

SPOTLIGHT: DEKALB CITIES

discover clarkston



Georgia Perimeter College Clarkston Campus



The City of Clarkston is known by the phrase “Where Possibilities Grow” and is noted for its diversity. Clarkston owes much of its beginnings to the Georgia Railroad. In the 1830s, the Georgia Railroad built a rail line through what is present day Clarkston to connect the merchants of Athens with outlets in Augusta and South Carolina.

The City of Clarkston was officially chartered by Governor Alexander H. Stevens on December 12, 1882. Clarkston was named in honor of Colonel W.W. Clark, a Covington Lawyer and a Director of the Georgia Railroad. Because the railroad made Atlanta so accessible for commuting, Clarkston became a community of homeowners who worked in Atlanta. Clarkston became one of the South’s first “suburban” communities. Commuting citizens accounted for much of Clarkston’s early growth.

In the 1990s, refugee asylum programs in the United States identified Clarkston as a good fit for displaced persons of many different backgrounds. By the 2000s, the local high school had students from more than 50 countries and by some estimates, half the population was from outside the U.S. Clarkston is home to the central campus of the Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia Piedmont Technical College.

Clarkston is also the home of the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra, based at Georgia Perimeter College’s Clarkston Campus. Of the 85 players in the full orchestra, only a core of 12 are paid a small stipend to act as principal players. The other 76 are volunteer players from the community. DSO plays up to eight concerts each year including the Subscription Series, Children’s Concert, Picnic Pops Concerts, Free Community Concerts, and special performances.

Clarkston has remained a small city that encompasses approximately 700 acres or 1.1 square miles. Citizens of Clarkston enjoy a commitment to being a walking and biking community. Today, the railroad still runs through Clarkston as a steadfast reminder of the city’s historic beginning.

POINTS OF INTEREST / COLLEGES

Georgia Perimeter College is a two-year associate degree-granting unit of the University System of Georgia. GPC serves metro Atlanta with multiple campus locations and offers 40+ programs of study, including Nursing, Business Administration, Education, Dental Hygiene, Criminal Justice and Sign Language Interpreting. They have one of the most culturally diverse campuses in the University System of Georgia, with students from more than 100 nations. **555 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021** **678-891-3200 | GPC.edu**

DeKalb Symphony Orchestra - Established in 1964, DeKalb Symphony Orchestra has served the community by offering audiences an enjoyable symphonic experience in a relaxed, unpretentious, affordable setting. DSO has been housed since its inception at Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston. **678-891-3565 | DeKalbSymphony.org**

Georgia Piedmont Technical College is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia and provides education for a four-county service area. Established in 1961, Georgia Piedmont Technical College is one of the oldest and most respected of Georgia’s 33 technical colleges and includes a conference center. **495 N. Indian Creek Dr, Clarkston, GA 30021 | 404-297-9522 | GPTC.edu**

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- "TIME Magazine called Clarkston 'the most diverse square mile in America' and it has also been written about in best selling books like *What is the What* and *Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference.*" – Global Frontier Mission
- 31.8% of population is foreign born
- #11 on the list of "Top 101 cities with largest percentage of males in occupations: physicians and surgeons (population 5,000+)"
- #7 on the list of "Top 101 cities with largest percentage of females working in industry: broadcasting and telecommunications (population 5,000+)"
- Roughly 75% of the population is under the age of 40
- Roughly 60% of homes in Clarkston were built in the 1970s and 1980s
- 60 languages spoken in a 1.1 square mile, that's a new language every 100 sq ft!

**LODGING NEAR CLARKSTON/
MEMORIAL DRIVE AREA**

America's Best Value

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(678) 705-1574

Home 1 Extended Stay

4893 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(678) 553-1200

Metro Extended Stay Hotel

5075 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(404) 292-5075

PARKS & RECREATION

In 2011, the City of Clarkston received a grant from USTA (United States Tennis Association) that allowed for the repair and resurfacing of the two existing tennis courts and convert them into one court with four 36 foot permanent courts and one 78 foot court with 60 food blended lines. The City of Clarkston facility is the first municipal facility in the country to have completed this conversion.



The USTA 10 and under initiative – which incorporates the "Quickstart" format of playing tennis, allows kids to learn real tennis and have fun doing it. 10 and under tennis follows almost every other youth sport and uses rackets, balls, and courts that are sized right for kids so that they can enjoy and stay in the game right from the start.

In 2012, Clarkston completed the Milam Park Renovation Project. With the completion of this renovation project, Clarkston residents have access to modern playground equipment, refurbished restrooms, renovated multipurpose recreation areas for soccer and baseball, new parking surfaces, refurbished pavilions with new grills and a new ADA compliant ramp and sidewalk that provides full accessibility to the entire park.



Mayor

Edward "Ted" Terry

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City Manager

Keith A. Barker

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Council Members

Ahmed Hassan
Warren Hadlock
Robert Hogan
Dean Moore
Dianne Leonetti
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City Clerk

Tracy Ashby

Chief of Police

Christine Hudson