso.org](http://hso.org).

**Huntsville Ballet Company:** Directed by Phillip Otto, the professional ballet company typically stages three to four productions a year. Past productions include “Peter Pan,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Cinderella” and “The Nutcracker.” [huntsvilleballet.org](http://huntsvilleballet.org).



The kinetic sand table is one of the popular stops at the Cook Museum. [JERONIMO NISA]



# Cook Museum: WONDERLAND OF NATURAL SCIENCE

By Catherine Godbey

Staff Writer

With a climable tree, explorable cave, interactive kinetic sand table and giant squirrel's nest, science comes to life at the Cook Museum of Natural Science.

Filled with hands-on interactive exhibits, the museum in downtown Decatur serves as a natural science wonderland for children and adults.

Devote several hours to exploring the 62,000-square-foot museum, which features seven aquatic tanks; dozens of taxidermy animals, including a whooping crane, bald eagle, beaver, black bear and 9-foot-tall brown bear; live animals, including alligators, frogs, snakes and salamanders; a rope bridge; meteorite and beaver dam.

"In our mission to engage, excite and educate visitors of all ages about the natural created world around us, we intentionally designed each exhibit gallery with something for everyone," Cook Museum Executive Director Scott Mayo said.



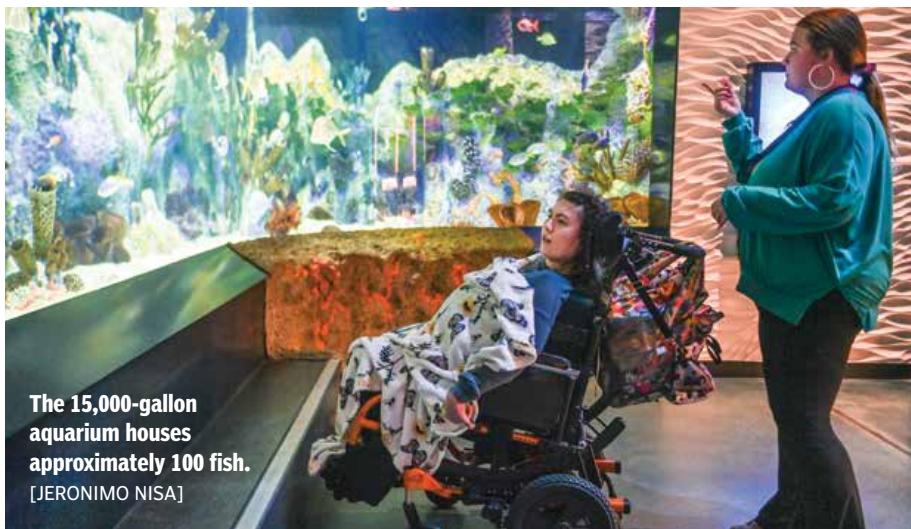
The museum, which opened in June 2019 at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Lee Street, immerses visitors in the worlds of rocks, minerals, weather patterns, oceans, space, caves, rivers, the arctic, the desert and insects.

A popular spot in the museum is the award-winning interactive kinetic sand table. Good luck pulling the kids away from the table, where they can build volcanoes, snow-capped mountains, hills,

flowing rivers, lava spills and rainstorms.

Another must-see element is the oceans exhibit, which features a 15,000-gallon, 28-foot-long and 6-foot-deep aquarium that houses approximately 100 fish representing 30 species.

The aquarium's inhabitants include the palette surgeonfish, teira batfish, coral hind, harlequin hind, angelfish, look-downs, the barred flagtail, black-bar



**The 15,000-gallon aquarium houses approximately 100 fish.**  
[JERONIMO NISA]

soldierfish, blue-lined rabbitfish, bristletooth tang, foxface rabbitfish, freckled hawkfish, orange shoulder surgeonfish, Pakistani butterflyfish and more.

A hit among young museumgoers is the palette surgeonfish – better known as Dory in the animated films of “Finding Nemo” and “Finding Dory.”

Feedings take place twice a day – once in the morning and once at night. The

morning feeding includes a pellet specifically formulated for saltwater fish. The second feeding features a mix of frozen fish and shrimp.

Other aquariums in the oceans exhibit house jelly fish and coral.

The museum’s collection of endangered and threatened animals includes diamondback terrapins, an eastern indigo snake and Mexican alligator lizards.

After exploring the exhibits, stop by the museum’s play area for young children.

Also, make sure to check out the outdoor mining experience. Located in the museum’s courtyard, the mining sluice, which opened last year, allows visitors to sift through bags of material for hidden treasures. The bags, which range in price from \$6 to \$50, could contain gemstones, fossils, shark teeth and arrowheads. The mining experience’s hours of operation vary by season. Visit [cookmuseum.org](http://cookmuseum.org) for more information.

### COOK MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

**Address:** 133 Fourth Ave. N.E., Decatur

**Website:** [cookmuseum.org](http://cookmuseum.org)

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Admission:** \$20 for ages 15-64, \$17 for ages 65 and older and military with a military ID, \$15 for ages 3-14 and free for ages 2 and younger. Discounts available for groups.

# ALABAMA VETERANS MUSEUM

**T**housands of artifacts spanning from the Revolutionary War to present-day fill the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives in Athens. Through the items, which include uniforms, medals, photographs, letters and weapons, the museum curators bring the experiences of Alabamians in the military to life.

### ALABAMA VETERANS MUSEUM

**Address:** 114 West Pryor St., Athens

**Telephone:** 256-771-7578

**Website:** [alabamaveteransmuseum.com](http://alabamaveteransmuseum.com)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Saturday

**Admission:** Donations accepted



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# HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

The Huntsville Museum of Art features a permanent collection of more than 3,200 objects, including pieces of American art from the 19th and 20th centuries, pieces by Andy Warhol, James McNeill Whistler and Robert Rauschenberg, and contemporary works in wood, glass,

metal and clay. The museum also hosts traveling exhibits. Upcoming traveling exhibits include "Illustrated: Miles Hyman" and "Days of Punk" featuring photographs by Michael Grecco of punk artists Adam Ant, Billy Idol, The Clash, Joan Jett and more.

## HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

**Address:** 300 Church St. S., Huntsville

**Telephone:** 256-535-4350

**Website:** [hsvmuseum.org](http://hsvmuseum.org)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday; noon-5 p.m., Sunday

**Admission:** Fees charged

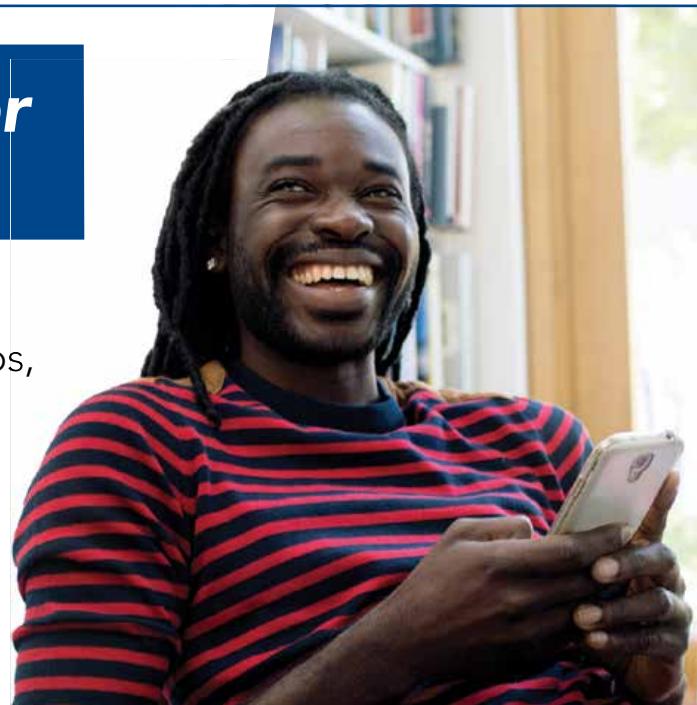
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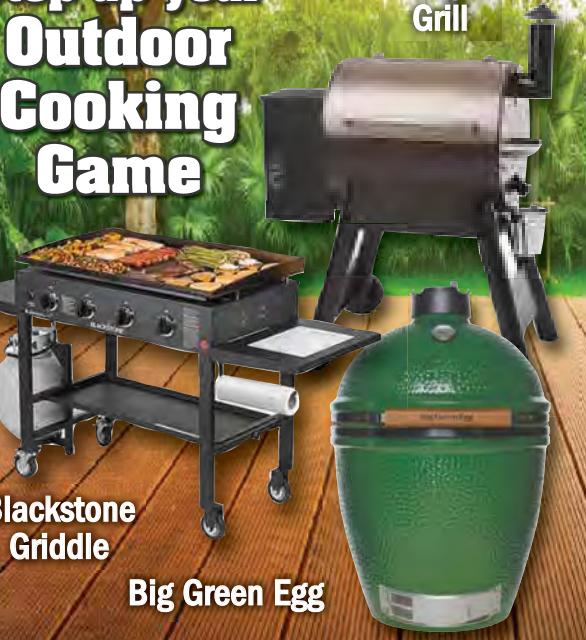


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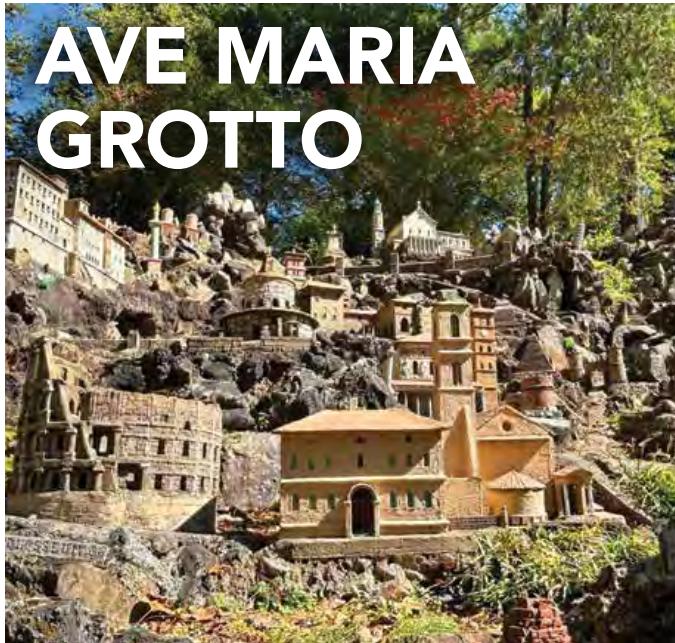


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**Address:** 1600 St. Bernard Drive, Cullman

**Phone:** 256-734-3946

**Website:** [avemariagrotto.com](http://avemariagrotto.com)

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Admission:** charged



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# Welcome to the River City:

**DECATUR'S WATERWAYS ATTRACT BOATERS, KAYAKERS, ANGLERS, BIRDWATCHERS, WATERFALL CHASERS AND MORE**

ATTRACTIONS



Flint Creek portion of the Alabama Scenic River Trail system. [JERONIMO NISA]

**By Catherine Godbey**

Staff Writer

**N**icknamed the “River City” — a nod to the city’s location on the banks of the Tennessee River — Decatur’s identity ties in closely to the water.

“Water plays a crucial role in Decatur and Morgan County’s travel and tourism scene. It offers a diverse range of recreational opportunities,” said Danielle Gibson, president and CEO of Decatur-Morgan County Tourism. “Water is not just a backdrop but a central attraction and lifestyle feature that enriches both tourism and residential appeal in Decatur and Morgan County.”

With each season, the water provides visitors and residents with new experiences. During the winter, watch endangered whooping cranes fly across the waters of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. During the summer, see boats, jet skis and dragon boats race across the Tennessee River. During the spring and fall, catch glimpses of kayakers and anglers exploring the creeks, river and lakes.

“Some must-experience water recreation activities include kayaking or canoeing along the Tennessee River, exploring the serene beauty of Wheeler Lake, fishing in the numerous creeks and streams and even enjoying leisurely boat tours. These activities not only highlight the area’s natural beauty but also provide opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to engage with the environment,” Gibson said.

One of those outdoor enthusiasts is Decatur native and avid kayaker Dan Truitt.

Truitt credited his father, who encouraged him to explore, for instilling in him a love for nature.

His interest in kayaking began as a teenager while on paddle trips on the Buffalo River in Tennessee with his youth group. These days, Truitt explores the natural wonders of the Tennessee Valley via kayak as often as he can.

“I either do research and see where other people have kayaked, or I pull up Google maps to see where the road is close to the water. If I think I may be able to get in there, I’ll give it a go,” Truitt said.

In Morgan County, the 20-mile Flint Creek trail serves as a prime spot for kayakers and canoers. The trail winds from Alabama 36 near Hartselle to Point Mallard Park and crosses through parts of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

“Being on the refuge, it is so beautiful and expansive. That is my place to go,” Truitt said. “There are so many places to put in and so many places to see.”

To access his favorite waterways at the refuge, Truitt typically puts in at Osprey Point at Point Mallard Park near the caution light, the Hickory Hill boat ramp and at U.S. 31 in Hartselle where Flint Creek flows beneath the road.

Other options include the Sipsey River and Brushy Creek in the Bankhead Forest, the Sipsey Fork River in Walker County and the tributaries of Paint Rock.

In Limestone County, the Limestone Bay, accessible off Arrowhead Landing Ramp in Mooresville, offers views of birds, including geese and the occasional bald eagle, and deer in the late fall. Also explore the Alabama portion of the Elk River, which winds 22 miles



from Veto, Tennessee, at the state line to Elk River Mills Road in Athens. For uninterrupted views of the tree line, paddle the 10-mile section from Veto to Easter Ferry Road.

For individuals without gear, contact area outfitters, which provide the equipment. The Morgan County Rescue Squad offers canoe and kayak rentals for four and eight hours. The rentals cost \$25 per person per day. To reserve equipment, visit [morgan-countyrescuesquad.org/rentals](http://morgan-countyrescuesquad.org/rentals) or call 256-345-4009.

## FISHING

Spend the day on Wheeler Lake, which has hosted national crappie and bass fishing tournaments, with a rod, reel and bait. Fish species found in the water include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, catfish, bream and crappie.

The 69,000-acre Wheeler Lake is accessible from Ingalls Harbor, 802 Wilson St. N.W.; Riverwalk Marina, 3755 U.S. 31; Brickyard Landing, 800 Island Way; and Jay's Landing, 1600 Alabama 20, all in Decatur.

To fish without a boat, visit Hospitality Park, north of the Tennessee River Bridge, along Davis Street Northwest and at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge's Flint Creek Day Use Area off Alabama 67.

Along with the rivers and lakes, visitors to Morgan County and the surrounding north Alabama area can experience the wonders of the water by hiking to waterfalls in the Bankhead Forest and visiting water parks in Decatur and Hartselle.

## WATERFALLS

Natural areas in Lawrence and Madison counties provide outdoor lovers an opportunity to chase waterfalls.

In Lawrence County's Sipsey Wilderness, head to Turkey Foot Falls, a 30-minute walk from the Sipsey River picnic ground. Turkey Foot Creek, which runs through a sandstone canyon, empties into the Sipsey Fork.

After seeing Turkey Foot Falls, head west to 15-foot Kinlock Falls, which empties into a swimming hole in the

Bankhead National Forest. To see the falls, drive south on Alabama 33 from Moulton. Turn at the Sipsey Picnic trailhead. Continue along the paved and dirt road. After a sharp left curve, look to the right and park at the small pull-off spot.

To view Caney Creek Falls in the Bankhead National Forest, hike 1 mile past hardwood and Eastern hemlocks and through a sandstone canyon. The moderate hike ends at the bottom of the waterfall. To access the trail to Caney Creek Falls from Moulton, drive south on Alabama 33 for 22 miles and turn right on Winston County 2. Go 3.7 miles and the trailhead will be on the right. [NorthAlabama.org/trails/waterfalls](http://NorthAlabama.org/trails/waterfalls).

In Madison County, visit Bethel Springs Nature Preserve on the Land Trust of North Alabama. The preserve's Carpenter Trail, Falling Sink Trail and Mill Trail create a 1.3-mile round trip to the waterfall. [Landtrustnal.org/properties/bethel-spring-preserve](http://Landtrustnal.org/properties/bethel-spring-preserve).

## RIVER VIEWS

For a picturesque picnic spot, visit Rhodes Ferry Park set along the Tennessee River. The park at 100 Market St. N.E. in Decatur features a playground, walking path, railroad track, benches overlooking the water and green space. On sunny days, expect to see people flying kites, throwing footballs and Frisbees and going on picnics.

"The presence of water bodies, especially the Tennessee River and Wheeler Lake, significantly enhances the quality of life in Decatur and Morgan County, making it a desirable place for





The area's waterways attract hundreds of species of birds, including the Great Blue Heron. [JERONIMO NISA]

newcomers to live. The scenic water-fronts and access to nature appeal to those seeking a more relaxed and outdoor-oriented lifestyle," Gibson said.

## BIRD-WATCHING

Along with attracting humans, north Alabama's waterways also attract birds. A hotspot for bird-watchers, the Tennessee River, Wheeler Lake and creeks and sloughs of the Wheeler Natural Wildlife Refuge bring in hundreds of species of birds.

**Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Observation Building:** From the two-story temperature-controlled building, which overlooks a pond, visitors might see hundreds of geese, ducks, sandhill cranes and, possibly, the endangered whooping crane, which winters at the refuge. 3121 Visitor Center Road in Decatur.

**Arrowhead Landing:** Located on Limestone Bay, Arrowhead Landing



Hartselle Aquatic Center

is known for its sightings of mergansers, green-winged teals, loons, herons, egrets, gulls and pelicans. To access Arrowhead Landing from Decatur, drive I-565 east and take exit 2. Travel south one-tenth of a mile to Old Alabama 20. Turn right and go seven-tenths of a mile. Turn left onto a gravel road and drive 1.6 miles. Take the left fork at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge sign and go another four-tenths of a mile.

**Mallard Fox Creek Wildlife Management Area:** The 1,483-acre wildlife management area on the southern shore of Wheeler Lake provides opportunities to view waterfowl, wading birds and songbirds. 21438 Harris Station Road in Tanner.

## WATER PARKS

For more water fun, visit one of the area's water parks.

A highlight of the water recreation scene is Point Mallard Water Park. Since its opening 55 years ago, Point Mallard, anchored by the wave pool, has become a staple of Decatur's summers, attracting more than 100,000 visitors a year from around the country. The water park includes features for the entire family, including a splash pad for young children to the lazy river for older guests. The wave pool offers a combination of relaxation and excitement with waves, up to 3 feet high, coming every 15 to 20 minutes and lasting for about 10 minutes. Other attractions include three flume slides, a Sky Pond Slide, Olympic-sized swimming pool, which hosted three U.S. Outdoor Diving Championships, and a 1,140-foot Lazy River with geysers and a waterfall mountain. The water park, 2901 Point Mallard Drive S.E., opens for the season the Saturday before Memorial Day and closes on Labor Day. For hours and costs, visit [pointmallardpark.com](http://pointmallardpark.com).

The 11,500-square-foot Hartselle Aquatic Center, 406 Nance Ford Road, includes a lazy river, diving area, splash pad and water slides. Anyone 15 and younger must be accompanied by a licensed driver. For hours and costs, visit [Hartselle.org](http://Hartselle.org).



Point Mallard Water Park  
[JERONIMO NISA]

# Welcome to Morgan County

## HOW TO SET UP UTILITY SERVICE, REGISTER TO VOTE, SIGN UP KIDS FOR SCHOOL, GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE AND BUY CAR TAGS

### OBTAINT UTILITY SERVICE

#### Decatur Utilities

*Set up service Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*

Schedule an in-person appointment by calling 256-552-1400, option 4, or follow the link at [decaturutilities.com](http://decaturutilities.com).

*What you need:* A photo ID such as valid driver's license, non-driver's photo ID or identification card issued by a state or federal government entity; a second form of ID such as Social Security card, Medicaid or Medicare card, certified birth certificate or original government or payroll check; your purchase contract, warranty deed or settlement statement if a homeowner; a copy of your lease in the name of the person applying for service and the owner/landlord's name if renting; funds for the applicable deposit.

#### Hartselle Utilities

Email [inquiries@hartselleutilities.org](mailto:inquiries@hartselleutilities.org). New customers also can call 256-773-3340 or stop by the office at 1010 Sparkman St. N.W.

*Office hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday*

#### Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corp.

The utility provides electricity to areas of Morgan County not served by Decatur Utilities or Hartselle Utilities. Offices are at 25700 Alabama 24 in Trinity and at 700 Sparkman St. N. in Hartselle.

*For new service, call 256-552-2300. Office hours: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday*

### SET UP GARBAGE SERVICE

#### City of Decatur

For questions about garbage service, to obtain carts or to initiate service

at a newly built house, call 256-341-4740. For questions about recycling, call 256-341-4770.

#### City of Hartselle

Call Public Works to set up an account at 256-773-2643.

#### Morgan County

Morgan County Environmental Services handles garbage pickup and recycling outside of Decatur and Hartselle. Billing is handled by Joe Wheeler EMC. Call 256-773-3887 to set up garbage service.

*Office hours: 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday.*

The Environmental Services office is at 1316 Industrial Drive S.E., Hartselle.

### REGISTER TO VOTE

Go to [alabamavotes.gov](http://alabamavotes.gov) to register online. You may also request a registration form by calling 256-351-4660 or visit the Board of Registrars' office at the Morgan County Courthouse at 302 Lee St. N.E. in Decatur.

### BUY AN AUTOMOBILE TAG

#### Morgan County License Commissioner offices

*Telephone: 256-351-4770*

*Main Office:* Morgan County Courthouse, 302 Lee St. N.E., second floor. Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

*Hartselle satellite office:* 560 Shull Road N.E. Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

*East Morgan County:* Morgan County Service Center East, 62 Guyer Cove Road, Somerville. Hours: 6 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

*What you need:* Two pieces of mail with name and Morgan County address, copy of last vehicle registration, proof of insurance in paper form (for scanning purposes), driver's license.

### OBTAINT A NEW DRIVER'S LICENSE

Renewals or transfers within Alabama can be handled at the License Commissioner's office. If transferring from out of state, motorists will need to go to an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency driver's license office. Bring current driver's license, birth certificate or passport and a Social Security card.

*The driver's license office is at the Morgan County Courthouse, 302 Lee St. N.E., Decatur, first floor.*

*Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Telephone: 256-351-4665.*

### REGISTER FOR SCHOOL

#### Decatur City Schools

Call 256-580-4346 to schedule an appointment at the Central Office building at 212 Fourth Ave. S.E. Bring student's birth certificate, proof of address, an Alabama Immunization form or a Certificate of Exemption, and a state issued photo ID for a parent or guardian. A Social Security card for the student is recommended but not required.

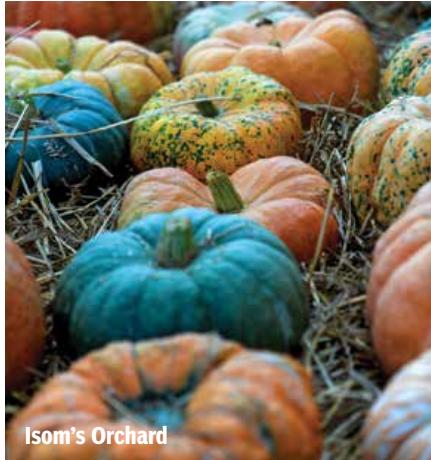
Custody papers are required if the parent is divorced or if they are not listed on the student's birth certificate and transcript papers from previous schools, if they are available. [dcs.edu](http://dcs.edu).

#### Hartselle City Schools

Go to the Central office, 305 College St. N.E. For registration and required documents for pre-K and kindergarten, visit [hartselletigers.org](http://hartselletigers.org). Students going into kindergarten will have to go to the central office to take an assessment. 256-773-549.

#### Morgan County Schools

New and returning students enroll online, [morgank12.org](http://morgank12.org). 256-309-2100.



Isom's Orchard

Enjoy fall festivities in north Alabama with trips to scarecrow trails and pumpkin patches.

#### HIDDEN RIVERS FARM

169 Goose Pond Road in Hartselle  
Open September and October

Created by sisters Mary-Sidney Ritch and Abigail Ritch, the 4-acre Hartselle farm, which sits on the land where the sisters grew up, includes an

# FALL FUN

Alabama-themed corn maze, nature trails, tire obstacle course and playground, corn pit, scarecrow-making station, live animals and more. [hid-enriversfarm.com](http://hid-enriversfarm.com).

#### SCARECROW TRAIL

24012 U.S. 72 in Athens  
Open in October

Wander the fields of Isom's Orchard in Athens to see scarecrows decorated by community groups.

While at Isom's, stop by the roadside stand where the fourth-generation farm sells apple cider and apple cider slushies. The farm started selling the seasonal favorite 17 years ago. Depending on the variety of apples used, the slushies can range



Hidden Rivers Farm

from tart to sweet. [facebook.com/isomsorchard](http://facebook.com/isomsorchard)

#### GULLION FARMS

701 Peck Hollow Road in Somerville  
Open in October

Celebrate fall with a trip to Gullion Farms where visitors can milk cows, fish, jump in hay bales, gather eggs, ride a pony and enjoy hay rides, a petting zoo, ziplines, corn pit and roping. [gullionfarms.com](http://gullionfarms.com).



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[TreehouseDentist.com](http://TreehouseDentist.com)

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This is the place to learn the rich history of music in Alabama, and especially the renowned Shoals music scene. Exhibits include a 12-foot jukebox, a wax figure of Nat King Cole, recording equipment used in Sam Phillips' Memphis Music Service, apparel and instruments from many artists.

### ALABAMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

**Address:** 617 U.S. 72 W., Tuscumbia

**Telephone:** 256-381-4417

**Website:** [alamhof.org](http://alamhof.org)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday

**Admission:** Fee charged



## HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Covering 112 acres, Huntsville Botanical Garden features an open-air butterfly house, a Biblical garden with plants mentioned in the Bible, perennial, aquatic, herb, vegetable and daylily gardens, dogwood trees and a nature trail with black tupelo, red maple, sycamore and sweetgum trees. Two of the garden's most popular events are the Scarecrow Trail in the fall and Galaxy of Lights in the winter.

### HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

**Address:** 4747 Bob Wallace Ave., Huntsville

**Telephone:** 256-830-4447

**Website:** [hsvbg.org](http://hsvbg.org)

**Hours:** April to September, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday

October to March, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday

**Admission:** Fees charged

Learn about the history of human space exploration or visit the stars yourself in the INTUITIVE Planetarium during a visit to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The center also has interactive simulators, a Saturn V rocket and thousands of rocketry and space artifacts. The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is about a half-hour drive from Decatur and easy to find — just look for the rocket along Interstate 565. North Alabama has a rich history in space exploration. In Huntsville, Wernher von Braun and his team developed the Redstone Rocket, which put the first U.S. astronaut, Alan Shepard, into space. The center also hosts traveling exhibits.

### U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER

**Address:** 1 Tranquility Base, Huntsville

**Telephone:** 1-800-637-7223

**Website:** [rocketcenter.com](http://rocketcenter.com)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday

**Admission:** Fees charged

## U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER





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Experience the work of Frank Lloyd Wright from inside the walls of one of the homes he designed. The 1,540-square-foot home in Florence is the only Wright-designed building in Alabama. It was created in a Usonian style that incorporates organic simplicity by bringing in the outdoors.

ATTRACTIOnS

### THE ROSENBAUM HOUSE

**Address:** 601 Riverview Drive, Florence

**Telephone:** 256-718-5050

**Website:** [wrightinalabama.com](http://wrightinalabama.com)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m., Sunday

**Admission:** Fee charged

## Exciting things are coming!

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## IVY GREEN



The site of the birthplace of Helen Keller features the home and grounds, including the famous pump where teacher Annie Sullivan showed a young Keller how to spell w-a-t-e-r in sign language. That single lesson opened the outside world to the child. For two weeks in the summer, Ivy Green serves as the backdrop to productions of "The Miracle Worker," a play about Keller and Sullivan.

### IVY GREEN

**Address:** 300 N. Commons St. W., Tuscumbia

**Telephone:** 256-383-4066

**Website:** [helenkellerbirthplace.org](http://helenkellerbirthplace.org)

**Hours:** 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday

**Admission:** Fee charged

## W.C. HANDY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

W.C. Handy became famous in the music world for his compositions such as "Memphis Blues" and "St. Louis Blues" and as a band conductor and author. He is heralded as the "Father of the Blues." Before he became famous, he was born in a small log cabin in Florence on Nov. 16, 1873. The museum in his honor houses a collection of memorabilia, including his famous trumpet and his personal piano, as well as personal papers and original sheet music.

### W.C. HANDY MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

**Address:** 620 W. College St., Florence

**Telephone:** 256-275-3128

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday

**Admission:** Fee charged



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## ***Morgan County Emergency Shelters***

### **Danville Volunteer Fire Department**

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5798 Highway 36 W.  
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**Punkin Center Volunteer  
Fire Department**  
One shelter, 98 capacity  
116 Kirby Bridge Road  
Danville

### **Neel Volunteer Fire Department**

One shelter  
70 Neel School Road  
Danville

### **Massey Volunteer Fire Department**

One shelter  
386 Evergreen Road  
Danville

### **Morgan County Courthouse**

(Basement is opened when a tornado  
watch is issued)  
302 Lee St. NE  
Decatur

### **Priceville High School**

2650 N Bethel Rd  
Decatur

### **Eva Volunteer Fire Department**

One shelter  
4238 Eva Road  
Eva

### **Shorty Ryan Park**

Two shelters, 98 capacity each  
3824 Eva Road  
Eva

### **Oak Ridge Volunteer Fire Department**

One shelter  
200 NW Simmons Road  
Hartselle

### **Somerville VFD, Station 2**

One shelter, 98 capacity  
122 Perkins Wood Road  
Hartselle

### **Hartselle High School**

Three shelter areas (A-576, B-750,  
C-576 capacity)  
1000 Bethel Road NE  
Hartselle

### **Community Shelter**

**Cross Creek Subdivision**  
One shelter, 98 capacity  
72 Cross Creek Loop  
Somerville

### **Somerville Community Shelter**

**Located behind library**  
One shelter, 96 capacity  
192 Broad St.  
Somerville

### **Cotaco Volunteer Fire Department**

One shelter, 150 capacity  
6463 Highway 36 E.  
Somerville

### **Trinity Town Hall**

Two shelters, 98 capacity each  
35 Preston Drive  
Trinity

### **Brindlee Mountain Volunteer**

### **Fire Department**

One shelter, 96 capacity  
4373 U.S. Highway 231  
Union Grove

# FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES



The bugling of more than 10,000 cranes attracts visitors to the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Center every winter. To celebrate the sandhill cranes and endangered whooping cranes that winter at Wheeler, refuge supporters created Festival of the Cranes, which typically takes place the second weekend in January. The festival features music, art, nature walks, birds of prey shows and more. More than 5,000 people attend the free festival, which takes place at the refuge and in downtown Decatur at the Princess Theatre, Carnegie Visual Arts Center, Alabama Center for the Arts and Decatur Public Library. [fws.gov/refuge/wheeler](http://fws.gov/refuge/wheeler). Admission is free.



## CARNEGIE CARNIVAL



The Carnegie Carnival – Decatur's Mardi Gras celebration – brings parades, festival royalty, costumed canines, kids' activities, bluegrass bands and art to downtown. It's held the Saturday before Fat Tuesday, which will be Feb. 14 in 2026.

The all-day event features a children's parade, dog parade, half-marathon and 5K run, bluegrass music and an art creation station. The celebration



culminates in the evening with the main parade featuring floats, second-line bands, dancers and revelers dressed as pirates, flappers, sirens and more. Admission is free.

In the weeks leading up to the parade, look for unique events, such as a drag queen bingo, mystery dinners, canine fashion shows and more. [carnegiecarnival.org](http://carnegiecarnival.org).



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# JAZZ FESTIVAL

The annual Alabama Center for the Arts Jazz Fest fills downtown Decatur with music performed by amateur and professional jazz bands. Organized by Matt Leder, music director at Calhoun Community College, the festival will include performances inside the Alabama Center for the Arts and on Second Avenue, an evening concert at the Princess Theatre and a jam session at The Brick Deli on Moulton Street. The festival typically takes place in April. The 2025 event will be April 5 and will feature New Orleans jazz musician Delfeayo Marsalis.





## DAIKIN FESTIVAL

With happi coats, traditional music, kimonos, taiko drummers and yakisoba — a popular Japanese street food — the Daikin festival celebrates Japanese culture. Described as a gift to the community, the festival provides guests with free admission, free food, free music, free happi coats and a fireworks display. Expect to hear performances by the Daikin taiko drums, have your name written in Japanese and eat food ranging from yakisoba to jambalaya to barbecue. The festival typically takes place in May.



# ALABAMA JUBILEE

FESTIVALS



Dozens of hot-air balloons take to the air above Decatur during the Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic on the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

The free two-day festival features a Hare and Hound Race, key grab, balloon glow, tethered rides, antique tractor display, car show, arts and crafts, live music and fireworks. The festival earned Decatur the moniker the “Ballooning Capital of Alabama.”

The balloons plan to take to the sky for the 48th annual festival on May 24-25 this year. Admission is free.



# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS FESTIVAL

The fourth annual Dia de los Muertos festival in downtown Decatur will take place in early November. The inaugural festival, held in 2022, attracted more than 3,500 people to Decatur's Second Avenue.



FESTIVALS



The brightly colored event features community altars with candles, spirit animals called alebrijes, marigolds and skulls, an exhibit with art created by elementary, middle and high school students, food trucks, music, face painting and the Catrina Quinceñera Pageant. For the pageant, participants wear quinceñera dresses and adorn their faces as catrinas (skeletons).



# 3RD FRIDAY

Classic cars, musicians, line dancers, a mechanical bull and artists descend on downtown Decatur every third Friday of the month, from April to October. Started in 2009 as a way to attract people to downtown, the 3rd Friday street festival brings in hundreds of visitors every month. Admission is free.



## BATTLE FOR DECATUR

Dressed in Union blues and Confederate grays, dozens of reenactors will bring history to life at the Battle for Decatur held the Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day at Point Mallard Park. The annual event, complete with 19th century muskets, a cannon and the cavalry, commemorates the four-day Civil War skirmish that took place along the Tennessee River in 1864.

Along with mock battles, the event will feature civilian and military camps with authentic food, costumes and equipment, a ladies' tea, military ball and church service.





Community leaders started the Spirit of America Festival in 1967 in an attempt to overcome the bitter feelings generated by the Vietnam War, and the July 4 event continues as a way to let Morgan County express its patriotism. The festival, which includes music and a bike parade culminates with a fireworks program that lights up the sky above Point Mallard Park. Admission is free.



# SPIRIT OF AMERICA



# DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

More than 1,000 paddlers propelling 46-foot-long dragon-headed boats compete in the annual Dragon Boat Festival at Point Mallard Park. The event, which raises money for the Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation, attracts teams from area high schools, gyms and businesses.

An opening ceremony kicks off the races and features the dotting of the dragon's eye and a performance by the Daikin drummers. The races typically take place the second Saturday in May.





## RIVER CLAY FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Named for the material used to construct some of Decatur's oldest structures, the River Clay Fine Arts Festival features more than 60 sculptors, painters, photographers, jewelers and carvers creating art from wood, fiber, clay, oil, glass and stone.

Along with artists, the two-day festival held on Decatur's City Hall lawn showcases music, children's activities and artist demonstrations. The festival typically takes place in late October. [riverclay.org](http://riverclay.org). Admission charged.



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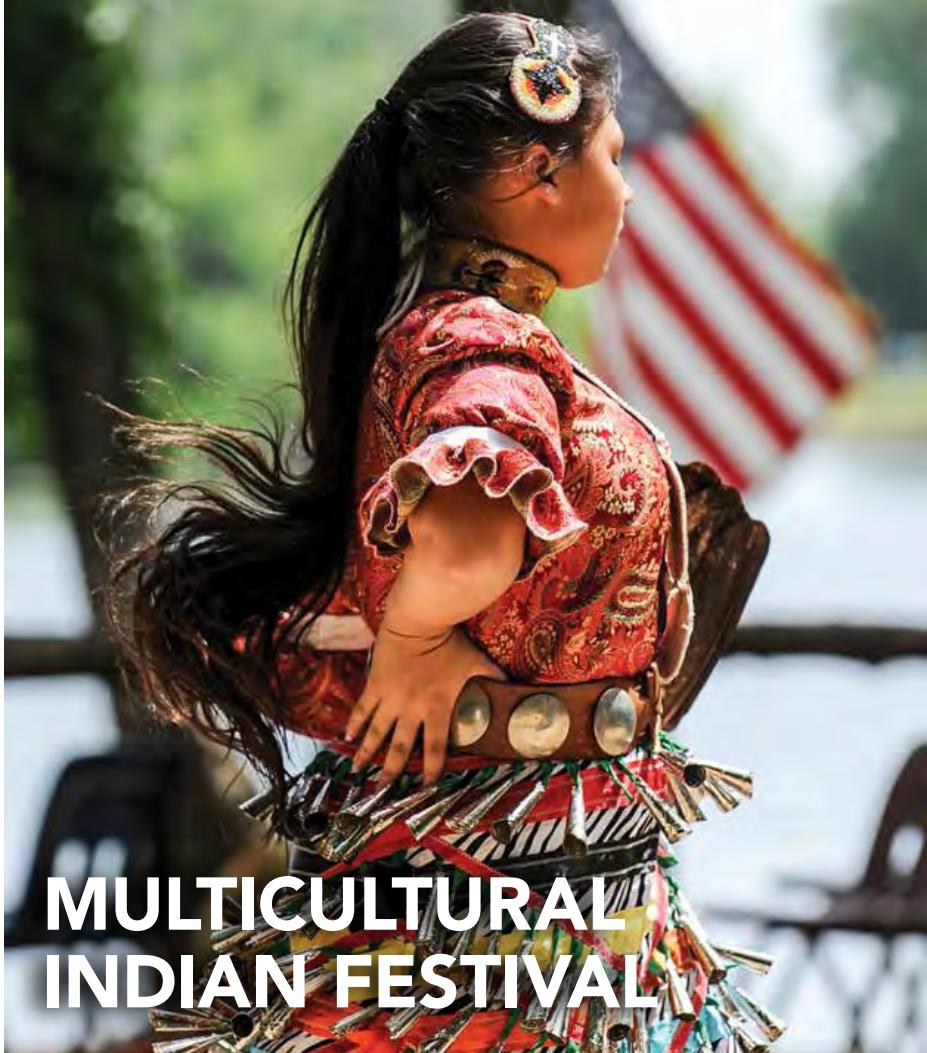
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## MULTICULTURAL INDIAN FESTIVAL

Hear music and stories, see pottery and prehistoric artifacts and participate in games and dances from the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Seminole tribes at the annual Multicultural Indian Festival at Oakville Indian Mounds in Lawrence County.

The Southeastern Native American culture will come to life at the living history encampment, which features weaving, cooking, flint-knapping, blacksmithing, hide tanning, basket making and more. Drum groups and flute players lead performers in traditional dances. Children can participate in necklace making, atlatl throwing and stickball.

The festival, which takes place in May at 1219 Lawrence County Road 187 in Danville, typically attracts 10,000 people. Admission is free with a fee for parking. Bring cash for wagon rides, canoe rides and face painting. [oakvilleindianmounds.com](http://oakvilleindianmounds.com).



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# OTHER CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

**E**njoy a festival that coincides with your visit, and plan return trips to savor even more special events.

**Fiddlers Convention:** Nicknamed the “Granddaddy of Midsouth Fiddlers Conventions,” the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention attracts more than 15,000 music lovers and 200 musicians from 30 states to Athens State University. The three-day convention with competitions in buck dance, banjo, fiddle and old-time singing, culminates with a “fiddle off” for the title of Alabama State Fiddle Champion. This year’s celebration is scheduled for Oct. 1-4. [tvotfc.org](http://tvotfc.org). Admission charged.



**Athens Storytelling Festival:** Weaving together folk legends, tall tales and exaggerated truths, award-winning tellers entertain audiences from across north Alabama during the Athens Storytelling Festival. The festival is held in Athens in October. [athensstorytelling-festival.com](http://athensstorytelling-festival.com). Admission charged.



**Kiddie Carnival:** A staple of summertime in Athens, the Kiddie Carnival features rides, from a roller coaster to swings to a Ferris wheel, and games for children. Open Thursday-Saturday during the summer, proceeds from the 50-cent per ride event go to the Athens Lions Club outreach programs. [e-clubhouse.org/sites/athensal](http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/athensal).



**Juneteenth:** With parades, picnics and parties, communities in north Alabama celebrate Juneteenth, which recognizes the day in 1865 when 250,000 slaves in Texas learned of their freedom – two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation became law. The events typically include games, food, fireworks, music and a parade in Decatur and music and art in Athens.

**Hartselle Depot Days:** A tribute to the railroad industry, Hartselle Depot Days, with music, a truck and motorcycle show, arts, crafts and games, attracts more than 19,000 people to downtown Hartselle every September. [hartsellechamber.com](http://hartsellechamber.com). Admission is free.

**Eva Frontier Days:** A down-home celebration, complete with greased pig-catching, frog jumping and pig-calling competitions, highlights the Eva Frontier Days in Eva. The weeklong community celebration in September includes a parade, antique

tractors, car show, crafts, baking contest, hayride, community singing and music. *Admission is free.*

**Holiday parades:** More than a dozen parades bring the Christmas spirit to Morgan, Lawrence and Limestone counties every year. The parades in Decatur, Hartselle, Priceville, Athens, Courtland, Moulton, Trinity, Mount Hope, Elkmont, Hatton, Ardmore, Hillsboro and Town Creek feature marching bands, floats, Santa and more.

**Tinsel trails:** Expect to see trees topped with glittered bows, a Santa hat, Mardi Gras mask and angels and decorated with magnolia leaves, pine cones, race medals, toy trucks and more at Decatur Enchanted Forest at Founders Park. Other tinsel trails are held in Hartselle, Eva, Moulton, Athens, Ardmore, Huntsville and Priceville. Most trails stay open from early December to early January.

**Historic Decatur Christmas Tour of Homes:** Every December, residents



in the historic Decatur neighborhoods of Albany and Old Decatur open their homes to visitors. The Historic District Christmas Tour of Homes typically features six to eight homes, several churches, public spaces and more. [decaturchristmastour.com](http://decaturchristmastour.com). *Admission charged.*

**Helen Keller Festival:** The weeklong festival scheduled in June celebrates the life and accomplishments of Helen Keller. The festival includes music,

runs, a car and truck show, golf tournament, arts and crafts, parade and performances of "The Miracle Worker." The festival takes place at Spring Park and other parts of Tuscumbia, Keller's birthplace. [helenkeller.com](http://helenkeller.com).

**W.C. Handy Music Festival:** The 10-day music extravaganza in July honors W.C. Handy, Father of the Blues. Bands come from all over to perform in every nook and cranny in Florence. [wchandymusicfestival.com](http://wchandymusicfestival.com).

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# BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

**Where:** Lawrence County

**Cost:** Free in most areas, cost at Brushy Lake and Sipsey recreation areas.

An outdoor playground for nature enthusiasts, Bankhead National Forest covers 181,230 acres in Lawrence, Winston and Franklin counties, offering trails to hike, waterfalls to visit, caves to explore and creeks to paddle.

“We encourage people to come to the Bankhead National Forest and Sipsey Wilderness not just for recreation, but as stewards and protectors of this incredibly beautiful and ecologically rich part of Alabama. Exploring via a staff-led stewardship work-day, through a community science project or an interpretive nature hike opens us to deeper knowledge of the forest and, therefore, a more meaningful experience,” Janice Barrett, outreach coordinator with Wild Alabama, said.

If hiking with children, visit the 2-mile round-trip wheelchair-accessible Brushy Lake trail, which winds beneath the bluffs and serves as a prime spot for bird-watching, and Caney Creek Falls, a 2-mile round trip that ends at a waterfall.



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During the summer, Wild Alabama leads family-friendly hikes on Wednesdays. Every month, Wild Alabama staff leads a forest bathing walk in the Bankhead National Forest.

For more trail recommendations and information on events, visit the Wild Alabama office, 552 Lawrence St., Moulton. [wildal.org](http://wildal.org).





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## EXPLORE HISTORY OF DECATUR

Three walking tours allow visitors to learn about Decatur's historic structures and the city's roles in the Civil War and Trail of Tears. Download brochures at [visitdecatural.org](http://visitdecatural.org) (click on Things to do, brochures) or pick up printed brochures at the Decatur Morgan County Tourism office, 350 Market St. N.E.

**Civil War “Battle for Decatur” walking tour:** The self-guided stroll includes 11 historic markers and covers about 13 blocks. The tour traces the four-day clash in 1864 between Union and Confederate forces for Decatur, a key transportation point. Walkers on the tour will pass by three structures – the Old State Bank, Burleson House and Dancy-Polk House – that were built before the Civil War and still stand.

**Trail of Tears Walking Tour:** On this tour, a visitor can stand on the banks of the Tennessee River and imagine what it felt like for Native Americans to come ashore in Decatur during their forced removal by the U.S. government. They were brought to Decatur in 1837-38 by steamboat from East Tennessee and boarded trains here to continue their journey westward.



**Walking Tour of Historic Decatur:** This tour allows walkers to view the exterior of homes, churches and an old library built in the 19th and 20th centuries. See an English cottage style house, a clapboard Victorian cottage and homes built in the Second Empire and Colonial Revival styles.



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# WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

**Where:** Decatur

**Cost:** Free

Get a look into the wildlife that calls Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge home throughout the year with a stop by the visitors center's new exhibit. Opened in December 2023, the interactive and educational exhibit features taxidermy ducks, geese and cranes, a white-tailed deer, baby alligator, otter, coyote and more.

"One of the things that I really love is that there are so many details. It is so much fun to try to look for everything. There is a screech owl in the oak tree, ladybugs on tree trunks and a copper-head snake on the ground," park ranger David Young said.

Along with the exhibit's sights, visitors can hear the tweeting of songbirds, create rubbings of leaves, climb through a tree and see images of animals and insects typically unseen by people.

"We have images of a spider you will only find in Cave Springs Cave in Morgan County, the translucent cave-fish found only in the underground pools of Key Cave in Lauderdale County, the bats at Sauta Cave and salamanders," Young said.

The exhibit's history portion provides a look into the refuge's past and present,

starting with when Native Americans lived on the land, going through the Civil War, the eras of saltpeter mining and mussel harvesting, the building of the dam and the DDT contamination of Indian Creek in Triana.

The visitors center, 3121 Visitor Center Road off Alabama 67, also serves as the trailhead to the enclosed observation building. The 200-yard trail leads visitors to the heated two-story facility.

Other trails to check out at the refuge include:

**Atkeson Cypress Trail:** The half-mile trail accessible at the visitors center snakes through a cypress swamp and wooded area.

**Dancy Bottom Trail:** One of the most vibrant sections of the refuge appears along the Dancy Bottom Trail. Expect to see deer, squirrels and rabbits along the trail, which winds through a mixed pine and hardwood forest. Hikers can access the 2½-mile trail from Red Bank Road.

**Blackwell Run Road:** The 7½-mile path winds through a swamp of cypress trees and beaver dams. Great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, deer, beavers and turtles are common sightings. Expect also to see butterflies. To access the trail, take the County Line Road exit from I-565. Drive south for 5½ miles. Look for Jolly B Road on the left and follow it for 1 mile to the gravel parking on the right.





## GO FOR A RIDE

**Where:** Decatur and Athens

**Cost:** Free

Throughout north Alabama, trails exist for bicycle lovers to go on two-wheel adventures. Explore the trails at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Bankhead National Forest, the Dr. Bill Sims Bike Trail and Richard Martin Rails-to-Trails.

The 12-mile Bill Sims Bike Trail's main path runs from Point Mallard Park to Rhodes Ferry Park and then through downtown Decatur to Wilson Morgan

Park using dedicated walking/biking paths and side streets. The route's length can vary, depending on where the trail is accessed at Point Mallard, and includes scenic views of the Tennessee River. For more information and a map, go to [visitdecatural.org/outdoors](http://visitdecatural.org/outdoors) and look for the link to Hiking and Biking.

A popular family-friendly spot for bikers and horseback riders, the 11-mile Richard Martin Rails-to-Trails connects Piney Chapel to Veto in Limestone County and features

covered bridges, a refurbished rail car, waterways, wetlands and a Civil War battle site. The relatively flat trail accommodates strollers and wheelchairs. [visitathensal.com/richard-martin-trail](http://visitathensal.com/richard-martin-trail).

The Swan Creek Greenway Trail at Athens Sportsplex features views of a covered bridge and creeks.

For those without a bike, Decatur has three bike rental stations at Point Mallard Water Park, Second Avenue Southeast and Gordon Drive, and Rhodes Ferry Park. Fee is \$2 per hour.

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Beltline Road at 1305 Front Ave., Decatur  
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[bestwestern.com](http://bestwestern.com)

### Comfort Inn

3239 Point Mallard Parkway, Priceville  
256-274-4957  
[choicehotels.com](http://choicehotels.com)

### Courtyard by Marriott

1209 Courtyard Circle S.W., Decatur  
256-355-4446  
[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

### Doubletree by Hilton Riverfront

1101 Sixth Ave. N.E., Decatur  
256-355-3150  
[hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

### Fairfield by Marriott

103 Second Ave. S.E.  
256-274-9040  
[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

### Hampton Inn

2041 Beltline Road S.W., Decatur  
256-355-5888  
[hampton.com](http://hampton.com)

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites

2407 Beltline Road, Decatur  
256-822-2800  
[ihg.com](http://ihg.com)

### Home2 Suites by Hilton

807 Island Way N.W., Decatur  
256-822-1030  
[home2suites.com](http://home2suites.com)

### Quail Creek Golf Resort

233 Quail Creek Drive, Hartselle  
256-784-5033  
[quailcreek.com](http://quailcreek.com)

### Quality Inn

2120 Jameson Place S.W., Decatur  
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# TIME TO EAT RESTAURANT GUIDE

*Please note that restaurant hours of operation are subject to change.*

## ASIAN

### Canton House

**Where:** 609 14th St SE, Decatur, 256-350-8868, [ezordernow.com/cantonhouse](http://ezordernow.com/cantonhouse)

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday; 10:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday

The oldest authentic Asian restaurant in Decatur, Canton House has been family owned and operated since 1995. The menu offers everything from its Hawaiian Five "O" specialty dish to staples like Sweet and Sour Pork or Chicken and General Tso's Chicken. The lunch buffet starts at 10:30 a.m., and the dinner buffet begins at 3:30 p.m. You'll love the generous portions with takeout meals.





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### Sushi Sumo

**Where:** 1313 Point Mallard Pkwy., S.E., Decatur, 256-686-3027, [sushisumodecatur.com](http://sushisumodecatur.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. -10 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday

Chef Jae Lee serves fresh, home-made sushi at the family-owned restaurant, which opened in 2021. The menu features poke bowls, rice bowls, salads, ramen and dozens of sushi rolls, including the Caterpillar with crab meat, fresh water eel, cucumber and avocado, the Angry Tail with spicy tuna, cucumber, yellow-tail and jalapeno, and Scream with shrimp tempura, avocado, cucumber, spicy crab meat, spicy tuna, deep fried jalapeno and cream cheese.

### PIZZA/ITALIAN

#### Alfonso's Pizza & Italian Restaurant

**Where:** 725 Beltline Road S.W., Suite E, Decatur, 256-350-0211; [thealfonsospizza.com](http://thealfonsospizza.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday & Saturday



Afonso's has been a family-owned restaurant since 1977 with three generations having been a part of it. Afonso's is best known for its brick oven pizzas with thin, crispy crust and sauces. Other options on the menu include shrimp alfredo, spaghetti bake and many more things to choose from.

## Francesco's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria

**Where:** 2613 Alabama 31 S., Decatur, 256-584-6770; [francescositalian-restaurant.org](http://francescositalian-restaurant.org)

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday

Francesco's is an Italian restaurant and pizzeria located in southern Decatur. On their menu, you'll find classic Italian dishes such as fettuccini, lasagna or calzones. All of the dishes are made to order with fresh ingredients. Try their famous pinwheels.

## Mellow Mushroom

**Where:** 202 E. Moulton St., Decatur, 256-355-5161, [muellownmushroom.com](http://muellownmushroom.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday



Mellow Mushroom

A cornerstone of Decatur's downtown restaurant scene since opening in 2013, Mellow Mushroom has a natural feel with its wood décor inside and covered patio outside. The eatery with a "River City" theme specializes in stone-baked pizzas and has gluten-free and vegan options. The menu also offers munchies, calzones, salads, hoagies and burgers.

## Milson's Pizzeria

**Where:** 303 Beltline Place S.W., Decatur, 256-696-0490

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday

Opened in 2023, the pizzeria provides a buffet, specialty pizzas, dessert pizzas, spaghetti, wings and more.

## Pizza Ed.

**Where:** 305 Main Street West, Hartselle, 256-502-9959; [thepizzaed.com](http://thepizzaed.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday

Pizza Ed offers New York Style, brick oven pizza in the heart of downtown Hartselle. In addition to fresh-made

pizza, you can find a variety of offerings, such as fettuccini alfredo, lasagna, calzones, stromboli, salads and more. You might even like to try a slice of lemoncello mascarpone cake for dessert.

## Mozza Pizza

**Where:** 202 South Jefferson St., Athens, 256-230-3832; [facebook.com/Mozza2019](http://facebook.com/Mozza2019)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Wednesday-Monday

The pizzeria in downtown Athens serves up a variety of pies from macaroni and cheese and Texas taco to spinach alfredo and Buffalo chicken ranch.

## The Village Pizza

**Where:** 15728 East Limestone Road, Athens, 256-232-3388; [thevillagepizza.org](http://thevillagepizza.org)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sunday

This restaurant has been creating handmade pizzas since 1989. You can find pizzas, pasta, wings and more in this family-friendly and locally loved pizzeria.

## MEXICAN

### Camino Real

**Where:** 2504 U.S. 31, Decatur, 256-353-6727

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Sunday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Opened in 1985, this decorative Mexican restaurant on U.S. 31 offers traditional cuisine including margaritas. An authentic Mexican atmosphere adds to the dining experience. The restaurant offers dine-in, takeout and delivery service. It has family seating up front



Camino Real

and long tables in the back that can accommodate teams and other large groups.

## Don Alejo Mexican Restaurant

**Where:** 800 U.S. 31 S.W., Suite D., Hartselle, 256-778-3325;

[don-alejo-mexican-restaurant.business.site](http://don-alejo-mexican-restaurant.business.site)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. -10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Don Alejo Mexican Restaurant is a family-owned restaurant offering

classic Mexican cuisine in a welcoming environment. You'll find many things to choose from on their menu, from fajitas and chimichangas to flaming cheese. Try their xango for dessert – fried cheesecake with ice cream – and be sure to stop in for "Taco Tuesday."

## El Portal Mexican Restaurant

**Where:** 1901 Alabama 31 S.W., Hartselle, 256-751-1159; [facebook.com/ElPortalDairyQueen](https://facebook.com/ElPortalDairyQueen)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. -9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday

El Portal has two locations to choose from. At their locations you will find lots of variety on their menus, from fish tacos to a "Speedy Gonzales." You will also find a vegetarian section and kids portion of the menu.

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216 Jackson St SE, Decatur, AL 35601, P.O. Box C  
Monday through Friday | 8 AM - 4 PM

629272-2  
 NARCOG

## La Monarca International Food

**Where:** 2528 Spring Ave. S.W.,  
Decatur, 256-686-4447

**Hours:** 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Daily

La Monarca is a restaurant tucked in the back of a Mexican market. Locals and visitors alike come in to get what they consider authentic Mexican foods like Diablo shrimp, an agua fresca — or you'll even find grilled cactus.

## Las Vias Mexican Grill

**Where:** 1000 Beltline Road S.W.,  
Suite Q, Decatur, 256-552-7772

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sunday,  
10:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thurs-  
day, 10:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., Friday  
and Saturday

2224 Sixth Ave., S.E., Decatur;  
256-686-3344

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sun-  
day-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday  
and Saturday; [lasviasmexicangrill.com](http://lasviasmexicangrill.com)

Las Vias offers classic Mexican foods in two convenient locations in Decatur. Stop on in to see why people love their delicious food and Southern hospitality.



## Tio Juan Mexican Grill

**Where:** 1318 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur,  
256-306-9992

**Hours:** 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.,  
Wednesday-Monday

Tio Juan offers typical Mexican fare with tacos, enchiladas, nachos and salads. Its specialties include steak quesadilla, shrimp fajitas and lunch combinations. Margaritas, mixed drinks and Mexican beer are among the beverages.

## DELIS/BREAKFAST/ LUNCH

### Eatin' in the Attic

**Where:** 117 Main St. W., Hartselle,  
256-502-9017

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and  
Wednesday; 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Thurs-  
day-Saturday; [eatinintheattic.com](http://eatinintheattic.com)

At Eatin' in the Attic, you'll find wraps, tacos, burgers and sandwiches, including The Attic, Fried Green Tomato BLT or Jam Ham and Cheese.

### Caddo Cafeteria

**Where:** 6091 County Road 434,  
Trinity

### Caddo Cafeteria



**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4-8 p.m.,  
Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
Sunday

A classic meat-and-three, Caddo Cafeteria provides eaters with a variety of options, including meatloaf, hamburger steak, pork roast, green beans, black-eyed peas, steamed cabbage, sweet potatoes and cakes and pies. Caddo's white cream corn was named to Alabama Tourism's "100 Dishes to Eat Before You Die."

### Carl's Deli

**Where:** 3151 Alabama 67, Somerville,  
256-606-3465

**Hours:** 5 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday

Stop on in for an early morning breakfast of country ham and biscuits, or order pancakes and sausage at Carl's Deli in Somerville. They also offer daily lunch specials and classics like burgers or grilled ham and cheese sandwiches.

### Dot's Soulfood

**Where:** 18152 Alabama 20, Hillsboro,  
256-637-8002

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday-  
Friday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday



Dot's Soulfood

If you go during peak eating hours, expect to see a line snaking from the serving station and around the restaurant. The family-run cafeteria-style establishment serves up home-cooked Southern food. Don't miss out on the fried chicken. The menu for the meat-and-two (or three depending on how hungry you are) includes macaroni and cheese, dressing, salmon patties, meatloaf, catfish, purple hull peas, butter beans, fried okra and more.

## Let's Do Lunch

**Where:** 435 Holly St. N.E., Decatur, 256-340-1317; [letsdolunchdecatur.com](http://letsdolunchdecatur.com)

**Hours:** 10 a.m. -3 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday

Just as the name indicates, this is a great place to stop in for a tasty lunch. Everything is made fresh



Let's Do Lunch

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# Time to Eat:

## WHERE TO SAMPLE BARBECUE IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

When it comes to barbecue, allegiances in Alabama run deep. Meat eaters proudly declare their loyalty forged over dozens – and for some, hundreds – of plates of stuffed potatoes, pork nachos and chicken with white sauce.

No matter whether you prefer white or red sauce, chicken or ribs, sweet or spicy seasonings or barbecue on top of salads, options abound.

### Big Bob Gibson BBQ

Decatur's most notable barbecue restaurant with a national reputation celebrates 100 years this year.

In 1925, a 6-foot-4-inch, 300-pound railroad worker named Bob Gibson started serving barbecue, slow-roasted in a hand-dug pit, with a distinct white sauce from the backyard of his Danville Road home.

Word of Big Bob, his tangy white sauce and Brunswick stew spread. Now, 100 years and five generations later, the

legacy of Big Bob Gibson's BBQ continues to grow.

Led by Don McLemore, Gibson's grandson, and Chris Lilly, who married Gibson's great-granddaughter, Big Bob Gibson's BBQ has appeared on the Food Network, earned 15 World BBQ Championships, five Memphis in May grand championships, appeared on NBC's "Today Show" with Al Roker and participated in the South Beach Food & Wine Festival and Aspen Food & Wine Festival.

For their contributions to the culinary world, Lilly was inducted into the American Royal World Series of Barbecue's Hall of Fame and McLemore received the Pioneer of Barbecue Award from Jack Daniel's World Championship Barbecue.

Last year, the late Bob Gibson was inducted into the American Royal World Series of Barbecue's Hall of Fame.

The Alabama Department of Tourism's "100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama"

recommends eaters try Big Bob Gibson's pies and barbecue chicken with white sauce. [BIGBOBGIBSON.COM](http://BIGBOBGIBSON.COM)

*1715 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur, 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., daily, the drive-thru remains open until 8:30 p.m. 256-350-6969*

*2520 Danville Road S.W., Decatur, 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday, the drive-thru remains open until 8:30 p.m. 256-350-0404*

### B.B. Perrin's

Located on Holly Street Northeast, B.B. Perrin's is a popular spot for the sports-watching barbecue eater. The menu includes rib gumbo, barbecue chicken, hickory-smoked ribs and barbecue pork nachos. The sports bar opened in 1988. [B.BPERRINS.COM](http://B.BPERRINS.COM)

*608 Holly St. N.E., Decatur, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday-Saturday, 256-355-1045*

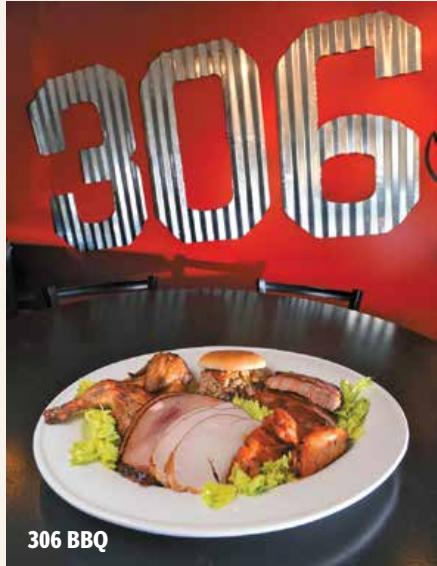
## Whitt's Barbecue

On Labor Day 1966, Floyd and Laura Whitt opened the doors to a barbecue joint on a dirt road in Limestone County. With locations in Decatur, Athens and Moulton, Whitt's Barbecue has become a mainstay in north Alabama, known for its hickory smoke and vinegar-based sauce. WHITTSBBQORIGINAL.COM.

2532 Spring Ave. S.W., Decatur,  
10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday,  
256-350-2748

918 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur,  
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday,  
10 a.m.-7 p.m., Thursday-Saturday,  
256-351-6294

Other locations in Moulton and Athens.



## 306 BBQ

Friends and backyard pitmasters Justin Burgreen, Whitney Skipworth and Lee Noah opened 306 BBQ in August 2011. The Athens joint is known for barbecue turkey, brisket and sides, specifically the squash casserole. 306BBQ.COM

23101 U.S. 72, Athens, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.,  
Tuesday-Saturday, 256-444-2306

## Smokey C's BBQ and Wings

Armed with backyard experience, Decatur brothers Cory and Casey Culver opened the restaurant in July 2008. In

2015 and 2016, Smokey C's white sauce placed first at the National Barbecue Association's Conference. Try out the signature pork loin or BBQ Tater Bowl. SMOKEYCSBBQ.COM

3075 Alabama 20, Decatur, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, 256-353-7787

## Chief and Snoogie's Hickory Pit BBQ

Opened in August 2011. The restaurant on Alabama 24 in Trinity created a committed following with its chicken stew, chili, BBQ nachos and ribs. CHIEFANDSNOOGIEBBQ.COM

23419 Alabama 24, Trinity,  
11 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday,  
11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday

## Greenbrier Bar-B-Que

A mainstay for barbecue seekers in Limestone County, Greenbrier Bar-B-Que opened on Alabama 20 in 1961. Along with the classic barbecue fare, the golden-brown hush puppies bring in hungry diners. OLDDGREENBRIER.COM

27028 Old Alabama 20, Madison,  
10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday,  
256-351-1800

## Lawler's BBQ

Expect hand-pulled meats with a hint of hickory at this barbecue joint with locations in Decatur and Athens.



Other highlights on the menu include stuffed potatoes, barbecue salads and smokey macaroni and cheese. LAWLERSBARBECUE.COM

725 Beltline Road S.W., Decatur,  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday,  
256-822-1006

1506 U.S. 72 E., Athens, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday,  
256-233-1818

## Holy Smoke BBQ

The small, family-owned barbecue restaurant is best known for smoked chicken wings and barbecued ribs.

900 U.S. 31 N.W., Hartselle,  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday,  
256-751-2000

## Pigskin All Sports BBQ

The Hartselle-based restaurant offers a variety of barbecue plates, sandwiches, melts and fried pies.

400 Nance Ford Road, S.W., Hartselle,  
10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday,  
256-754-5053

## Scrugg's BBQ

Local patrons declare that the family-owned barbecue joint located near the Tennessee River has the best brisket

on the planet. Also check out the fried catfish and stuffed taters. FACEBOOK.COM/FSCRUGG

1314 Alabama 20, Decatur,  
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday,  
occasionally open 11 a.m.-4 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday, 256-351-7937

### Nash Bar-B-Que

When neighbors smelled the chickens the Nash family was barbecuing on the front porch of their Hillsboro home, Nash Bar-B-Que was born. The menu includes chicken, ribs, pork sandwiches, fish and wings. NASHBBQ.COM

104 12th Ave. N.W., Decatur,  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Thursday,  
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday,  
256-341-0370

1203 Courtyard Circle S.W., Decatur,  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday,  
10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday,  
256-822-2063



### Moe's Original BBQ

Moe's three Morgan County locations offer pulled pork, stuffed potatoes, ribs and Southern-fried catfish.

202 Moulton St. E., Decatur,  
11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday-Wednesday,  
11 a.m.-1 a.m., Thursday-Saturday,  
11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 256-686-4112

3524 Deere Road, Priceville,  
11 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday,  
11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, 256-686-1462

200 Main St. W., Hartselle, 11 a.m.-  
10 p.m., Monday-Wednesday,  
11 a.m.-11 p.m., Thursday,  
11 a.m.-midnight, Friday-Saturday,  
256-502-8092



**ba da ba ba ba**

**What are you craving?**






















































































































































































































































































































































































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and has no preservatives or additives. Try their turkey bacon berry wrap or strawberry pretzel salad. This restaurant was featured in the "Alabama Tourism 100 Dishes to Eat Before You Die."

## Nature's Table Café

**Where:** 133 Fourth Ave. N.E., Decatur – inside the Cook Museum, 256-898-6301; cookmuseum.naturestable.com

**Hours:** 10 a.m. -3 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday

Nature's Table, located inside the Cook Museum, offers a blend of traditional and new foods with fresh ingredients. You'll find acai bowls, smoothies, sandwiches, protein bowls and more.

## Wildwood Deli

**Where:** 113 Market Street W, Athens, 256-206-9384

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday; [facebook.com/theWildwoodDeli](https://facebook.com/theWildwoodDeli)

Here you can enjoy fresh, made-to-order deli fare and gourmet salads, as well as Southern favorites like a pimento cheese sandwich with homemade soup. Wildwood Deli is located just a stone's throw from the Limestone County Courthouse.

## FAMILY

### Chick-Fil-A

**Where:** 2502 U.S. 31 S., Decatur, 256-822-1014

1809 Beltline Road S.W., Decatur, 256-355-3035

and 1291 U.S. 72 E., Athens, 256-233-8900; [chick-fil-a.com](http://chick-fil-a.com)

**Hours:** 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Monday-Saturday

Chick-fil-A offers all things chicken – from sandwiches and tenders to fresh-made salads. There are two locations in Decatur as well as a location in Athens. You might also like to stop in for a frosted lemonade. The lemonade is made fresh each day.

## Firehouse Subs

**Where:** 2812 Spring Ave. S.W., Decatur, 256-340-8600

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., daily

The restaurant serves up a variety of hot and cold sandwiches and salads.

## The Freight House

**Where:** 200 Railroad St. S.W., Hartselle, 256-773-4600; [freighthousehartselle.com](http://freighthousehartselle.com)

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**The Freight House**

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

The Freight House is located in the historic, 1915 L&N railroad freight depot and offers classic Southern cooking at its finest. You will find classics from hand-cut prime rib to slow-cooked pinto beans. Enjoy a great meal, followed by a slice of their famous strawberry cake, as you watch the trains roll by right outside the windows.

**JW Steakhouse**

**Where:** 45 Marco Drive, Decatur, 256-355-5560; [jwsteakhouse.com](http://jwsteakhouse.com)

**Hours:** 4-9 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 4-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

JW Steakhouse is conveniently located just off of I-65 in the Priceville area. JW Steakhouse offers hand-cut, aged steaks, homemade cheesecake and much more. They have a new bar with a wide selection of beers and wines. They offer catering and event hosting, as well as monthly wine tasting events.

find steaks, burgers and a variety of country style breakfast sandwiches.

**Mr. Henry's Neighborhood Restaurant**

**Where:** 701 Nance Ford Road SW, Hartselle, 256-773-8101

**Hours:** 6:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday-Friday, 6-11 a.m. Saturday

Mr. Henry's is a beloved restaurant in Hartselle, offering home style cooking such as ribeye steaks or meatloaf sandwiches and daily specials. With their early hours, it is a favorite go-to location for a hearty breakfast as well.

**Oh! Bryan's Family Steak House**

**Where:** 727 Main St. W., Hartselle, 256-773-8788; [ohbryans.com](http://ohbryans.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Oh! Bryan's Family Steak House offers hand-cut, flame-broiled steaks cooked to order. You'll also find a salad bar with over 30 items to choose from. Come find out why this restaurant is so beloved, with the iced tea glass that never runs empty.



## Ramona J's Restaurant

**Where:** 1212 U.S. 31 S., Athens, 256-444-4005; [ramonajs.com](http://ramonajs.com)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

Ramona J's Restaurant offers "good food to go," with a great variety and all made to order. Whether you choose a Caribbean Jerk Cheese Steak Burger or a catfish with wings, you're going to love every bit of it. And don't forget the candy bacon deviled eggs or pound cake for dessert.

## Ro's Grille

**Where:** 126 N. Jefferson St., Athens, 256-230-2716; [rosgrille.com](http://rosgrille.com)

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

Ro's Grille is a casual restaurant featuring a twist on traditional grilled foods. You'll find Caribbean chicken, ribeye, Cajun salmon, 9-ounce burgers and more to choose from. The restaurant also offers daily specials.

## The Old Cookstove

**Where:** 89 Reeder Road, Danville, 256-462-1151; [oldcookstove.com](http://oldcookstove.com)

**Hours:** 4-7 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and Saturday

This off-the-beaten-path restaurant is a rustic little gem nestled in the countryside of Danville. The Old Cookstove is known for hosting a "Seafood Friday" and serving homemade dishes just like your grandma used to make. Take a drive in the country, enjoy the scenery and stop in for a meal of comfort foods like country fried steak or pot roast and maybe some peach cobbler with home-made ice cream.

## BAR AND GRILL

### Bank Street Grill

**Where:** 719 Bank St., Decatur, 256-686-4202; [bankstreetgrilldecatur.com](http://bankstreetgrilldecatur.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday

At Bank Street Grill, you can enjoy hand-cut filet mignon, freshly ground Angus burgers. Or maybe you would prefer unique starters like bacon-wrapped quail breast, or buffalo fried okra and fried green tomatoes.

### Kimmie's Kitchen & Social House

**Where:** 107 Second Ave. N.E., Decatur, [kimmiessocialhouse.com](http://kimmiessocialhouse.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday



**Kimmie's**

Enjoy homecooked meals of fish, chicken, shrimp, hamburgers, steak and more at Kimmie's Kitchen & Social House, which opened in 2024.

### The Game

**Where:** 209 Second Ave. S.E., Decatur

**Hours:** 4-10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday



**The Game**



The Salty Cod

Opened in 2024 by husband-and-wife John and Sunny Mullican, the restaurant's menu includes ribs, fries, nachos, mac and cheese bowls, salads, burgers and chicken tenders. Along with food, the eatery offers ax-throwing experiences and video games.

## The Salty Cod

**Where:** 309 Market St. W., Athens, 256-206-8222; [thesaltycodal.com](http://thesaltycodal.com)

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday-Monday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

The English style pub in downtown Athens offers comfort food, including bangers and mash, shepherd's pie, bubble and squeak and more.

## Crossroads Steak & Grill

**Where:** 5828 Alabama 36 W., Danville, 256-751-2722

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

Crossroads Steak & Grill is a family-owned restaurant offering local favorites like fried catfish, shrimp and, of course, steak. This cozy restaurant does not accept "plastic," so bring cash and enjoy a great meal.

## COFFEE HOUSE

### Warehouse Coffee

**Where:** 315 Main St. W., Hartselle, 256-227-8220

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

Warehouse coffee is an inviting coffee shop located in the heart of Hartselle. You can find classic coffee shop breakfast offerings like muffins or sausage balls as well as lunch items to fill you up. Of course, specialty coffee drinks are a must, or even an ice cream milkshake. Warehouse offers free Wi-Fi and plenty of space to relax, enjoy your coffee and recharge — with plenty of outlets available for your devices, too.



The Mallard Coffee Company

## High Point Market

**Where:** 307 Second Ave. S.E., Decatur, 256-822-2027, [highpointdecatur.com](http://highpointdecatur.com)

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday

Located in downtown Decatur, High Point Market offers a relaxed space with exposed brick walls and wood floors. The market's baristas serve a variety of drinks, including coffees, lattes, mochas and teas. Also found at the market are frozen dinners, popsicles and bagged coffee.

## Java Jaay Café

**Where:** 1713 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur, 256-351-8555

**Hours:** 6 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

The coffee shop next to Big Bob Gibson on Sixth Avenue offers an intimate atmosphere to enjoy a variety of hot and cold drinks. Specialty mochas include the heath bar, almond joy and milky way.

## The Mallard Coffee Company

**Where:** 14 Lee St. N.E., Decatur, [the-mallard.com](http://the-mallard.com)

**Hours:** 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Opened in 2024, The Mallard offers specialty coffees, teas, hot chocolate and bites to eat, including avocado toast and chicken salad croissants.

## Crossroads Coffee

**Where:** 460 Alabama 67, Priceville; [facebook.com/crossroadscoffee-company](https://facebook.com/crossroadscoffee-company)

**Hours:** 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

For those in a hurry, stop by this drive-thru coffee stand in Priceville. The shop serves coffees, teas, espressos, fruit energy drinks and specialty creations.

## SWEETS

### Tess' Place

**Where:** 324 Second Ave. S.E., Decatur, 256-686-1601

**Hours:** (Winter) noon-5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, noon-8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; (Summer) noon-8

p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, noon-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Opened in 2022 by husband-and-wife Michael and Dede Quarry, Tess' Place – named after the couple's French bulldog Tess – offers a sweet escape with a variety of ice cream flavors. Along with the ice cream, the parlor serves gourmet sodas, shaved ice and ice cream floats.

### Morgan Price Candy Company

**Where:** 1735 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur, 256-350-2992; [morganpricecandy.com](http://morganpricecandy.com)

**Hours:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

The candy company that started in 1987 as a mail-order business is known for its pralines, toffee and chocolate creations. The toffee was listed in Alabama Tourism's "100 Dishes to Eat Before You Die."

## Oliwia's Shave Ice

**Where:** 115 Railroad St. S.W., Hartselle, 256-309-1044; [facebook.com/oliwiasshavice](https://facebook.com/oliwiasshavice)

**Hours:** 2:30-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, noon-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday

At this sweet destination, visitors can select from dozens of shave ice flavors.

## CRAFT BREWERY

### Cross-Eyed Owl

**Where:** 105 First Ave., N.E., Decatur, 256-274-9002; [facebook.com/xeobrewing](https://facebook.com/xeobrewing)

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday

Decatur's only craft brewery, Cross-Eyed Owl offers more than a dozen

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Cross-Eyed Owl

beers on tap, including a porter, lagers and ales, and craft sodas. Keep an eye out for special events at the brewery, including food trucks, trivia nights, concerts and more. In the morning, the brewery serves coffee.

## Old Black Bear Brewing

**Where:** 311 South Marion St., Athens, 256-472-2010; [oldblackbear.com/Athens](http://oldblackbear.com/Athens)

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday

The Athens distillery opened in 2023 and features 10 beers on tap. The site also houses a restaurant that serves hamburgers, pastas, sandwiches, tacos and more.

## UPSCALE CASUAL

### Simp McGhee's

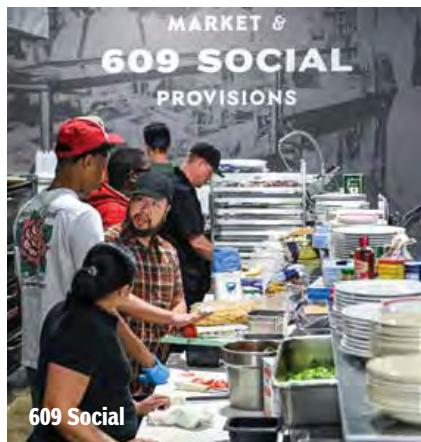
**Where:** 725 Bank St. N.E., Decatur, 256-353-6284; [simpmcghees.com](http://simpmcghees.com)

**Hours:** 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday

Located on historic Bank Street, Simp McGhee's serves up a variety of Cajun offerings such as crawfish egg rolls, crab Florentine, lobster ravioli and Rhodes Ferry duck. If the weather is nice, you can take advantage of their pet-friendly outdoor seating as well.

### 609 Social

**Where:** 609 Bank St. N.E., Decatur, 256-938-8350; [609socialmarket.com](http://609socialmarket.com)



**Hours:** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Opened in 2024, 609 Social Market & Provisions is an urban market serving plates of seafood, pizza, pasta, hamburgers and more.

## MEDITERRANEAN

### Josie's Mediterranean Café

**Where:** 109 Second Av. N.E., Decatur, 256-822-2229

**Hours:** 4-10 p.m. Wednesday, 4-11 p.m. Thursday, 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

Located right in downtown Decatur, Josie's has classic Mediterranean dishes, such as paella, steak marsala or flat-breads. They offer daily specials made from fresh, seasonal ingredients. Of course, in addition to a delicious meal, you can also choose from their wines, cocktails and tapas.

## SPECIALTY

### C.F. Penn Hamburgers

**Where:** 214 Sixth Ave. S.E., Decatur

**Hours:** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (or until they run out) Monday-Saturday

C. F. Penn's Hamburgers is an iconic restaurant that touts deep-fried burgers that even the king loved. Yes, that king — Elvis Presley. C. F. Penn's Hamburgers has been featured on Food Network. They've been serving up burgers since 1927. Try their famous Slugburger.

### Freddy's Frozen Custard

**Where:** 2804 Spring Ave., Decatur, 256-686-0746

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Freddy's is an American fast-casual restaurant chain based in Wichita, Kansas. The Freddy's menu features steakburgers, beef hot dogs and chicken sandwiches. The famous frozen custard comes with a variety of specialty sundaes and mixtures of fruits, candy, cookies and nuts.

### Just Wing It

**Where:** 1123 Somerville Road S.E., Decatur, 256-686-2032

**Hours:** 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday

After three years as a food truck, Just Wing It opened in its brick-and-mortar site in November 2023. The menu features wings, hamburgers, sausage dogs, barbecue and Brunswick stew.

### Whataburger

**Where:** 1621 Beltline Road S.W., Decatur, 256-274-8258; [Whataburger.com](http://Whataburger.com)

**Hours:** 24 hours a day

A popular fast-food eatery features burgers, chick and fish sandwiches, salads, fries and shakes. Breakfast is served from 11 p.m. to 11 a.m.

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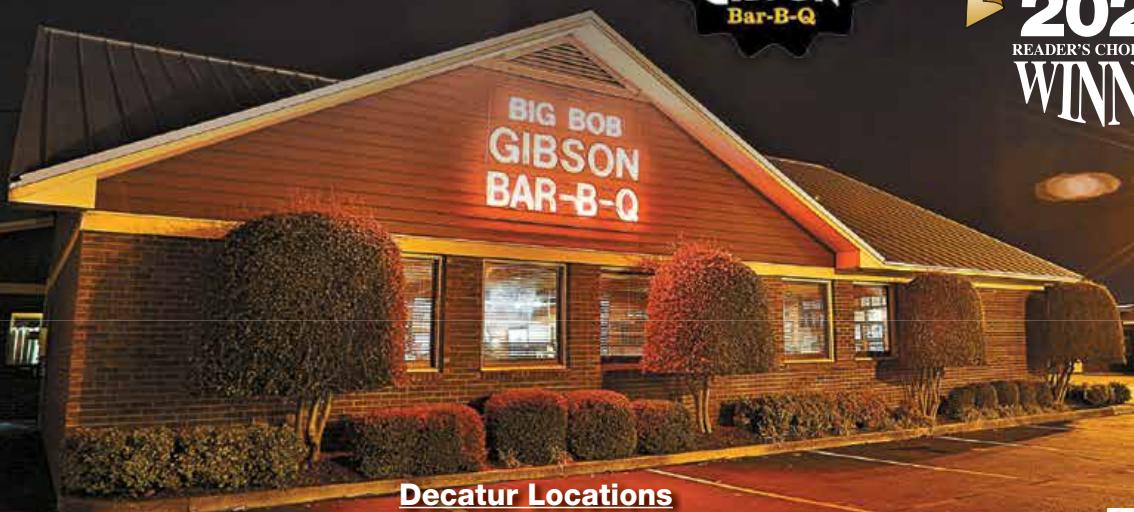
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256-350-0404  
Mon-Sat 9:30 am - 8:15 pm  
Drive-thru 9:30 am - 8:30 pm

