Age-Friendly/
Livable Communities

Tucker, Georgia
Action Plan

Age Friendly City
designation
December 31, 2018

Plan Submitted
February 1, 2021
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History of Tucker

Tucker is a city located in DeKalb County, Georgia, and is a suburb of Atlanta. The area was originally settled in the 1820's. A veteran of the Indian Wars, Greenville Henderson, was given 3000 acres of land in the area now known as Tucker. The state of Georgia opened state lands for settlement in 1821. The land in present day DeKalb County was ceded to the United States by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There was a land lottery in 1821 of 202 ½ acre lots. The cost to enter the lottery was $19.00.

In 1821, the area that would become Tucker was in Militia District 572 in Henry County. The state created DeKalb County on December 9, 1822, and District 572 became DeKalb’s 18th District, or the Browning District, reportedly named for Andrew Browning. Browning Courthouse was built in the late 1860’s to bring law and order to citizens of Browning Community, now known as Tucker. The courthouse ceased operation on January 1, 1977 when the office of Justice of the Peace moved to the Cofer Building. This courthouse was recently moved to the grounds of the Tucker Recreation Center on LaVista Road.

Greenville Henderson operated large apple and peach orchards, corn fields, and a whiskey and brandy making business. Before the Civil War, Henderson built a grist mill on Henderson Mill Creek. Near the mill was the old frame Henderson Post Office. Mail was brought by horse and buggy from Decatur for people in the Tucker area. The post office was abandoned in 1895 and the mill demolished in 1911.

Even though DeKalb County delegates voted against secession from the United States, Georgia joined the Confederacy and seceded from the Union in 1861. In July 1864, Union soldiers camped at Henderson’s Mill, used the Browning Courthouse, one of the few buildings in the area they did not burn, dismantled the railroad to Stone Mountain, and formed the left wing of Sherman’s advance to Atlanta.
The railroad came to Brownings on April 24, 1892. The railroad acquired the land and surveyed the town. No one knows for sure where the name “Tucker” came from. A popular theory is that the town was named for Rufus S. Tucker, an official of the railroad. Many local communities were named for people associated with the railroad, for example. Lilburn (Lilburn Meyers) and Winder (John H. Winder).

After World War II, Tucker began to change from being an agricultural community into a community of industrial, retail and residential. The employment opportunities in Tucker and in nearby Atlanta, Decatur, and other areas led to an increase in population for Tucker. The larger land lots became divided for residential use.

The Tucker community has enjoyed a strong volunteer base. Many civic clubs and organizations grew and thrived. There are many community-wide events such as Tucker Day, Chili Cook-Off, 4th of July, and Christmas on Main, to name a few. The parks in Tucker each have “Friends” group that supports and plans events at the parks. The Tucker Civic Association hosts a waterway clean up called Rivers Alive each year and also hosts a job fair in the fall.

An interesting fact about Tucker is that the Eastern Continental Divide runs through the town. Water flowing west of the divide flows toward the Gulf of Mexico and water east of the line flows toward the Atlantic Ocean. The area of Tucker is approximately 20.25 square miles.

Tucker became a city in 2016. The referendum in November 2015 to form the city was passed with 74% of the vote. In June of 2017, the Tucker community celebrated the 125th year anniversary.

The City of Tucker has prepared a very informative document called the Historical Resource Report.
History of Lifelong Community Committee and Age-Friendly City Project

A Lifelong Community meets the needs of all its residents through every stage of life, both in how it is designed and the services it offers. It enables individuals to remain in the community as they age. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Lifelong Communities Partnership is a consortium of local governments, community partners, and residents working together to design more inclusive lifelong communities that offer multiple housing types and enhanced transportation options, increased opportunities for healthy living, and convenient access to shopping, services, and transit.

The City of Tucker was designated a Lifelong Community by the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Area Agency on Aging in 2013. Tucker, through the Tucker Civic Association’s Lifelong Community committee effort, has consistently worked to make the city livable for all ages.

With the new designation, Tucker applied for and was awarded a small grant that allowed for installation of bus stop seating along the main passenger route, placing waste cans along the main street, and installing handrails on steps leading to business entrances on Main Street.

The Henderson Park community garden is a favorite location for Tucker gardeners. The grant made it possible to install a safe walking access to the garden from the parking area. A storage shed was installed at that location. At the Smoke Rise Garden, raised garden beds were installed and a storage shed was built.

In 2016, Tucker, GA became a city within Dekalb County. Many of the services that had been provided through the county were now city responsibilities. The Lifelong Community members participated in many of the brainstorm sessions hosted by the city and provided input from surveys and information sessions that had been conducted. Breaking down silos and growing partnerships among services and organizations has been a major strength in growing the new city.

On December 31, 2018, Tucker received the World Health Organization’s (WHO) prestigious Age-Friendly City designation, an honor that recognizes localities for promoting health and growth for residents of all ages. Tucker Civic Association (TCA) spearheaded the effort with support from Tucker City staff and elected officials.

The term ‘age-friendly’ is used, not to promote an older population, but to look at the entire population from infancy through old age. The sidewalk has to be safe for the stroller and the walker. Transportation must accommodate everyone needing a way to get to school, to work or to the doctor. Services must be made available for everyone regardless of age.

Age-Friendly Action Plan
Tucker, GA
Application for AARP Age-Friendly City Designation

Membership Application

To join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email ikalice@corp.org.
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: Click here to enter a date

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Tucker, GA

STATE: Georgia

POPULATION SIZE: 35,000

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 14%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Frank Auman, Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: 4119 Adrian Street Tucker, GA 30084

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiatives:

As President of the Tucker Civic Association (TCA), Mr. Esay has connections all throughout the volunteer network within the City of Tucker. He is also a member of the Tucker Lifelong Community (TLC) Committee under the TCA umbrella and has helped initiate this application process as well as aided in several other community-minded projects spearheaded by both TCA and the TLC.
Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

Through volunteer efforts the Tucker Community has come together to form various community minded groups in order to create and promote an age-friendly community. This includes working with the Atlanta Regional Center (ARC) to secure funding for sidewalks and public transportation stop upgrades. The City boasts a robust Friends of Parks groups that represent each of the 10 parks within the City Boundaries and works closely with Park Pride in their efforts. Area Churches support the entire community as well. The City Government adopted a Aging-Friendly Resolution in May of 2018 pledging to promote a Lifelong Community by Promoting Housing and Transportation Options, Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles, and Expanding Information and Access to Services.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The Tucker Community has a higher than average population size of the 55+ group. Many are involved in the various community organizations and churches. These include: The Tucker Arts Guild, The Tucker Business Association, The Tucker Civic Association, Main Street Tucker Alliance, Main Street Theatre Tucker, Tucker Historical Society, Tucker Optimist Club, Tucker Orchard Guild, Tucker Rotary, Smoke Rise Community Association, Tucker-Lavista Lions Club, Friends of Tucker Parks and their sub groups for each park within the City Boundaries. The Tucker Civic Association will also be in close working contact with the City of Tucker to bring together and unit all of the community groups in support of working towards an age-friendly community.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

The Tucker Lifelong Community (TLC) Committee developed a strategic plan in 2016 that included the goal to improve transportation options for citizens of Tucker. Public transportation is only on the main streets of Tucker. There is no service from neighboring cities in addition to the transportation and mobility services by the public transport. There is a long wait-list. So, the TLC Committee began discussions with Lifespan Resources. Lifespan is a nonprofit organization that serves the older adults with its Medical Escort Transportation Program (MET) and the Lifespan Academy of Education. Dr. Palmerer, the Executive Director, met with the Committee and described the MET Program. Lifespan is working to expand their program in the greater Atlanta area. There is a need for this service in Tucker and the service would be well received and utilized. The TLC Committee agreed to work with Lifespan and Bring MET to Tucker. We are working together to create an intense recruitment effort for volunteers.
Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP
Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Through the City’s extensive studies like the Downtown Master Plan, the Parks Master Plan, the Transportation Master Plan and Trails Master Plan the City and its community is well versed on how to create and promote an age-friendly community.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The City of Tucker is a young City that incorporated in July of 2016 so it is a fairly young government but one that is truly community driven and led. Our City is one of great diversity spanning race, income, religions and most importantly age. The City is determined to grow in ways that are not only fiscally smart but inclusive and this means spanning from birth to retirement. We are conveniently located just outside of the City of Atlanta and are very accessible via major highways and roads. By collaborating with our volunteer groups the City is looking forward to becoming an Age-Friendly Community.

6) Please provide a digital (JPG, PNG or PDF) file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here’s ours >

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send us your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.
STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF TUCKER

RESOLUTION R2018-05-48

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE LIFELONG COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the City of Tucker recognizes the importance of aging in place; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tucker also recognizes that over 16% of the population of Tucker is over 65 years of age, which is higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tucker's infrastructure (sidewalks, roads, etc.), programs, organizations and access to goods and services has a definitive impact on an individual’s quality of life throughout their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of older adults in the community offers the City of Tucker the opportunity to address long standing challenges and to reimagine the way we live together; and

WHEREAS, residents of all ages require a wide range of housing options that are accessible, affordable, and close to services; and

WHEREAS, older adults may require mobility options to ensure that they can access basic services and remain independent; and

WHEREAS, access to basic and preventative healthcare and opportunities to engage in regular physical activity are essential to healthy living for residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS, residents must be educated and empowered to make the best choices and have access to resources that they and their families need; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong Communities are communities that provide a full range of options to residents, ensure a high quality of life for all, and are places where individuals can live throughout their lifetimes; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Tucker hereby adopts as City policy its goal to transform the City of Tucker into a Lifelong Community by:

- Promoting Housing and Transportation Options; and
- Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles; and
- Expanding Information and Access to Services.

SO ORDAINED AND EFFECTIVE this 14th day of May, 2018.

Approved: 

Frank Auman, Mayor

Attest: 

Bonnie Wame, City Clerk
The Mayor’s Letter

December 6, 2018

Debra Tyler-Horton
AARP Georgia State Director
999 Peachtree Street, NE #1110
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Ms. Tyler-Horton,

On behalf of the City of Tucker, I am pleased to pen this letter of ongoing commitment to supporting and creating an age-friendly city with our partners, the Tucker Civic Association. By expanding our partnerships to include the AARP and the World Health Organization, we feel we will have incredible tools and support to move forward as we navigate our City planning and policies.

The City of Tucker is relatively young, but the community of Tucker has been around for over 125 years. Throughout its history, the Tucker community has shown great initiative for self-improvement and forward thinking, culminating in a historic vote in 2015 to self-govern as a municipality. Prior to incorporation, the Tucker Civic Association created a Lifelong Community Committee whose mission is to advocate for an age-friendly community. Through their hard work and collaboration, the community of Tucker was designated a Lifelong Community via the Atlanta Regional Commission. The City of Tucker is proud of all its citizens and all that they bring to the table to increase the quality of life for Tucker residents and residents of our surrounding area. We look forward to joining our passions and our motivation with the Tucker Civic Association and support them in their plan to complete the steps to earn and maintain the WHO Age-Friendly designation.

I often speak about four columns of livability for the City of Tucker, we like to think we are a city where you can live, work, play and pray. We would love to add a fifth... STAY!

Thank you for your consideration of membership for the City of Tucker to the World Health Organization’s Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,

Frank Auman
Mayor

City of Tucker - 4119 Adrian St, Tucker, GA 30084
Phone: 678-597-9040 Fax: 470-719-8229 Website: www.tucker.ga.gov
**Action Plan Process**

For two years the Lifelong Community Committee has made the Age-Friendly City its project. Soon after the designation was awarded, a community information session was held. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Tucker residents to the designation and to the tasks ahead if the Age-Friendly City designation was to be retained.

Residents and community leaders were asked to focus on sustaining eight domains that might influence the community’s overall health and quality of life. Teams were formed for each of the eight domains of an Age-Friendly City. Each team was charged with identifying the resources, services, and opportunities already found in Tucker and then to compile a list of what is still needed. The teams then completed the action plan outline for their respective domain. Everyone was told that the information would be submitted and if approved, would assure us that Tucker will retain the Age-Friendly City designation. After approval we will have five years to work on what is outlined in the action plan.

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**Figure 7 Age-Friendly Survey**

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**Figure 7 Age-Friendly Survey**
Map of the City of Tucker

Figure 8 Current Map of the City of Tucker
Tucker Demographics:
From neighborhoodscout.com

**AGE**

**TOTAL POPULATION**
36,395

- 65 Years And Over: 17.2%
- Under 5 Years: 4.6%
- 5 To 17: 13.6%
- 18 To 24: 5.9%
- 25 To 34: 13.1%
- 35 To 54: 30.2%

**RACE & ETHNIC DIVERSITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>% of Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>32.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska Native</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Race / Two or More Races</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF ADULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>% of Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attending College</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Graduates</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCOME

PER CAPITA INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Per Capita Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucker</td>
<td>$38,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>$31,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tucker</td>
<td>$67,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>$57,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INDIVIDUALS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL: 10.1%
AARP Livability Index Report

Tucker, GA

What is Livability?
Livable communities have diverse features that satisfy the needs of people of all ages, incomes and abilities. Learn more about AARP’s Livability Index at www.aarp.org/livabilityindex.

53
Total Score

Top Third
67 - 100+

This community does not score above average in any of the seven Livability categories.

62
HEALTH
PREVENTION, ACCESS AND QUALITY

57
ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN AIR AND WATER

55
ENGAGEMENT
CIVIC AND SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

54
HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

53
NEIGHBORHOOD
ACCESS TO LIFE, WORK, AND PLAY

50
OPPORTUNITY
INCLUSION AND POSSIBILITIES

39
TRANSPORTATION
SAFE AND CONVENIENT OPTIONS

Middle Third
34 - 66

Bottom Third
0 - 33

Learn how you can make your community more livable and raise your score, visit www.aarp.org/livabilityindex.

Age-Friendly Action Plan
Tucker, GA

Page 14
They say home is where the heart is—and the same holds true for the Livability Index. Housing is a central component of livability. Deciding where to live influences many of the topics the Index covers. We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else, so housing costs, choices, and accessibility are critical. Great communities provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities, allowing everyone to live in a quality neighborhood regardless of their circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing accessibility</td>
<td>Zero-step entrances Percentage of housing units with zero-step entry: measured at the metro area scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing options</td>
<td>Availability of multi-family housing Percentage of housing units that are not single-family, detached homes: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing affordability</td>
<td>Housing costs Monthly housing costs: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better. Monthly costs are capped at $4,000.</td>
<td>$989</td>
<td>$1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing affordability</td>
<td>Housing cost burden Percentage of income devoted to monthly housing costs: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing affordability</td>
<td>Availability of subsidized housing Number of subsidized housing units per 10,000 people: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

- **State and local inclusive design laws**
  - No Policy

- **State and local housing trust funds**
  - No Policy

- **State manufactured housing protections**
  - No Policy

- **State foreclosure prevention and protection**
  - State Policy

- **Comprehensive livability commitment**
  - City Policy

- **State and local plans to create age-friendly communities**
What makes a neighborhood truly livable? Two important qualities are access and convenience. Compact neighborhoods make it easier for residents to reach the things they need most, from jobs to grocery stores to libraries. Nearby parks and places to buy healthy food help people make smart choices, and diverse, walkable neighborhoods with shops, restaurants, and movie theatres make local life interesting. Additionally, neighborhoods served by good access to more distant destinations via transit or automobile help residents connect to jobs, health care, and services throughout the greater community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to destinations Access to grocery stores and farmers’ markets</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to destinations Access to parks</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to destinations Access to libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to destinations Access to jobs by transit</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 1,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proximity to destinations Access to jobs by auto</td>
<td></td>
<td>32,699 146,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed-use neighborhoods Diversity of destinations</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.70 0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact neighborhoods Activity density</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,020 3,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety Crime rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>261 639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood quality Vacancy rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.8% 8.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies:
- Mixed-use neighborhoods
- State and local TOD programs
- Comprehensive livability commitment
- State and local plans to create age-friendly communities

AARP Livability Index
Great Neighborhoods for All Ages

v1.0 Downloaded on Jan 19, 2021 - Page 4
How easily and safely we’re able to get from one place to another has a major effect on our quality of life. Livable communities provide their residents with transportation options that connect people to social activities, economic opportunities, and medical care, and offer convenient, healthy, accessible, and low-cost alternatives to driving.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute / Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convenient transportation options Frequency of local transit service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible system design ADA-accessible stations and vehicles</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient transportation options Walk trips</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient transportation options Congestion</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation costs Household transportation costs</td>
<td>$13,086</td>
<td>$12,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe streets Speed limits</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe streets Crash rate</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

- Safe streets  
  - State and local Complete Streets policies  
  - Convenient transportation options  
    - State human services transportation coordination  
    - State volunteer driver policies  
  - Comprehensive livability commitment  
  - State and local plans to create age-friendly communities  

Age-Friendly Action Plan  
Tucker, GA
Good communities maintain a clean environment for their residents. Great communities enact policies to improve and protect the environment for generations to come. The Livability Index looks at air and water quality. It measures communities’ actions to create resilience plans to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters, and it awards points to states that have policies promoting energy efficiency and that protect consumers from having their utilities cut off during extreme weather events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water quality</strong></td>
<td>Drinking water quality</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air quality</strong></td>
<td>Regional air quality</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air quality</strong></td>
<td>Near-roadway pollution</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air quality</strong></td>
<td>Local industrial pollution</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resilience</th>
<th>State utility disconnection policies</th>
<th>No Policy</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resilience</td>
<td>Local multi-hazard mitigation plans</td>
<td>City Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficiency</td>
<td>State energy efficiency scorecard</td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive livability commitment</td>
<td>State and local plans to create age-friendly communities</td>
<td>City Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community conditions influence health behaviors. Healthy communities have comprehensive smoke-free air laws, offer easy access to exercise opportunities, and have high-quality health care available. Because health is so deeply related to quality of life, many other categories of livability in this index include metrics related to health. For example, access to healthy foods, jobs and education, number of walk trips, lower speed limits, social engagement measures, and air and water pollution are all related to health. Where you live matters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy behaviors</td>
<td>Smoking prevalence</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy behaviors</td>
<td>Obesity prevalence</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy behaviors</td>
<td>Access to exercise opportunities</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to health care</td>
<td>Health care professional shortage areas</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of health care</td>
<td>Preventable hospitalization rate</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of health care</td>
<td>Patient satisfaction</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

- Healthy behaviors
- State and Local Smoke-Free Laws
- Comprehensive livability commitment
- State and local plans to create age-friendly communities

AARP Livability Index

Real Possibilities

Great Neighborhoods for All Ages
A livable community fosters interaction among residents. From social engagement to civic action to internet access, residents’ individual opportunities to connect and feel welcomed help lessen social isolation and strengthen the greater community. The Index explores and examines the different ways in which residents engage with and support their communities, and how they impact livability as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet access</td>
<td>Broadband cost and speed</td>
<td>Percentage of residents who have access to three or more wireline Internet service providers, and two or more providers that offer maximum download speeds of 50 megabits per second: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic engagement</td>
<td>Opportunity for civic involvement</td>
<td>Number of civic, social, religious, political, and business organizations per 10,000 people; measured at the county scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic engagement</td>
<td>Voting rate</td>
<td>Percentage of people ages 18 years or older who voted in the last presidential election; measured at the county scale, higher values are better. Voting rates are bounded at 30% and 85%.</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social engagement</td>
<td>Social involvement index</td>
<td>Extent to which residents eat dinner with household members, see or hear from friends and family, talk with neighbors, and do favors for neighbors; measured at the metro area scale from 0 to 2, higher values are better.</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social engagement</td>
<td>Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions</td>
<td>Number of performing arts companies, museums, concert venues, sports stadiums, and movie theaters per 10,000 people; measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policies

- **State barriers to community broadband**: No Policy
- **Early, absentee, or mail-in state voting laws**: State Policy
- **Local human rights commissions**: No Policy
- **Local LGBT anti-discrimination laws**: No Policy
- **Comprehensive livability commitment**: No Policy
- **State and local plans to create age-friendly communities**: No Policy
America was built on opportunity—and our nation’s many thriving communities are no different. The degree to which a community embraces diversity and offers opportunities to residents of all ages and backgrounds is important to overall livability. Backed by a strong regional economy and fiscally healthy local governments, welcoming communities provide residents an equal chance to earn a living wage and improve their well-being, from jobs to education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median US Neighborhood</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equal opportunity</td>
<td>Gini coefficient</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Income inequality</strong></td>
<td>measured at the county scale from 0 to 1, lower values are better.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic opportunity</td>
<td>Number of jobs per person in the workforce: measured at the metro area scale, higher values are better. Jobs are capped at 1.0 job per person.</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jobs per worker</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Opportunity</td>
<td>Adjusted 4-year high school cohort graduation rate: measured at the school district scale, higher values are better.</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>High school graduation rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-generational communities</td>
<td>Age-group diversity of local population compared to the national population: measured at the neighborhood scale from 0 to 1, higher values are better.</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Age diversity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Policies

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<tr>
<th>Local fiscal health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local government creditworthiness</td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic opportunity</td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State minimum wage increase</strong></td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal opportunity</td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act</strong></td>
<td>No Policy</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive livability commitment:</td>
<td>City Policy</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State and local plans to create age-friendly communities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Lifelong Community Committee Age-Friendly Project

## Committee Members and Supporters

### Tucker Civic Association Lifelong Community Committee

Dr. Lois Ricci, Committee Chair  
Mary Still, Age-Friendly Project Coordinator

### Team Leaders for the 8 Domains

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings. Vicki Warren  
2. Transportation. Joe Scarpaci  
3. Housing. Guy Van Ort  
4. Social Participation. Kathy Forster  
5. Respect and Social Inclusion. Margaret Bartholomew/Linda Clark  
6. Civic Participation and Employment. Steve Hagen  
7. Communication and Information. Albert Still  
8. Community and Health Services. Lois Ricci/Pam Sapp

### Age-Friendly Tucker Project Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monica Allmond</th>
<th>Joy Fisher</th>
<th>Pam Sapp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malisa Anderson-Strait</td>
<td>Kathy Forster</td>
<td>Joe Scarpaci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Barber</td>
<td>Steve Hagen</td>
<td>Jane Shaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Bartholomew</td>
<td>Dona Harris</td>
<td>Susan Shewmaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Bowes</td>
<td>Dennis Lippy</td>
<td>Lisa Shiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connie Bridges</td>
<td>Tommy Lupo</td>
<td>Albert Still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Clark</td>
<td>Frank Luton</td>
<td>Mary Still</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Davis</td>
<td>Barbara McPherson</td>
<td>Shawn Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ellen Eady</td>
<td>Joan Monroe</td>
<td>Honey Van de Kreke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Edmondson</td>
<td>Daphne Reiley</td>
<td>Guy Van Ort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Espy</td>
<td>Lois Ricci</td>
<td>Eugenia Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Fields</td>
<td>Matt Robbins</td>
<td>Josh Wallace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Fields</td>
<td>Rebecca Rouselle</td>
<td>Vicki Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Fisher</td>
<td>Earl Ryan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mayor, City Council and Staff**

Frank Auman, Mayor  
Pat Soltys, Council Member  
Bill Rosenfeld, Council Member  
Matt Robbins, Council Member  
Noelle Monferdini, Council Member  
Michelle Penkava, Council Member  
Anne Lerner, Council Member

**Tucker Civic Association Officers**

President Albert Still  
Vice President Frank Sapp  
Secretary Linda Clark  
Treasurer Malisa Anderson-Strait  
Past President Bob Espy
Organizations Supporting the Age-Friendly Project

- Tucker Northlake
- Tucker Summit
- AARP Georgia
- T.C.A.T.
- HomeFree: Home Modification
- BETTER LIVING TOGETHER
- Optimist International
- Peter & Paul's Place
- Friends of Tucker Parks
- Department of Human Services
Checklist of Essential Features of Disability Friendly Cities

Using and adapting the checklist from the WHO Global Age - Friendly Cities Guide, we hope to present some of the needs of the disability population, particularly the developmentally disabled (DD) and the intellectually disabled (ID) residents in the City of Tucker.

According to statistics obtained from the Georgia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Disabilities (GBDD) there are approximately 250 residents in the City of Tucker with DD/ID.

Many of these residents live at home with their aging parents or siblings, in agency sponsored group homes, in host homes, or in other creative housing options such as an individual home, apartment, townhouse or condo with support.

It is estimated there are 2500 plus adults with DD/ID in the Atlanta Metro area. Research indicates there are 400 housing situations that are needed now for those with DD/ID.

These are identified needs in the City of Tucker for those individuals with DD/ID:

**Outdoor space and buildings**
- Pavements well maintained, free of obstructions and reserved for pedestrians.
- Pavements are non-slip, are wide enough for wheelchairs and have dropped curbs to road level.
- Pedestrian crossings are sufficient in number and safe for people with different levels and types of disability, with non-slip markings, visual and audio cues and adequate crossing times.
- Drivers give way to pedestrians at intersections and pedestrian crossings.
- Buildings are well signed outside and inside, with sufficient seating and toilets, accessible elevators, ramps, railings, and stairs, and non-slip floors.
- Public toilets outdoors and indoors are sufficient in number and accessible.

**Transportation**
- Specialized transportation is available for disabled and accessible - MARTA L Van - discount rate; private transports; Uber/Lyft; Taxi cabs - full fares. Identified drivers are willing to work with a diverse population, understand needs, and companies offer training.
- Complete and accessible information is provided to users about routes, schedules and special needs facilities.
- Voluntary transport service is available where public transportation is too limited.
- Priority parking and drop off spots for people with special needs are available and respected.

**Housing**
- Variety of affordable housing options are available for the adult DD/ID community in areas that are safe and close to services and the rest of the community - these include but not limited to living at home with parents or family member; independent living in condo, home residence, or apartment with support services; personal care home; host homes.
- Home modification options and supplies are available and affordable, and providers understand the needs of the DD/ID population
- Affordable housing for frail and disabled older people, including DD/ID population with appropriate services is provided locally or resources for such housing is available.

**Social Participation**
- Recreation Services are available for all ages of DD/ID residents.
* Information about activities and events is provided including details about accessibility of facilities.
* There is a consistent outreach to include people at risk of social isolation.

**Respect and social inclusion**
* The disability community, DD/ID, are regularly consulted by public, voluntary and commercial services on how to serve them better.
* Community-wide settings, activities, and events attract a diverse group of the disabled by providing a variety of accommodations related to specific needs and preferences.
* Community Engagement opportunities for people with special needs such as a Facebook page, website or resource page is available.
* Individuals with DD/ID are recognized by the community as diverse members with needs for inclusion in community activities.

**Civic Participation**
* Workplaces are adapted to meet the needs of the disabled.
* Opportunity to vote in local, state, and national elections is encouraged and necessary adaptations available.

**Communication and information**
* Printed information has large lettering and the main ideas are shown by clear headings and bold-face type
* Public access to computers and Internet in public places such as community centers and libraries is available.

**Community and health services**
* Easy access to home care services
* Community emergency planning takes into account the vulnerabilities and capacities of those with DD/ID and the disabled population.

Submitted by: Jane Shaw, Better Living Together
Age-Friendly Action Plan

Developing the Plan
Tucker saw itself as an Age-Friendly city because it envisioned itself a community where residents can live with purpose, vitality and autonomy at every age and stage of life.

The Tucker Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2018, two years after Tucker became a city. A mayor and city council were elected. A staff was hired to help Tucker make the transition from an unincorporated community (1892). A consulting firm worked with the new government and with the residents to assess the needs and develop the plan.

The Tucker Civic Association's Lifelong Community Committee began work on the Age-Friendly project early in 2019, using the WHO/AARP eight domains of livability as a guide. The community was made aware of the project through meetings and social media. A survey was administered and reviewed. Team leaders of each of the eight domains assessed, reviewed, and compiled the findings. Age-Friendly City action plans submitted by other cities were reviewed and discussed. The AARP Age-Friendly Communities advisor discussed the process and recommended that Tucker submit the Comprehensive Plan and add an addendum that identifies the findings of each of the teams. This would be the foundation that the committee will have to develop its five-year strategic plan for Age-Friendly Tucker.

Because the comprehensive plan lays out the vision for how it wants to see the city grow, it addresses everything from housing, roads, sidewalks, parks, land development and other community wants and needs, the committee agreed to submit the comprehensive plan and an addendum for review. The virus and the isolation and life changing events that were happening redirected the Lifelong Community Committee and its Age-Friendly project. The commitment of the city, its leaders, its organizations and services, and this committee has not waivered. Tucker is an Age-Friendly City and is hopeful of retaining this designation.
Tucker Comprehensive Plan

To read the City of Tucker Comprehensive Plan which is considered an integral part of our Action Plan, go to https://www.tuckerga.gov/document_center/Tucker%20Tomorrow/Tucker-Comprehensive-Plan.pdf
Other documents from the City of Tucker

Recreation and Parks Master Plan

Historic Resource Report

Downtown Master Plan

Transportation Master Plan

Trail Master Plan

Age-Friendly Action Plan

Tucker, GA
Summary
Tucker decided to apply for Age-Friendly status in 2017. The city had been designated a Lifelong Community by the Atlanta Regional Commission, a place where residents can live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society.

Tucker, GA is in Dekalb County, that boasts one the largest number of residents 60 and above. Because of the easy access to all highways and only 20 minutes from Atlanta, many young families are moving to Tucker and most who have lived here long, do not want to leave. Older residents appreciate many things about living in Tucker, but there are improvements across a range of issues that are needed.

People today live longer than ever before, including three decades or more in what is often considered older age. Cities were not built, and services developed, with this lifespan in mind. Expectations around aging have changed, too. Boomers, especially, want and expect to lead active and purposeful lives as they hit 65 and beyond. Society-wide ageism persists as well, with negative consequences for all of us. Modern aging is being redefined as we enter this unprecedented era.

Age-Friendly Tucker recognized these demographic and cultural shifts and wanted to ensure that residents of all ages are valued, supported, and given the opportunity to contribute to and participate in community life for as long as possible. In December 2018, Tucker was designated an Age-Friendly City.

Early in 2019, focus of the Tucker Civic Association’s Lifelong Community committee turned to the Age-Friendly City project and the action plan that would be submitted two years hence. Teams were formed for each of the 8 domains and members became involved in identifying what the city has, what is not possible now, and what can be done in the next five years.

Tucker, GA, is a new city (incorporation, 2016). The Age-Friendly Tucker project has had the benefit of consulting services as the city evolves. Many community meetings, brainstorming sessions, surveys, and community forums resulted in the Tucker comprehensive Plan, a document that has guided the Lifelong Community’s Age-Friendly project. The plan lays out specific actions identified to address opportunities and concerns raised through the community assessment.
"A Livable Community is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster their engagement in the community’s civic, economic and social life."

— AARP Policy Book
Domain 1 Outdoor Space and Buildings

Introduction

The World Health Organization found that “the outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and affect their ability to age in place”. In its study of 33 urban areas, WHO found the following elements were of most concern to the aging population: pleasant and clean environment, green spaces, somewhere to rest, age-friendly pavement, safe pedestrian crossings, accessibility, a secure environment, walkways and cycle paths, Age-Friendly buildings, adequate public toilets, and older customers. The Tucker Lifelong Community Committee of the Tucker Civic Association kept these elements in mind when addressing current needs and developing recommendations for age-friendly outdoor spaces and buildings within the community to operate for the benefit of all age groups.

Major goals and objectives

• Accessibility and availability of clean, safe community centers, parks, and other recreational facilities.
• Promotion of outdoor safety through improved features such as street lighting, pedestrian crossings and walkways, and increased police presence.
• Buildings with accessible ramps, non-slip floors, and bathroom facilities.
• Buildings with automatic door openers.

Current conditions and Inventory

• Tucker presently has ten parks of varying sizes, amenities, and levels of development.
• The city has a Recreation Center as well as a newly acquired swim and racquet center, including pool and tennis/pickleball courts.
• The city has also acquired a multi-use football field including concession area.

The Tucker Community has a long history and a rich cultural identity. After the City was incorporated, creating a strong municipal identity became an important task for the City. One of the ways the City plans to strengthen its identity is through a standardization of the parks and recreation system through the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. This Plan will help to protect, enhance and expand the City's parkland as parks improve physical and mental health, strengthen community ties, and make cities more attractive places to live and work.
As part of the planning and development per the Master Plan, public meetings were held, and opinion surveys were conducted to establish priorities for improvements to parks, open space systems and recreation programming. This allows the City to take a verifiable resident-driven approach to making decisions about the future of the City's parks and outdoor spaces.

Responses from the Community Survey show that 36% of residents indicated that they are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the overall value their household receives from the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Department is also supported by various “Friends of” groups of volunteers for each park, which serve to assist in maintaining and advocating for their parks as necessary.

Priorities were identified via resident surveys as to the seven top facility priorities as well as the seven top programming priorities. These opportunities were identified as the most important to residents after numerous group meetings held at the Recreation Center and determined to be achievable within a five-year timeline.

**Top Seven Facility Priorities**
1) Walking/hiking trails (natural surfaces)
2) Multi-use trails (paved)
3) Restroom buildings
4) Community gardens
5) Soccer/Lacrosse multi-purpose fields
6) Playgrounds and Mountain Bike trails (tied)
7) Dog Parks

**Top Seven Programming Priorities**
1) Community Special Events
2) Outdoor Programs
3) Environmental Education
4) Performing Arts Programs
5) Gardening Classes, Farm-to-table classes and events
6) Fitness and Wellness Programs/Senior Programs and Services (tied)
7) Youth Soccer Programs

**Current Age-Friendly Projects**
1) Numerous classes and activities offered at Tucker Recreation Center for all ages. Games, yoga classes, basketball, pickleball, gymnastics, many others in practice or development
2) Trail building workshops active in Henderson Park and to be expanded to Kelly Cofer Park and Johns’ Homestead Park
3) A multigenerational playground has been constructed at Peter’s Park in Tucker, the first playground in Tucker with equipment for adults too. Plans are for adult playground equipment to be installed at several other parks in Tucker.

*Figure 12 Smoke Rise Community Walking Trail*

*Figure 13 Adult Playground Equipment at Peters Park*
Adult playground equipment can help improve balance, strength, flexibility, range of motion, and coordination. It has also proven to be a good socializing factor.

4) Ongoing efforts for restoration and improvement of the Johns’ Homestead property.
5) Ongoing improvements to the community stage at the Peach Pit in Kelly Cofer Park.
6) Ongoing plantings and educational opportunities at Peach Pit and Pollinator Garden At Kelly Cofer Park.
7) Partnering with Friends of Peter’s Park.
8) Placement of a movable dog park at Montreal Park.
9) Special Holiday activities at various parks by City Parks and Recreation Department.
10) Native Plant and Wildflower Walk at Henderson Park providing information.
   On our native species as well as the Paw Paw Totem and the Chimney Swift Tower donated by Atlanta Audubon Society.
11) TYSA Soccer and tennis courts in use at Henderson Park.
12) Swimming at Kelly Cofer Park Pool and newly acquired Swim & Tennis club.

**Recommendations for improvement**

- Purchase an appropriate parcel for construction of a new city hall facility in the downtown area to include green space to be used for community gatherings as well as ADA accessible restroom facilities and appropriate ingress/egress for patrons of all levels of ability. The downtown area is convenient to restaurants, shopping and residential areas and a public use facility of this type will bring more residents of all agents into the city center.
- Evaluate the existing Smoke Rise Elementary School which is being replaced by a new school on Hugh Howell Road, as a potential senior center, nature center, combination use facility to tie the Smoke Rise area more closely into the City center, including new parks in the area which have yet to be fully developed.
- Evaluate the feasibility of upgrading or replacing Tucker Recreation Center. Many improvements have already been made to the center since Cityhood was attained, including major upgrades to the performance space and restroom facilities. After appropriate studies are commissioned there may be changes to the existing uses of the property or increases of certain types of activities.
- Upgrade playground equipment including ADA access for all parks that have sufficient usable area for such uses.
- Create at least one permanent dog park so that the off-leash management issues in the parks are eliminated. Currently there are no areas reserved for off-leash exercise for dogs which is extremely important from both a public safety perspective and from a quality-of-life perspective as fully 50% or more of families in the US own at least one dog.
- Provide a readily accessible method for residents to be advised of the activities and opportunities available via newsletters, community calendars and other communications which keep them apprised of details of upcoming events. A centralized source is needed so that it is not necessary to access numerous Facebook pages in order to know the true variety of social, volunteer and recreational activities open to all.
- Add security cameras in parks and recreation areas to improve safety, as well as sidewalks and trails connecting the downtown area to outlying residential areas to facilitate alternatives to driving. PATH trails provide walking or biking opportunities as well as making all parts of the city accessible without the need to create additional air quality issues and allows for healthful activities available to residents of all ability levels.
- Develop new municipal parks in areas without pocket parks or more formal park areas.
From the City of Tucker Parks Master Plan:

**ACTION PLAN**

**Short-term Action Items (1 to 5 Years):**
- Conduct recreation center feasibility plan
- Update and/or replace recreation center following feasibility study
- Propose a park bond to fund key capital improvement projects in each city district
- Implement general upgrades to existing developed parks (1 – 3 years):
  - Henderson Park
  - Kelly Cofer Park
  - Peters Park
  - Smoke Rise Park
  - Smoke Rise Crossing
  - Tucker Nature Reserve
- Produce master plans for undeveloped parks as needed and phase one construction plans
- Implement phase one improvements (3-5 years):
  - Lord Park
  - Tucker Recreation Center
  - Johns Homestead Park
  - Montreal Park
  - Smoke Rise Park
- Include trail heads and/or city trail connections within parks that are on the city trail system network as part of park improvements
- Study feasibility of seasonal pool enclosure for winter use at Cofer Park
- Implement park staff growth strategies per staffing recommendations in this plan as park system and programs grow
- Begin to identify park land acquisition opportunities in or near areas identified on the park service area gap analysis map

For more information, please access **The City of Tucker Recreation and Parks Master Plan**
Domain 2: Transportation

Introduction
Transportation is a challenge for any community. It is interwoven with all that is necessary to all activities of living. Most residents of Tucker get around by car. The city is close to Atlanta and to business and industry in the surrounding communities. Cars are a symbol of independence and freedom. Neighbors and family are an available source of rides for older and disabled adults. The problem is that many older adults rely on family that is employed or living in another area. The traffic in and around Atlanta is a major obstacle when planning appointments and rides. Comfort levels vary when asking neighbors for transportation.

Most cities and neighborhoods in the US that developed largely after World War II were designed as commuter communities. Little thought was given to socio economic issues such as aging, disabilities, or financial constraints and transportation. More options from the public, private and nonprofit sectors are needed to fill the many gaps left in a “car-centric society”. Improvements to road design, street and traffic signage, and pedestrian infrastructure can also make driving and walking safer and easier for everyone.

Figure 14 from City-Data.com
**Current Assets**

Like every other community in metropolitan Atlanta, transportation is a complex issue, always on the agenda of state and local government and community services.

- City of Tucker Recreation Center has 2 buses that they use to transport children from the Center to swimming pool, etc. and the Senior Tuckercizers Exercise group has been transported from the Center to various restaurants for a lunch outing. It is standard steps with rail bus, as are most church buses.
- Tucker churches have vans or buses that accommodate members of their congregation for services and outings.
- All the Tucker schools, kindergarten through high school have school bus transportation, but insurance restricts use of the buses for other services.
- Many Senior Living facilities have vans to transport residents for shopping, excursions, and medical appointments.
- MARTA, Tucker’s public transportation has several routes through Tucker, but only along the main streets. Most residential areas are a distance away from bus stop accessibility and protected seating is lacking at many stops.
- MARTA Mobility is a service provided but is costly and is available only through application and often to a waiting list.
- Most of Tucker’s sidewalks have been or are being repaired and miles of new sidewalks are being installed. This will improve walkability and mobility for strollers and for wheelchairs. There has been some concern voiced that the sidewalks are not wide enough for two-way wheelchair traffic. The City has reviewed the sidewalks for ADA compliance.

**Current Age-Friendly Projects**

Dekalb County department of Human Services has a strong transportation program that is available to all Tucker residents 60+.

- The DeKalb County Transportation Voucher Program is designed for seniors living in DeKalb County who are 60 years of age and older. It empowers older adults to get out of their homes and be more active within their communities through the use of transportation vouchers.

- The I Care Volunteer Driver Program serves DeKalb County senior citizens in need of free transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping. I CARE volunteers use their own vehicles and set their own schedules. Each volunteer also provides caring companionship,

- Dekalb County Quality of Life program is a pilot project, funded through the Cares Act, that provides individual transportation for “quality of life” trips which consist of non-medical trips such as shopping, recreation, religious, civic, and social purposes. Tucker was invited to participate and if successful, will be a new budgeted item for the county.
• Senior Transportation provides total service. Volunteer drivers take rider to appointments, usually waiting at the medical office for the client, then driving him or her safely home. The program is designed to enhance and promote the quality of life, independence, and dignity of those served. Services are available to those citizens who need more assistance than public transportation can provide.

**Identified Recommendations**

• **Tucker Trolley**: the idea of a trolley in Tucker has been talked about for a while. Until the 1950s, trolley cars were seen in many cities until cars replaced them. They provided communities with affordable transportation to stores and service needs in and around the city center. Tucker’s Trolley will establish routes along the residential streets, making it convenient for residents to board and get to where they want to go.

• The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Area Agency on Aging, has a long-range blueprint, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTI) that prioritizes transportation spending in the Atlanta region through 2050. This plan includes maintaining and improving roads, highways, transit, and bicycle/walking facilities. Through the ARC’s Human Services Transportation Plan (HST), efforts are being made to assist the Atlanta Region in the provision of integrated, multi-modal transportation for HST populations by:
  - Establishing a decision-making framework based on the personal process HST populations use to evaluate mobility options.
  - Developing a menu of local and regional tactics that will work in a coordinated manner to improve mobility in the Atlanta region.

For more information, please access the City of Tucker Transportation Master Plan.
Domain 3 Housing

Introduction

According to the AARP Housing Workbook “the accessibility, affordability and variety of housing options support the widely held desire of middle-age and older adults to remain in their communities as they age. Age- and ability-friendly housing options allow residents to stay in their own town even when a change in health or physical fitness means that a person needs some help to live safely and with as much independence as possible. Accessibility, housing affordability and choice affect many communities.”

Mission Statement

The Housing Team seeks to be a resource of information, to residents and soon-to-be residents ages 18 and older... related to housing options in Tucker.

Vision Statement

The Housing Team is keeping stakeholders informed of the housing options that are needed in Tucker, the City, Developers, businesses and homeowners.

Current Assets

![Figure 17 Senior Living Apartments in Tucker](image)

![Figure 18 from Neighborhoodscout.com](image)
Total population: 27,581 (Urban population: 26,816, Rural population: 0)

Houses: 16,256 (14,516 occupied: 9,266 owner occupied, 5,222 renter occupied)

% of renters here: 36%
State: 37%

Housing density: 1,353 houses/condos per square mile

Median contract rent in 2017: $736 (lower quartile is $639, upper quartile is $803)
Median rent asked for vacant for-rent units in 2017: $848

Median gross rent in Tucker, GA in 2017: $839
Housing units in Tucker with a mortgage: 6,266 (213 second mortgage, 701 home equity loan, 23 both second mortgage and home equity loan)
Houses without a mortgage: 2,983

Median household income for houses/condos with a mortgage: $102,020
Median household income for apartments without a mortgage: $72,708
Median monthly housing costs: $1,115

Figure 22 from Neighborhoodscout.com

**HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>62.7%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Renters</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 21 from Neighborhoodscout.com

**AGE OF HOMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 or Never</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-1999</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1969</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939 or Older</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 20 from Neighborhoodscout.com

**HOME SIZE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>% of Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Bedroom</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bedrooms</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedrooms</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Bedrooms</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 or more bedrooms</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 19 from Neighborhoodscout.com
Team Values

1. We will identify at the city and county level, who handles communication with developers so duplication of efforts and stepping on toes does not occur.
2. We will foster an environment of participation.
3. We will include and respect the diversity in Tucker, by reaching out to all various groups of residents, to invite and encourage participation.
4. We will keep communication open, utilizing all methods, so not only elected and appointed officials will be kept informed, but also city employees, the business community and residents will know what we are doing.

Short Term Goals <6 months>

1. Take inventory of various housing options.
2. Hold several community zoom meetings to increase the participation on the Housing Committee.
3. Make a contact list of partners in housing, such as AARP, Habitat, City of Tucker, Dekalb County, Silvernest etc.
4. Partner with AARP Georgia to facilitate Home-Fit workshops in the community utilizing the AARP Home-Fit Guides. The guides are a free publication available in multiple languages and featuring smart ways to make a home comfortable, safe, and a great fit for older adults and people of all ages. To learn more visit https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2020/homefit-guide.html.

Medium Term Goals <1 year>

1. Obtain donors to Habitat to use on Tucker projects.
2. Work with Tucker Code Enforcement to identify owners needing assistance with maintenance of their homes.
3. Establish a list of volunteers to help with home projects – coordinated with Habitat.
4. Promote awareness about municipal programs and services that can help older people remain in the community/their homes, rather than move away due to age-related difficulties.

Long Term Goals 1year +

1. Increase and promote community awareness about housing options, home modification opportunities and the benefit of universal design.

Figure 2 from City-Data.com

Figure 24 Ranch Home in Tucker

Figure 25 Habitat for Humanity Project
2. Promote the use of accessory dwelling units – such as in-law suites, backyard bungalows, garage or basement apartments – to provide affordable housing options and income for homeowners.

3. Advocate for the creation of a property tax credit for older residents with limited incomes.

4. Create an option to search for information on the website, using Gwinnett County Parks as a model.

5. Work with Habitat to establish a philanthropic program to create a pool of funds to use in helping seniors repair and make improvements to their homes as well as address code enforcement issues.

6. Work with all domains, the City of Tucker and other agencies, to address the homeless population and solicit opportunities rather than them living on the streets.

Figure 26 Accessory Dwelling Unit example
Domain 4: Social Participation

Introduction

The domain of Social Participation was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure adequate and equal access to leisure and cultural activities for residents and visitors of all ages. The WHO found that “participating in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community, as well as with family, allows older people to continue to exercise their competence, to enjoy respect and esteem, and to maintain or establish supportive and caring relationships.”

The Social Participation Committee kept WHO’s definition in mind when compiling the list of current assets and what we recommend for the future.

Tucker is a young city, incorporated in late 2016. We are excited to bring interaction between all age groups.

- Social engagement (also social involvement, social participation) refers to one’s degree of participation in a community or society.
- Social activity has been found to increase mobility, positive outlook, and the desire to take better care of oneself. In turn, these contribute to good health, longevity, and quality of life.
- Social participation is beneficial for individuals with the onset of many elderly diseases such as dementia, Alzheimer’s, depression and many more.
- Even if not able to be physically with others, social participation can use vast virtual social gathering platforms and social media to allow people to connect with one another.

Current Conditions

- Libraries
  - Activities are offered for both young and old
  - Computers to use technology
  - Training on Computer Use
  - Training rooms for youth and adult education
  - Tax assistance
  - Information available on community events, classes and other offerings

- Tucker Recreation Center (12 acres)
  - The city has extensively committed to address the aging condition through new roofing, air conditioning, painting

Figure 27 Group Adventure

Figure 28 Tucker Recreation Center
and windows to better meet the needs of the residents.
- Classes and activities for different age groups
  - Art Studio
  - Ceramics
  - Scrapbooking
  - Woodcarvers
  - Music
  - Dance for kids and adults
  - Children’s Theater Group
  - Main Street Theatre
  - Girl Scout Store
  - Hybrid Education
  - Health and Fitness
    - Capoeira
    - Exercise Class
    - Meditation
    - Tai Chi
    - Taekwondo
    - Yoga
    - Zumba
  - Gym
    - Gymnastics and Tumbling
    - Basketball
    - Cheerleading
    - Exercise Classes
  - Meetings
  - Games
    - Bridge
    - Canasta
    - Mahjong
  - Sports
    - 6 indoor Pickleball courts and will add outdoor courts
  - Environmental Activities
    - Community-maintained pollinator garden and orchard for all to pick from
    - Butterfly gardens and a number of plants and trees that are native to Georgia
    - Birdwatching
    - Nature Hiking

- Tucker Parks and Recreation
  - Sports
    - Baseball
    - Basketball
    - Football
    - Kickball
    - Soccer
- John's Homestead (47 acres)
  - Hiking
  - Fishing

- Henderson Park (117.10 acres)
  - Hiking, according to person's physical abilities there are signed trails
  - Fishing
  - Picnic Area
  - Playground
  - Soccer Fields
  - Tennis Courts

- Montreal Park (9 acres)
  - Hiking
  - Picnic area
  - Playground

- Peters Park (4 acres)
  - Adult playground equipment
  - Playground
  - Walking Trail
  - Picnic Pavilion
  - Basketball Courts

- Fitzgerald Field (14.79 acres)
  - Football Fields
  - Soccer Fields
  - Baseball Fields

- Lord Park (17.3 acres)
  - Undeveloped

- Smoke Rise (10.54)
  - Hiking
  - Picnic Area

- Smoke Rise II (5.6 acres)
  - Hiking
  - Picnic Area

- Tucker Nature Preserve (9 acres)
  - Hiking
  - Picnic Area
  - Beekeeping

- The Kelly C. Cofer Park (23 acres)
  - Swimming Pool
  - Hiking
  - Fishing
- Picnic Area
- Playgrounds
- Baseball Fields
- Adult softball
- Pollinator garden and orchard
- "Peach Pit" natural amphitheater surrounded by native fruit trees that volunteers help maintain the plantings and do clean-up.
- Community-led venue for music and other performances.
- The Friends of Kelly Cofer Park have workdays at the park with the Tucker High School students and residents of Tucker.

- "Friends of Tucker Parks" have volunteer days that get all ages of people together to help with the parks and allows socializing and meeting new people.

- Main Street is closed for many events:
  - Music and film presentations
  - Tucker Car Cruise In with over 100 cars
  - Tucker Day
  - Taste of Tucker
  - Tucker Independence Day festival
  - Tucker Chili Cookoff
  - Hanukkah and Christmas on Main
  - Tucker New Year's Eve Family Festival

- Tucker has generated multiple Facebook groups that are open to any Tucker resident, and they are VERY active. They bring together people of multiple viewpoints, backgrounds, and ages. Some are used to vent and debate politics, but those same ones, and others, are also places where people can ask for help, recommendations, alert neighbors to public issues, find lost dogs, etc.

- The City of Tucker has a Facebook page and keeps residents informed of what is going on in Tucker.

- Tucker Civic Association and their Lifelong Community have Facebook pages.

- Tucker Running Club

- Tucker Optimist Cub has a Facebook page.

- University System of Georgia offers Seniors the opportunity to audit classes at no charge.

- Tucker hosts the Senior University of Georgia
  - 350 adults meet twice a week to participate in a wide range of classes.
- AARP pilot Reading Programs
- NTO (Never Too Old) a group for seniors at Tucker First Baptist Church
- Matthews Cafeteria, Lawrenceville Highway United Methodist Church and Colossus Restaurant provide venues for Bluegrass and other music.

Religions/Spirituality:
- Non-Denomination (58) Church of God (1)
- Baptist (9) Episcopal (1)
- Evangelical (4) Holiness (1)
- Presbyterian (4) Jewish/Gentile (1)
- Lutheran (3) Latter Day Saints (1)
- Pentecostal (3) Moravians (1)
- Methodist (2) AME (1)
- Apostolic (1) Church of Christ (1)
- Nigerian (1) Seventh Day Adventist (1)

Recommendations:
- Senior/Community Center
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- Senior Corps
- Community Table in restaurants so singles are able to sit with others instead of alone
- Mentoring young adults by seniors
- Mother's Day Out
- Tutoring
- Reading
- Community gardens and gardeners are available to teach children how to garden
- City opens to teach children about civic duties: i.e., mayor for the day
- Story telling: (longtime residents telling stories of Tucker; Veterans stories of war and their service)
- Cooking classes (restaurants)
Domain 5: Respect and Social Inclusion

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) identified Respect and Social Inclusion as a domain “to support and promote ethnic and cultural diversity, along with programs to encourage multigenerational interaction and dialogue.” The WHO found that “the extent to which older people participate in the social, civic and economic life of the city is also closely linked to their experience of inclusion.” In its study, the WHO identified six areas that assist in creating age-friendly respect and social inclusion. These include respectful and inclusive services; public images of aging; intergenerational and family interactions; public education; community inclusion; and economic inclusion. Thus, the Tucker Lifelong Community Committee kept these key elements in mind when addressing current needs and developing recommendations for more Age-Friendly activities that foster respect and social inclusion within the community.

Functioning under the umbrella of the Tucker Civic Association, the Tucker Lifelong Community Committee along with several other organizations, and the City of Tucker focuses on hosting and/or facilitating several events and programs that promote cultural, ethnic and multigenerational interactions, that also indirectly support economic development. Even so, members have identified additional opportunities for improvements in bridging the gap during this evaluation phase assessing Age-friendly situations from a broader perspective. Current ongoing Age-friendly projects, opportunities for improvement, as well as recommendations are factored into the action plan.

Opportunities Identified

The Respect and Social Inclusion Team has identified the following projects as means of bridging the gap between seniors and the younger generation:

- Explore and encourage opportunities for high school students to serve and get to know senior members of the community who attend the Valentine Day Dinner
• Offer students choices of roles to participate in during the set-up, as well as service relating to the operation of the Concession Stand on Adult Field Day
• Develop an “Adopt a Grandparent Program” where students can interact with nursing home residents as well as residents of senior assistance living facilities through storytelling, art, games and technology.

Current Age-Friendly Projects

The following are the current Age-friendly activities that foster respect and social inclusion within the community. They include, yet are not limited to:

• Special events such as the Valentine Day Senior Dinner at the Community Center
• Sponsoring Adult Field Day encouraging movement and healthy living
• Fellowship activities for building community engagement such as routine walking in the gym, board games in the Main Street Gym, Recreation Center and participation in Library events
• Aging in Place Resource Fair held in partnership with St. Andrews Church
• Senior Community Luncheons to support socialization and communications
• Public recognition for Citizen of the month as highlighted in ‘In Tucker’ magazine
• Music and film presentations throughout the year
• Tucker Car Cruise-In (showcasing over 100 cars individuals proudly display)
• Annual Tucker Day (celebrating the community and residents)
• Taste of Tucker (featuring local food service businesses)
• Tucker Independence Day festival
• Tucker Chili Cook-off
• Hanukkah and Christmas on Main Street
• Tucker New Year’s Eve Family Festival
• Senior University of Greater Atlanta, aka SUGA (engaging seniors in learning activities)
• Senior volunteers serving in various roles with community non-profits

Figure 36 Taste of Tucker Annual Event
**Recommendations**

The Respect and Social Inclusion team recommends the assignment of a Community Liaison to both Tucker Middle School and Tucker High School, for the purpose of building and sustaining healthy and positive ongoing intergenerational relationships. That activity will encourage student leaders and their peers to not only get involved, but to also stay involved with our Age-friendly community activities as mentioned above.

Members of this team continue to be excited about the growth and changes that are being addressed in the community to meet the various needs and desires of individuals who have chosen to live here.
Domain 6: Civic Participation and Employment

Introduction

The Civic Participation and Employment domain was identified by the World Health Organization in an effort to promote paid work and volunteer activities for residents, and opportunities to engage in the formulation of policies relevant to their lives. The WHO believes that an age-friendly community is one that provides opportunities for older adults (or all ages) to continue contributing to their communities post-retirement. From their survey, the WHO found that many older adults volunteer to enjoy a “sense of self-worth, of feeling active, and of maintaining their health and social connections.” Through Civic Participation and Employment, an age-friendly community will be one that provides both volunteer and employment opportunities for residents post-retirement. It will also provide training to older (or all) workers and an increased sense of value to their communities, while also preventing isolation among (or all) older residents. The City of Tucker should appoint an advisory board to keep these elements in mind when addressing current needs and developing recommendations for more Age-Friendly Civic Participation and Employment within the community.

The TCA group for Civic Participation and Employment has taken into consideration the following ways that civic participation and employment enhance a person’s quality of life:

- A Sense of Belonging
- A Sense of Ownership
- Empowerment
- Creation of Opportunities
- Development of Collegiality
- Expansion of Civic Engagement
- Involvement of Others in Conversation
- Meeting Fears (either directly or indirectly)
- Mental Stimulation
- Reclamation of One’s Ambitions, Dreams
- Social Interaction

Current Assets

Age-Friendly Organizations and Activities identified in Tucker as ways to engage

Civic engagement through government and civic organizations which meet on a regular basis

- Tucker Civic Association TuckerCivic.org through its Lifelong Community Committee offers the beginning of a directory cataloging various Tucker organizations and activities a resident can use to begin civic engagement.
• Neighborhood Groups which may also have Neighborhood Watch Monthly Meetings should be listed in a community directory to have a base line of current participation opportunities.

• Tucker Historical Society is always maintaining and discovering Tucker’s history beginning in 1872. The association also hosts garden tours. (TuckerHistory.org)

• Friends of Tucker Parks is an organization separate from city government which provides volunteer and philanthropic opportunities. (TuckerParks.org)

• City of Tucker, which incorporated in 2016 encourages residents to serve as board members as well as to attend meetings and offer community input. Sign up their monthly electronic or printed newsletter at TuckerGA.gov.

• Attendance and participation at monthly City Council and Board meetings.

• Attendance and participation at occasional Charettes for Citywide Planning and Development.

• Tucker City may be the first place to begin looking for funding of recreational, educational and social engagement programs, also Dekalb County.

• Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library offers meeting spaces, speakers, and workshops. (dekallibrary.org/branches/tucker)

• Financial contributions to organizations that provide services to residents.

Civic engagement through arts organizations

• Art Tucker: ARTucker is dedicated to showcasing Georgia artists and makers while cultivating a vibrant arts community in Tucker, Georgia. (artucker.com)

• Tucker Arts Guild: The Tucker Arts Guild (TAG) is an organization of artists interested in highlighting and promoting the artistic aspects of the community. (TuckerArtsGuild.org)

• Main Street School of the Arts is a place where fun, creativity & academia come together to give a well-rounded approach to the arts. (MainStreetSchoolofArt.com)

• Taylor Academy of Fine Arts is a classical ballet school specializing in precision of movement and performing arts. (TaylorFineArts.com)

• Atlanta Woodcarvers Club and Tucker Chippers (see Tucker Recreation Center)

• Main Street Theatre mission is to produce superior theatre that entertains and connects the community with the arts and with each other. (TuckerTheater.com)
Civic engagement through educational organizations

- Board of Education Committee and Regular Board of Education Meetings offer opportunities.
- Attending and participating in PTO, PTA, and other relevant school organizations.
- Senior University of Greater Atlanta, SAGA brings together 350 retired persons twice weekly for educational seminars taught by skilled personnel and meets in Tucker. (SU-GA.org)

Civic engagement through business and employment organizations

- Tucker Business Association mission is to serve as a unified voice of the men and women who form the business backbone of the Tucker Community. (TuckerBiz.org)
- Old Town Tucker Merchants Association (OTMA) hosts a Chili Cook Off on Main Street. (OTTMA.com)
- Two organizations in Tucker focus on improving and maintaining our retail, warehouse, and office areas. They offer opportunities to serve on volunteer boards and are a good directory of employers. (TuckerSummitCID.com TuckerNorthLakeCID.com CID means Community Improvement District)
- Tucker Civic Association hosts a Job Fair each November. The Job Fair is in honor of veterans, but all job seekers are welcome. (tuckercivic.org)
- Tucker residents need to be aware of movie and video production opportunities. There is an active movie and tv production industry in DeKalb county. (dekalbentertainment.com)

Civic engagement through athletic and recreation organizations

- Serving and volunteering as coaches and team members on various teams.
- Tucker Recreation Center is part of the Tucker Parks Department (Tuckerga.gov/departments/parks_and_recreation)
- Tucker Football League established in 1955 is widely recognized as one of the most successful youth sports organizations in America. (TuckerFootball.com)
• Triumph Youth Soccer Association mission is to provide a quality program for youth that cultivates player development and passion for the game thru exceptional instruction in a family atmosphere. (TYSA.com)
• Tucker Trail Running Group: This group is for Tucker Trail Runners to schedule group runs and race photo meet ups, and to connect with trail runners in the area. (on Facebook)
• Tucker Running Club: The purpose of the group is the scheduling and coordination of running/walking activities between group members. (on Facebook)

Civic engagement through political organizations

• Joining the county organizations of your political party and attending meetings.
  o Dekalb Democrats DekalbDems.com
  o Dekalb County Republicans DekalbGOP.org
• Serving on candidate or issue campaign committees.
• Seeking employment as a consultant for candidate campaigns.
• Attending and participating in political forum of candidates seeking offices and of course getting out the vote.

Civic engagement through helping residents live a healthy lifestyle

• Referring individuals and families to various organizations for assistance
• Utilizing Tucker Parks and Recreation Center
• NET Food Pantry in Tucker and other pantries. FoodPantries.org
• Home alteration to accommodate less abled persons at various phases of life.
• Volunteering with the Various Ministries in Tucker.
• Home Delivered Meals.

Civic engagement through assisting organizations communicate their story to local media, Facebook, etc.

The Communications Department of City of Tucker maintains links to media including, print, radio, and television. (Tuckerga.gov/news/local_media/index.php)

Civic engagement through service and social organizations

• Toastmaster speaking group of Gwinnett County and other areas. (Toastmasters .org)
• Smoke Rise Garden Club  The purpose of this club shall be to stimulate the interest of amateur gardeners in the study of flowers. Landscape gardening, the environment and conservation and the beautification of our neighborhood. (SmokeRiseGardenClub.com)
• Stone Mountain Rotary engages in various projects to assist the community. (StoneMountainRotary.org)
• Tucker Rotary Club engages in various projects to assist the community. (TuckerRotary.org)
• Tucker LaVista Lions Club  The primary purpose is to serve the communities in our area and provide fellowship among like-minded individuals. (e-clubhouse.org)
• Tucker Optimist Club promotes active interest in god government. (tuckeroptimistclub.org)

**Civic engagement thru groups for youth with adult supervision beyond schools:**

- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America

**Civic engagement thru annual events and less than monthly meetings in Tucker**

- National Night Out where Dekalb police host meetings with the community, usually in October.
- Tucker Day Road Race.
- Community blood drives.
- Tucker Cruise In of classic vehicles on Main Street.
- Tucker Day on Main Street held the 2nd Saturday in May.
- Tucker Chili Cook Off on Main Street March.
- Fourth of July on Main street which occurs a day or two before.
- Health Fairs or other type of annual events.
- Participation in occasional surveys that directly or indirectly impact the civic, social, physical, economic and intellectual well-being of the community and Its residents.
Opportunities Identified

Following are services provided in other cities which have not been identified in Tucker:

- A website for public to respond to specific questions about the community, such as ‘What do you like about Tucker or what is your best/worst experience with Tucker? Responses are then posted on the site to provide a resource for interested parties seeking personal feedback about Tucker. While there are currently various comments on Face Book pages, there is no formal tabulation of concerns.
- An organization which helps age 50+ students write and publish their life stories/experiences, which in turn, enlightens others’ lives when read. Perhaps this can be worked into the library program on careers.
- An organization that assists impoverished people of all ages to tell their stories in their authentic voice, which are commercially available on Amazon.com and in bookstores. Group considers poverty to be a critical element to be addressed in all social planning strategies.
- Service Learning – Places students in the community to participate in various service projects.
- Law School – Provides selected legal assistance to those who do not understand the legal process or who cannot afford representation.

Identified Goals and Implementation Steps

Utilizing the information gathered from the World Health Organization, various service organizations and knowledge of current conditions, the Civic Participation and Employment workgroup developed a series of recommendations that will create a more Age-Friendly Tucker:

The following list of recommendations and implementation steps have been developed:

- **Recommendation 1**: Complete a community directory of existing organizations and activities as outlined on these pages to have a base line of organizations and activities an individual can use to become engaged. Disseminate this directory electronically to the listed organizations, schools, employment organizations, athletic organizations, Tucker Cofer library, places of worship and other appropriate organizations. Encourage additions directed to TCA or an individual.
  - Implementation: Either hire a person to build a directory following the categories above or, preferably, seek one volunteer to focus on one category. Seek publication by the City and or local publishers which serve Tucker. Also post on TuckerCivic.org
- **Recommendation 2** Sponsor a website for the public to post specific questions or comments about the community and post responses on the site as a resource for others seeking information about the Tucker community.
  - Implementation: Identify possibilities for the website, including a host that can develop the website and maintain the website information and updates.
- **Recommendation 3**: Encourage and help adults write and publish their life stories/experiences to enlighten others on a website and or write a short review of life
experiences that could be shared with schools so teachers could use a person as speaker resource. This might also be coordinated thru Cofer Library using people as resources.
  - Implementation Step A: Set up writing workshops for the public.
  - Implementation Step B: Provide “Train the Trainer” workshops that will allow volunteers to assist others with their storytelling.

**Recommendation 4:** Assist impoverished people, through Lens of Poverty, to tell their own stories in their authentic voice which are available through Amazon and in bookstores.
  - Implementation Step A: Marketing of “the stories” through media and video.

**Recommendation 5:** Place students in the community to participate in various community service projects.
  - Implementation Step A: Identify community needs.
  - Implementation Step B Communicate needs to various schools.

**Recommendation 6:** Provide referrals for legal assistance with workplace rights to those who do not understand the legal process and/or cannot afford representation.
  - Implementation Step A: Identify and contact appropriate legal representatives or agency (AARP, GA Legal Services, Emory Law School, and the faith-based community).

**Recommendation 7:** Build and expand collaborations with local colleges & universities to leverage opportunities for senior adults and others in such programs as professional studies, enrichment classes to strengthen/learn new skills, service learning (internships/community service programs) free classes for 62+ adults, Encore Program and EMBA degree programs.
  - Implementation Step A: Have Age-Friendly representatives meet with organizations to spread the word. Examples include The Georgia Informer.

**Recommendation 8:** Ensure Tucker maintains Age-Friendly focus to address availability of large print records (taxes, etc.), telephone communications for the deaf and promotes an active lifestyle.
  - Implementation Step A: Identify options and develop strategies for Age-Friendly group.

**Recommendation 9:** Establish a grid display showing base line of community engagement based on sex, age groups and race in various Tucker organizations & activities. Implementation could be achieved through consensus of observations of how many persons in various categories attend various meetings or activities in Tucker over the past year. These consensus numbers can then be compared to numbers in 2020 and then 2030 Census to see if participation has gone up or down by category. For example: Once we receive the 2020 Census numbers, we will know the population of various groups. Then thru observation at meetings we can learn if various meetings are attracting participants which parallel census numbers, or if certain groups need outreach.
Domain 7: Communication and Information

Introduction

The World Health Organization has identified Communication and Information as a domain because of the importance of keeping residents connected to their community and being informed. Residents need to be informed about events, emergencies, and government meetings, among other things. Access to this information should be provided through several means. We need to remember that not all residents are comfortable with technology or have the means to acquire technology.

Current Conditions

PRINT

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution (ajc.com)
- DeKalb Champion (thechampionnewspaper.com)
- DeKalb Neighbor (mdjonline.com/neighbor_newspapers/dekalb/)
- In Tucker (tuckerga.gov/in-tucker.php)
- Our Town DeKalb (ourtowndekalb.com)
- Decaturish (decaturish.com)
- Smoke Signal (smokesignalnews.com)
- Tucker Observer (tuckerobserver.com)
- Up Close & Personal
- City of Tucker prints and distributes flyers to parents at Tucker schools
- City of Tucker prints and mails flyers/announcements to residents and businesses

RADIO

- News Radio 106.7 (newsradio1067.com)
- WABE (wabe.org)
- WSB (wsbradio.com)
- Radio Tucker (radiotucker.com)

TELEVISION

- WAGA (fox5atlanta.com)
- WGCL (cbs46.com)
- WSB (wsbtv.com)
- WXIA (11alive.com)
FACEBOOK
- City of Tucker – Government
- City of Tucker Georgia – Community
- Tucker Town Talk (TTT-Est2010)
- AARP Livable Communities
- Numerous other Facebook pages for Tucker civic and non-profits

WEBSITES
- Tuckerga.gov
- aarp.org/livable-communities
- Livability Index: https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/search#Tucker+GA+USA
- Decaturish.com
- Tuckercivic.org
- Tuckerbiz.org
- Nextdoor DeKalb is a popular website for Tucker residents social interaction
- Numerous other websites for Tucker civic and non-profits

LIBRARIES
There are two branches of DeKalb Public Library in Tucker and another close by. All branches have computers available for public use with free internet access, thousands of books, and educational programming for library visitors.
- Tucker Reid Cofer Library
- Northlake Barbara Loar Library
- Embry Hills Branch Library

OTHER
- Code Red DeKalb Emergency Notification System (an automated system that calls registered phone numbers to announce the emergency)
- Emergency Storm Siren
- Flags on light posts on Main Street

FROM CITY OF TUCKER 2020 ANNUAL REPORT
the City saw record growth across all its social media platforms, reaching more people than ever before.
- Facebook Followers: 4,403 (Up 22%)
- Twitter Followers: 762 (Up 38%)
- Instagram Followers: 1,937 (Up 52%)
- Magazine Mail Subscribers: 507 (Up 31%)
- Email Subscribers: 2,451 (Up 5%)
- Website Page views: 360,580 (Up 25%)
Current Age-Friendly Projects

• A directory of non-profit and community resources on the Tuckercivic.org website

Figure 45 Online Directory of Community Resources

• City of Tucker Community events calendar

Figure 46 Tucker Community Calendar

• City of Tucker Government events calendar

Figure 47 Tucker Government Calendar
- City of Tucker Parks Calendar

![Tucker Parks Calendar](image1)

*Figure 48 Tucker Parks Calendar*

- A directory of business resources on Tuckerbiz.org

![Tucker Business Directory](image2)

*Figure 49 Tucker Business Directory*

- Tuckerga.gov hosts a directory of community volunteer organizations

![Tucker Volunteer Organizations List](image3)

*Figure 50 Tucker Volunteer Organizations List*
• Tucker Community Action Team is a confederation of various non-profits in the area where event information is shared.
• Tucker Civic Association has 4 District representatives that seek out neighborhood news and concerns for dissemination to the rest of the Tucker community.
• Public seminars given by Tucker Civic Association, Tucker Business Association, and other groups.
• City of Tucker has completed a broadband study which will highlight business needs for high-speed internet service.

Recommendations
• Install banner flags on posts at Tucker High School and Tucker Middle School announcing school events as well as community events.
• Create bulletin boards at several locations such as city hall, libraries, schools, grocery stores, big box stores, and Main Street.
• Identify and complete the community directory of existing organizations and activities. Disseminate this directory electronically to the listed organizations, schools, employment organizations, athletic organizations, Tucker Cofer library, places of worship and other appropriate organizations. Provide this directory in pamphlet form to be distributed to new residents and new businesses.
• Implement city-wide Wi-Fi capability.
Domain 8  Community and Health Services

Introduction

In order to have a thriving community we need to have a healthy community. There are many needs to be met within the community. Among these are Primary care providers and specialists, access to hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics. Mental health services, substance abuse programs, pharmacies, and dental care. Also necessary is access to facilities that address long term health issues such as physical therapy and dialysis, and others.

Other community needs are intergenerational community center and recreation programs. Programs or groups that support a healthy lifestyle are essential. Such programs can be seminars on food security and healthy cooking and eating practices, daily exercise routines, or joining a walking club.

Current Conditions

Most people moving to or remaining in communities have specific wants and needs. Schools, grocery and drug stores, housing, and recreation all are important in the decision making, and because access to health and community services are essential to a good quality of life, they too must be considered.

Tucker is fortunate to have access to quality care and services. The community is close to Emory University Medical Center and its satellite clinic and hospital is in Tucker. There are numerous clinics, including medical specialists, dentists, and specialty care services. Two geriatric specialty medical services recently opened in Tucker. Care continues outside of the hospital with an urgent care clinic, community paramedics, and police and fire departments that are connected to residents through outreach and programs available to all. Tucker has specialty businesses also help people who need extra assistance with in-home care, home maintenance and repairs, meals, support groups and fitness opportunities. The county WIC program is located in Tucker as are offices for mental health and addition services.

There are two pharmacies in Tucker that have clinics operated by Nurse Practitioners. Each of the city grocery stores has pharmacy services with delivery for older adults and those with disabilities.

Peter and Paul’s Place is an organization that serves and supports older Adult Parents of adult children with disabilities. A center will be opened in

Age-Friendly Action Plan
Tucker, GA
Tucker to offer activities and services for all, the goal being to bring awareness and a better understanding of the capabilities and needs of those with disabilities.

The pandemic has increased the awareness of Tucker’s many older adults who are isolated from family and social communication and the impact is has on physical and mental health.

The Age-Friendly project has made the teams more aware of the number of homeless people in the community and an increasing number of the homeless people are over 65. This and many of the other issues identified overlap all the domains and will be a focus of the strategic plan.

Churches and community centers have been participating in Dementia Friends Programs. The virus ended programs, but local media, provides notices of support services.

Tucker High School has several student organizations and programs requiring student community participation and service.

The city is fortunate to have many lawyers, counselors, child and adult, long term care and independent communities, as well as a community recreation center that offers programs for all ages.

The Main Street Theatre, formed in Tucker, invites would be thespians bring their talents to the city's stage.

Many not-for-profit services are available to residents of all ages and churches in Tucker are very supportive of the needs of their congregations.

Dekalb County provides transportation services, medical and social for residents of Tucker over the age of 60.

![Figure 53 Main Street Theatre](image)

**Opportunities Identified**

The problem that was identified is that there is a lack of awareness of available services and how to access them was a common theme. Supportive services cannot help if people do not know about or have the capacity to access them. Understanding the breadth and scope of services available and having those resources available to residents when they need them most, is necessary to good community health. The last year has interrupted the progress of the Age-Friendly Project but using the information that has been collected, members are optimistic that things will improve, and the project will move forward.

For now, the city has to seek out transportation resources that can help people get places. Churches have volunteers who help with transportation for their members. There are a few transportation and taxi services in Tucker. LifeSpan Resources has offered to bring their Medical Escort Transportation (MET) Program to Tucker but volunteers are needed.
Current Age-Friendly Projects

Dekalb County department of Human Services has a strong transportation program that is available to all Tucker residents 60+.

- **The DeKalb County Transportation Voucher Program**: for seniors living in DeKalb County who are 60 years of age and older. This program enables older adults to get out of their homes and be more active within their communities through the use of transportation vouchers.

- **The I Care volunteer Driver Program**: serves DeKalb County senior citizens in need of free transportation to medical appointments and grocery shopping. I CARE volunteers use their own vehicles and set their own schedules. Each volunteer also provides caring companionship.

- **Dekalb County Quality of Life program**: A pilot project, funded through the CARES Act, that provides individual transportation for “quality of life” trips which consist of non-medical trips such as shopping, recreation, religious, civic, and social purposes. Tucker was invited to participate and if successful, will be a new budgeted item for the county.

- **Senior Transportation**: Volunteer drivers take rider to appointments, usually waiting at the medical office for the client, then driving him or her safely home. The program is designed to enhance and promote the quality of life, independence, and dignity of those served. Services are available to those citizens who need more assistance than public transportation can provide.

- **Adult Playground Facility**: Adult playground equipment can help improve balance, strength, flexibility, range of motion, and coordination. It has also proven to be a good socializing factor. A multigenerational playground had been constructed at Peter’s Park in Tucker, the first playground in Tucker with equipment for adults too. Plans are for adult playground equipment to be installed at several other parks in Tucker.

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Figure 54 Adult Playground Station
**Recommendations and Implementation Steps**

Good mental and physical health are critical to quality of life. A community that provides access to healthcare services, healthy food options, services that promote and support healthy behaviors will contribute to the wellbeing of all residents. Mental health and health literacy should be considered when assessing community support and health services. All these issues can be a threat to wellbeing and can affect overall health.

- Identify ways that will increase awareness of available services and how to access them.
- Improve “health literacy” communications to increase understanding the breadth and scope of services available.
- Identify ways to make resources available to residents when they need.
- Partner with Tucker High School to address services that could be provided.
- Work with local businesses to continue home delivery and pick-up services.
- Offer Dementia Friends training to community members, city staff, business leaders, and others.
- Meet with organization, community groups, and city officials to determine strategies to improve awareness among citizens of the many services available and how to access them.

- Work in partnership with these organizations to host educational workshops including:
  - AARP Caregiving Resources (aarp.org/caregiving)
  - Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (rosalynncarter.org)
- Increase awareness of the police and fire department and how they can support the community.
- Make all residents aware of the "Yellow Dot" programs: a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention during that first hour after a medical emergency. Yellow Dots are placed on the driver's side rear window of their vehicle or on the triple tree of a motorcycle to alert first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment. The Yellow Dot program can also be used in the home by placing the decal on or beside the front or entry door and placing the packet on the refrigerator.

![Your Yellow Dot Kit contains](image)

*Figure 55 Yellow Dot Kit*
Conclusion

“There is much to be learned from the young and from the old and for all of us and to learn from each other and to share the resources that are available to us in our community,” Dr. Lois Ricci

Two years ago, Tucker became an Age Friendly City. Like everywhere, we were affected by the pandemic that hit the US, but after many meetings, in person and via zoom later, the action plan for Age Friendly Tucker came together. Through the efforts of local leaders, businesses, organizations, and Tucker residents, information was gathered, ideas were submitted, and city documents were assembled for the action plan. Our Age Friendly project coordinator compiled, edited, and formatted the document and the Tucker Civic Association’s Lifelong Community committee is proud to submit the Age-Friendly Tucker Action Plan.

The action plan is the final step in the planning process and the first step in the implementation. We know that now is the time to build a city that not only accommodates younger or older people, but is one that empowers every generation to thrive, today and tomorrow.

The term ‘age-friendly’ is used, not to promote an older population, but to look at the entire population from infancy through old age. The sidewalk has to be safe for the stroller and the walker. Transportation must accommodate everyone needing a way to get to school, to work or to the doctor. Services must be made available for everyone regardless of age.