



# 2025 *In Review*

February 3, 2026  
ChaQuias Miller Thornton, City Manager





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# Report Summary

The City of Clarkston 2025 **In Review** Report is an administrative report of the achievements and activities for the Clarkston Community during the 2025 calendar year. The report does not serve to provide financial data being that the City is currently engaging in audit of



its annual financials. However, the report provides information about the City's programs and initiatives that were implemented and/or performed in 2025.

# Message from *The Manager*



2025 was a year of goal setting, plan composition and transition for our community. During the past months, we have begun the composition of major plans, projects and initiatives that will shape the future of our community for years to come. We have faced challenges head on, we have guided transition with a strategic approach, and we have managed change with collaboration, teamwork, and collective support.

Some of our major accomplishments have set the standard for how the City of Clarkston engages its residents and stakeholders, and brings community to the table on the important issues that impact quality of life. From the award-winning approach to community engagement established during a Greenway Trail Study initiative, to the high community feed-back collected during our city's first Housing Summit, in 2025 the City of Clarkston has made evident its commitment to community-driven progress.

Our 2046 Comprehensive Plan document, set to be completed in 2026, is dubbed with the phrase One Community, One Shared Future, and the 2025 year has set the stage for One Unified Vision. We are committed in 2026 to realize that vision by bringing action to the goals set within the many plans that the City has developed.





# Team Clarkston

*Mayor and City Council*

At the start of 2025 the City Council Consisted of the following officials



Mayor  
Beverly  
Burks



Vice Mayor  
Deborah  
Johnson



Council  
Sharifa  
Adde



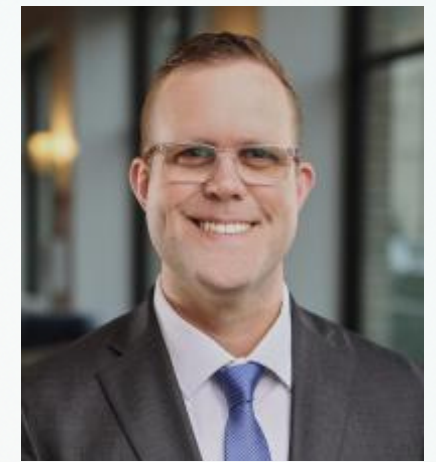
Council  
YT  
Bell



Council  
Jamie  
Carroll



Council  
Susan  
Hood



Council  
Mark  
Perkins

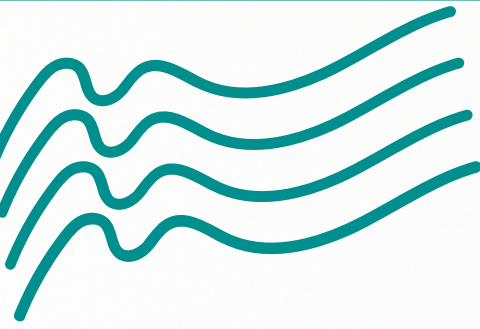
**During the November 2025 election the following officials were elected to the City Council, replacing Councilmembers Carroll and Hood as members of the Governing Body. Mr. Carroll and Ms. Hood did not seek re-elections.**



Council  
Lynn  
Bayonne



Council  
Dean  
Moore



# Team Clarkston

*Executive Leadership Team*

## ADMINISTRATION



Dr. Dwight Baker  
HR & Risk  
Management



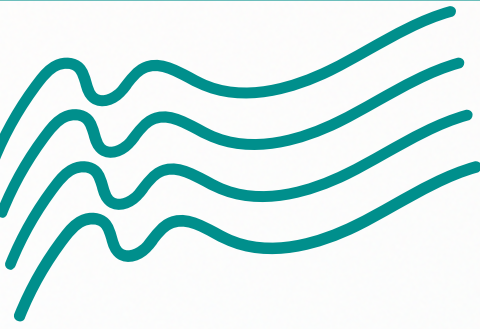
Yolanda McGee  
Equity, Diversity &  
Inclusion Officer



Tomika Mitchell  
City Clerk



Kiesha Dixon  
Special Projects  
Manager



# Team Clarkston

## *Executive Leadership Team*

Continued.....



Lillian Triplett  
**Court**  
Administrator



Michael Duncan  
**Parks & Rec**  
Director



Richard Edwards  
**Planning & Dev**  
Director



Xavier Todd  
**Public Safety**  
Assistant Chief



Marcus Seaton  
**Public Works**  
Director

# Objectives



## Planning

- Annexation Plan
- Fiscal Planning
- Housing Plan
- Strategic Plan Development



## Efficiency of Processes/Services

- Stabilizing Organization and Organizational Culture
- Operational Efficiency



## Connection

- Community Engagement
- Collaboration with Partners
- Communication Strategy
- Linking Goals/Plans to Action

*Growing Possibilities*

# 2025

# Key Achievements

## **Permanent Placement of City Manager Position**

In late March 2025, the City Council appointed ChaQuias MillerThornton as City Manager for the City. The City Manager serves as the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer for the City and reports to the Mayor and City Council. The City Manager is also responsible for managing the overall operation of all city departments, and ensuring that the charter, laws, ordinances, and resolutions of the City Council are enforced and implemented. Ms. Miller-Thornton is a leader that is committed to thoughtful progress, meaningful engagement, and a future shaped by collaboration. Tammy Saddler-Jones held the position in interim status for the 18 months prior.

## **Clarkston Housing Summit**

The City held its first Housing Summit and a collection of mini summits. A report document containing the housing data and feedback, was unanimously approved by City Council on October 7, 2025. This project was through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) through the Atlanta Regional Commission. This grant program only required the city to pay \$500 for the services provided from ARC. This report was designed to provide the city with housing data trends and to incorporate community feedback for future housing priorities in the city.

## **ICMA Economic Mobility & Opportunity Grant Award**

The City was awarded a grant that totals \$304,000 over 30 months to hire an Economic Mobility Manager to address economic mobility issues in the city, including house, access to food, access to health care, and workforce development.

## **City Hall - Facilities and Services Transtion**

In August 2025, Grand-opening was held for the new (temporary) City Hall at 736 Park North Boulevard. City services transitioned from 3 separate sites to one (1) 27K sqft facility. All city services, except Public Works operations, are conducted from one location.

## **CivicPlus – Agenda & Meeting Management Software**

One of the City's 2025 objectives was to improve efficiency of processes, and to subsequently improve service delivery. June 2025 marked the project kick-off date for the City's implementation of an agenda and meeting management software that provides an end-to-end solution that enables clerks to easily manage agendas, minutes, and public meetings, while providing the public with unparalleled transparency and access to the meeting process. The software live date was October 2025 and implementation completion date was December 2025.

## **The City's Safe Streets for All Project**

In 2023 The City of Clarkston was awarded a \$1 million federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. In July 2025 the City engaged with Kimley-Horn to kick-off the process aimed at devising the plan. The plan will provide a comprehensive approach to significantly reduce serious injuries and deaths on highways, roads, and streets. The City Council committed by resolution to a "Vision Zero" plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in the City.

## **City Agriculture Plan**

The City's Ag Plan was unanimously approved by City Council on November 6, 2025. This plan is a forward-thinking framework developed in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Food Well Alliance (FWA) to cultivate a more inclusive, sustainable, and connected local food system.

## **Clarkston Downtown Development Strategic Visioning Plan**

Phase 1 of the plan with Georgia Tech started in 2025. This was a project designed to provide a strategic vision and mission statement for the Downtown Development Authority.

## **Clarkston Greenway Phase 1 Greenway and Trail Design**

The City kicked off phase 1 (concept design ) for the City Greenway Trails Design with AtkinsRealis in August 2025. This phase of the project will provide design concepts for Phase 1 of the Clarkston Greenway Trails. Phase I Project is a community-wide effort that will ultimately lead to a multi-use trail system, built in phases over the coming years. When all phases of the system are built, the residents of Clarkston will be able to connect to local parks, neighborhoods, downtown Clarkston and regionally to areas outside of Clarkston such as DeKalb County and the City of Tucker.

## **Parks & Recreation Master Plan: April 2025 – June 2026**

### **Perez Planning & Design, INC**

The City of Clarkston is committed to providing fair and equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, recreation facilities, programs, and special events for all community members. The City of Clarkston Parks and Recreation Master Plan will support this goal by outlining a clear vision and strategy for future development. The completed Master Plan will include a comprehensive inventory of existing facilities, an analysis of community needs, recommendations for improvements, and an implementation strategy. Several community engagement sessions held within the plan composition process serve to ensure that the plan is informed by the community. Once finalized, the Master Plan will be presented to the Mayor and City Council for review and approval.

## **2025 Planning & Economic Development Awards**

- American Planning Association – 2025 National Planning Award for Advancing Diversity & Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff for the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study.
- Georgia Planning Association – 2024 Outstanding Planning Process Award for the city's efforts on the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study. (Awarded in 2025 due to Hurricane Helene and cancellation of the 2024 Fall GPA Conference in Augusta, GA)
- Georgia Planning Association – 2024 Outstanding Public Involvement Award for the city's efforts on the Clarkston Greenway Feasibility Study. (Awarded in 2025 due to Hurricane Helene and cancellation of the 2024 Fall GPA Conference in Augusta, GA)

## Youth Summer Basketball Camp

Dates: June 24 – 27, 2025

Location: Clarkston First Baptist Church

Participation: Over 50 kids participated in the camp during the week

Partnership: Rowsom Sports, Clarkston First Baptist Church, and Veterans & Community Outreach Foundation.

The Camp is a community partnership designed to provide free basketball instruction to youth in the Clarkston community – teaching participants the fundamentals of the game, core skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting, all within a supportive and engaging environment.



## Back to School Backpack Giveaway

Date: July 26, 2025

Location: Milam Park

Participation: 500 Backpacks were given out at this event

The primary purpose of a backpack giveaway event is to equip under-served students with essential school supplies, reducing financial strain on families and boosting student confidence for the new academic year. These events foster community, promote educational equity, and ensure children start school prepared and excited.



## SafeSplash Water Safety Classes

Dates: July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 17 (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Location: Milam Park Pool

Participation: 30 Kids from the Clarkston Community

Partnership: Malaika Minja – Atlanta International School

The primary purpose of SafeSplash water safety classes is to prevent drowning and reduce water-related accidents by equipping individuals of all ages with essential survival skills, an understanding of potential risks, and proactive safety habits. These classes promote a safe, respectful, and confident approach to the water, providing an important layer of protection that helps reduce the likelihood of water-related incidents. Instruction includes breathing techniques, floating and gliding, basic swimming strokes, kicking and arm movements, coordination and timing, and treading water.

# Programs

Continued.....

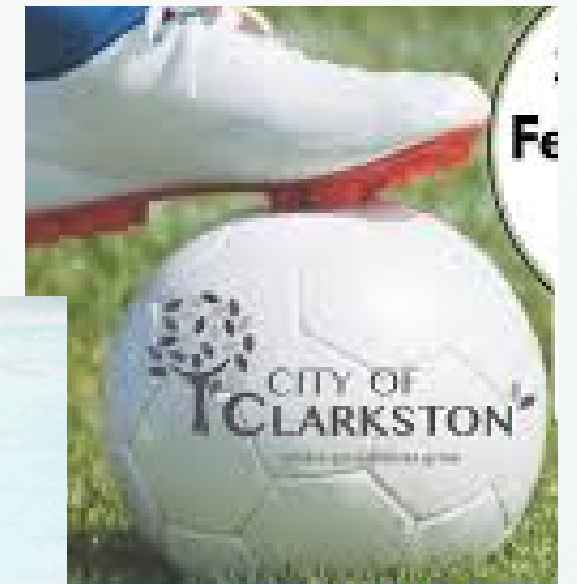
## Fall Youth Soccer Program

Dates: September – November 2025

Location: Milam Park Soccer Field

Participation: 55 Kids in the Program

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## **Installation of Sports Field Lights**

Completed: November 2025 – January 2026

Location: Milam Park Upper Soccer Field

Musco Sports Lighting, LLC

Cost: \$180,000

Installing sports field lighting in Clarkston will maximize facility usage by extending playing hours into the evening, enhancing safety for players and spectators by reducing dark areas, and improving overall visibility through consistent, high-quality illumination. Modern LED lighting systems also support more flexible scheduling of practices, games, and tournaments, while offering energy efficiency, lower maintenance costs, and improved color rendering for clearer ball tracking and better on-field performance.

## **Drainage Improvements (Smith Street/Mell Avenue)**

Completed: April 2025

A&S Paving

\$177,240

## **Local Maintenance Improvement Grant**

Completed: May 2025

Magnum Paving

\$1,258,976

# Admin/Ops Activities

The City of Clarkston has 6 operating departments that administer 13 divisions.

## ADMINISTRATION

- Executive Office of the City Manager
- City Clerk
- Communications
- Economic Mobility
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Finance and Procurement
- Human Resources & Risk Management
- Special Projects

## COURTS

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

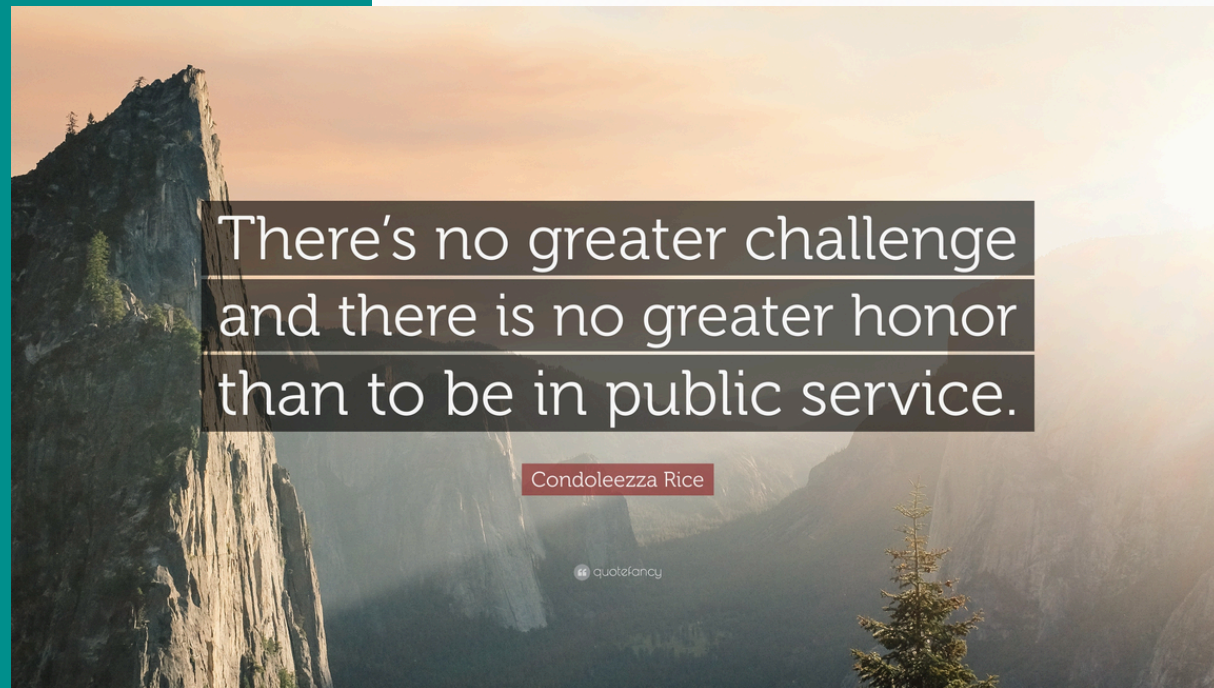
- Building/Development Permitting
- Code Enforcement
- Economic Development

## PARKS AND RECREATION

## PUBLIC SAFETY (POLICE)

- Criminal Investigations
- Patrol
- Records Administration

## PUBLIC WORKS





## **ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

### **EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

#### **2025 Millage Rate Adoption**

In May-June 2025 the City Manager’s Office worked to conduct analysis of the City’s ad valorem property digest and performed comparison of estimated digest review against the City’s 2025 budgeted revenue estimates. Initially, digest review suggested that a millage rate of 19.298 was required to maintain approximate current year ad valorem tax revenue as budgeted at an 82% collection rate. The City’s mil rate at the time of millage rate consideration was 13.089 (as adopted in 2024). Potential adoption of a 19.298 mil rate would have resulted in a 41.23% property tax of 41.23%. However, the City Council charged the Administration to continue analysis of the digest and revenue/expense scenario for the City. During the analysis the City Manager’s Office considered budget reduction scenarios that would result in a smaller percentage increase in property tax while have minimal negative impact on the City’s ability to provide effective and efficient services. Ultimately, approximately ½ million dollars in expenditure reduction was identified and on June 26, 2025 the City of Clarkston Council adopted a 2025 millage rate of 15.80 mills to support city operations, public safety, and infrastructure. The adopted millage rate resulted in 15.63% increase in property tax.

#### **Ad Valorem Tax Summary**

	2024	2025
Net Digest	391,535,629	404,377,835
Mil Rate	13.890	15.800

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2024 Net Digest	PYD	391,535,929	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	6,567,588	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	6,274,318	
2025 Net Digest	CYD	404,377,835	
2024 Millage Rate	PYM	13.890	
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	0.226	
Rollback Millage Rate for 2025	<b>RR - ROLLBACK RATE</b>	<b>13.664</b>	
<b>CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES</b>			
If the 2025 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)	Rollback Millage Rate	13.664	
	2025 Millage Rate	15.800	
	<b>Percentage Tax Increase</b>	<b>15.63%</b>	

### Transition of City Services



The City Manager and Special Projects Manager facilitated transition of City Administrative, Court, and Police Offices to the Municipal Building’s new location at 736 Park North Boulevard, Suite 120, Clarkston. Operations were established at new facility for all City of Clarkston service departments (except Courts and Public Works) on July 7, 2026. Grand Opening of the new space was held on August 1, 2025. Municipal Court conducted its first sessions in the new space on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and the Public Works Facility remains at 3620 Montreal Creek Ct., Clarkston. Council sessions began in the new space on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The City entered into a five-year lease for the space in 2024. Council has directed the Administration to facilitate the development of a Facilities Master Plan to include plans for site selection, design, and construction of a new City-owned City Hall facility by close of the lease terms for 736 Park North.

### FY2026 Budgets

The City Manager prepared and presented the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 balanced budget as required by Georgia statute. The budget contains a summary of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and budgets for Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Fund,

and Capital Projects Fund. In addition, the budget represents the City's focus and plan for the fiscal year. The budget incorporates projections that include an expectation of growth trends due to strategic community and economic development planning. Along with such growth increased demands on City services and infrastructure, and ultimately the requests for and use of City dollars is expected. We will continue to build upon previous years' efforts to make the City leaner and more effective to ensure the long-term protection of quality of life. I am presenting you with a balanced \$10,445,625 General Fund budget that achieves the following:

**General Fund (Operations and Maintenance)**

- Assumes a current Millage Rate of 15.800 (as adopted in June 2025) with a 2% increase in property valuations. The established tax rate is below revenue neutral, but still serves to
- Includes a continued maintenance of the reduced workforce and workforce expense established during 2025 millage rate adoption. This reduction includes:

Non-funded positions:

- Assistant City Manager (Administration Department)
- Special Events Coordinator (Administration Department)
- Laborer (Public Works Department)

Consolidated functions:

- Inclusion of special event functions within the Special Projects and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer positions.
- Assignment of Clerk Office related permitting functions within the Planning and Development Permit Technician position.
- Does not include a cost of living adjustment for employees. (TBD by Council Action) Recommendation of performance-based increases.
- Does not include implementation of the Compensation Study to include hybrid-parity considerations. Recommendation of review for April 1, 2026 consideration. Study implementation will constitute a budget amendment.
- Includes planning for future annexation, facilities (to include new town center/city hall), and city-wide comprehensive strategies.

- Includes lease-purchase of 1 vehicle for the Administration Department with reassignment of the City Manager’s vehicle to the Planning and Economic Development Director for increased service delivery/risk management.

**Stormwater Fund**

- Includes increase in stormwater fee revenue with 2025 increase in stormwater fee assessments. Proposed use for the increased revenue is an increase in much needed stormwater system maintenance. Approximately 25% of the General Fund Public Works salary expense is accounted for within the Stormwater Fund. Therefore, a transfer of \$131,027 from the Stormwater Fund to the General Fund is proposed.

**SPLOST Fund**

- SPLOST I and II Program Funding (Infrastructure Improvements)
- SPLOST II Program Funding (Parks and Recreation Master Plan)

**ARPA (Coronavirus Relief) Fund**

- Includes final allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding - required by Federal Treasury guideline to be expended no later than December 31, 2026.

**CITY CLERK’S OFFICE**

**Licensing (Occupational/Alcohol/COAM/Hookah)**

	Occupational (Business)	Alcohol	COAM	Hookah
Issued	295	31	23	2
Pending	9+	N/A	N/A	0

### Open Records Requests Portal (NextRequest)

- Requests Received: 542
- Requests Closed: 535
- Requests Paused: 7

### CivicPlus – Agenda & Meeting Management Software

- Project Kick-Off Date: June 2025
- Software Live Date: October 2025
- Implementation Completion Date: December 2025

### SagesGov – Occupational Tax (Business) License Only (**Partnered with P&ED Dept.**) **(Permitting/ other licenses implementation in next phase)**

- Project Kick-Off Date: September 2025
- Software Projected Live Date: February/ March 2026
- Implementation Completion Date: February/ March 2026

### Newly Elected Official Internal Orientation (*Partnered with City Manager & HR*)

- Created and discussed a binder of essential information for the newly elected officials, including benefits documents, related to the City of Clarkston.

### Submitted Reports, etc.

- Municode Annual Supplementation Subscription in February 2025
- Submitted Annual Valuation Census Report in March 2025
- Submitted Annual Immigration Report in December 2025
- Submitted ordinances to Municode for codification (*in-process*)

### Accomplishments

- Obtained Georgia Certified Clerk Certification in February 2025
- Completed the CJIS Security and Awareness Training in February 2025
- Completed Pension Committee Secretary Training March in 2025
- Completed Secretary of State's Elections Training in April 2025
- Completed online Notary Training Course in August 2025
- Facilitated a Youth Engagement Program Visit in August 2025

## **EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE**

The City of Clarkston's Equity/Diversity and Inclusion Officer coordinated efforts to advance equity goals. The Equity/ Diversity and Inclusion Officer played an active role in advising on the incorporation of proactive equity ambitions and community engagement strategies within all city plans and programs, to create an inclusive, diverse, and multicultural workplace and community. This position aided the City in attaining the ultimate goal of increased trust in local government through accurate, timely and effective communications and civic engagement. The Office aided in provided resources to a number of disadvantaged citizens, pointing them to services for rental assistance, food, etc

### **Training Completed In 2025**

- Round table Childhood trauma
- Part 2 child protection series
- Cultural shift research/organizational assessment (self-paced)

### **Committees Served**

- The DEI officer actively serves on multiple city committees, contributing to planning and coordination of upcoming community events.
- Chief Hudson Retirement Celebration
- Winter Wonderland

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

### **Health and Wellness Grant**

The City of Clarkston has been awarded a \$2,500 Health and Wellness Grant, to be disbursed in two installments. The funding will support employee wellness initiatives, including the City's Employee Wellness and Field Day event. Grant funds will be used for event-related costs such as T-shirts and field day equipment, consistent with the grant's purpose of promoting employee health and engagement.

### **Classification and Compensation Study**

Following a competitive procurement process, Evergreen Solutions, LLC was selected as the most responsive firm for RFP – City Classification and Compensation Study (091724). The study will provide a comprehensive review of the City's current classification and compensation framework to:

- Ensure job classifications accurately reflect assigned duties and responsibilities;
- Evaluate compensation competitiveness within the relevant labor market; and
- Support future recruitment, retention, and workforce planning efforts.

The results of this study will help promote internal equity, fiscal responsibility, and the City’s long-term ability to attract and retain qualified employees.

### Random Drug Testing Program

Effective November 1, 2025, the City of Clarkston reactivated its Random Drug Testing Program in accordance with Chapter 19: Drug and Alcohol Policy, Section 8. The program reinforces the City’s commitment to maintaining a safe, productive, and drug-free workplace.

Under the program:

- Employees may be selected at random through a computerized selection process;
- Testing is conducted by the City’s authorized occupational health provider; and
- All testing is administered in compliance with City policy, with strict confidentiality safeguards in place.

Employees selected for testing receive direct notification and instructions from the Office of Human Resources & Risk Management.

### Workforce Headcount Overview

Between December 31, 2024, and December 31, 2025, the City’s total headcount increased from 37 to 46 employees, reflecting a net increase of 9 employees, or approximately 24.3% workforce growth year over year. This growth reflects the City’s continued expansion of services, operational capacity, and staffing necessary to meet organizational and community needs.

## COURTS DEPARTMENT

According to the Municipal Court’s court management system the following is recorded for 2025:

Ordinance Violations – 631

Cases Disposed - 195

Bond hearings - 8

### Summary on the changes in court dates/times

On October 16, 2025, the court implemented its first same-day plea and arraignment calendar. There were 80 defendants scheduled, and 68 appeared, resulting in an appearance rate of 85%.

Beginning in January 2026, all plea and arraignment hearings were transitioned to the same day. To date, three calendars have been held this month:

January 12, 2026: approximately 81% appearance rate

January 13, 2026: approximately 92% appearance rate

January 15, 2026: approximately 85% appearance rate

Overall, appearance rates following the transition to same-day plea and arraignment have remained consistent with, and in some instances exceeded, the initial appearance rate observed in October 2025.

### [Court Staffing Levels 2025](#)

Since the Chief Court Clerk began in April 2024, the department has been authorized for three positions but has operated with only two filled positions: a Chief Court Clerk and a Senior/Deputy Court Clerk.

The department has been short-staffed by one position since January 17, 2024. A Court Clerk was hired in March 2025, briefly restoring full staffing. The department again became short-staffed in April 2025. A new Court Clerk was hired in November 2025, returning the department to full staffing capacity.

### [Summary of any court related programs/system changes implemented in 2025](#)

The Municipal Court implemented a Pre-Trial Diversion Program in January 2025 and began enrolling defendants in February 2025. As of December 31, 2025, the program has generated \$47,593.00 in revenue.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

### [Programs](#)

**Youth Summer Basketball Camp:** June 24 – 27, 2025

**Location:** Clarkston First Baptist Church

**Participation:** Over 50 kids participated in the camp during the week

**Partnership:** Rowsom Sports, Clarkston First Baptist Church, and Veterans & Community Outreach Foundation.

The Youth Summer Basketball Camp is a community partnership designed to provide free basketball instruction to youth in the Clarkston community. The camp is led by former NBA player Brian Rowsom, who generously volunteers his time and expertise to teach participants the fundamentals of the game. Youth receive instruction in core skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting, all within a supportive and engaging environment.

### **Early Start (Ages 5-8)**

Focus: Fun, coordination, basic rules, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

What they learn: Dribbling, passing, shooting fundamentals, and general game concepts.

Best for: Kids with budding interest, developing coordination, and a desire to play.

### **Developing Skills (Ages 9-12)**

Focus: Technique, strategy, and more specific skill development.

What they learn: Advanced dribbling, shooting mechanics, offensive/defensive concepts, and game sense.

Best for: Kids showing sustained interest and readiness for more serious instruction.

### **Advanced & Exposure (Ages 13+)**

Focus: High-level skill refinement, intense training, and potential college exposure (showcases).

What they learn: In-depth strategy, physical conditioning, and competitive play.

Best for: Dedicated players looking to elevate their game and get evaluated.

### **Back to School Backpack Giveaway: July 26, 2025**

**Location:** Milam Park

**Participation:** 500 Backpacks were given out at this event

The primary purpose of a backpack giveaway event is to equip under-served students with essential school supplies, reducing financial strain on families and boosting student confidence for the new academic year. These events foster community, promote educational equity, and ensure children start school prepared and excited.

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**Location:** Milam Park Pool

**Participation:** 30 Kids from the Clarkston Community

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**Fall Youth Soccer Program:** September – November 2025

**Location:** Milam Park Soccer Field

**Participation:** 55 Kids in the Program

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Youth athletes gain experience in teamwork, cooperation, and effective communication. The supportive environment helps build self-esteem, resilience, and a sense of belonging. Regular practice instills discipline, time management, and personal responsibility. Participants also learn sportsmanship, respect for rules, and how to navigate both success and setbacks. Programs provide structured, supervised activity that encourages healthy habits and reduces sedentary time. Emphasis is placed on enjoyment and inclusion, with many programs ensuring equitable playing time to promote participation. Youth soccer strengthens community connections by bringing families together, supporting community wellness, and offering opportunities for players of all skill levels, including those in recreational and underserved communities.

## Projects

**Installation of Sports Field Lights Completed:** November 2025 – January 2026

**Location:** Milam Park Upper Soccer Field

**Musco Sports Lighting, LLC**

Installing sports field lighting in Clarkston will maximize facility usage by extending playing hours into the evening, enhancing safety for players and spectators by reducing dark areas, and improving overall visibility through consistent, high-quality illumination. Modern LED lighting systems also support more flexible scheduling of practices, games, and tournaments, while offering energy efficiency, lower maintenance costs, and improved color rendering for clearer ball tracking and better on-field performance.

## Plans

**Parks & Recreation Master Plan:** April 2025 – June 2026

**Location:** Parks & Recreation Department

**Perez Planning & Design, INC**

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## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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### 2025 Planning & Economic Development Grants

ICMA Economic Mobility & Opportunity Special Assistant. This is a grant that totals \$304,000 over 30 months to hire an Economic Mobility Manager to address economic mobility issues in the city, including house, access to food, access to health care, and workforce development.

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) for the Clarkston Housing Summit. This grant program only required the city to pay \$500 for the services provided from ARC.

### 2025 Plans & Studies

**City Agriculture Plan** was unanimously approved by City Council on November 6, 2025. This plan is a forward-thinking framework developed in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Food Well Alliance (FWA) to cultivate a more inclusive, sustainable, and connected local food system.

**Clarkston Housing Summit** was unanimously approved by City Council on October 7, 2025. This project was through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) through the Atlanta Regional Commission. This report was design to provide the city with housing data trends and incorporate community feedback for future housing priorities in the city.

**Living Walls Clarkston Mural Project** was unveiled on August 2, 2025. This was a project to enhance the aesthetics of the CSX underpass at Church Street and N Indian Creek. The funding for this project came from DeKalb County and commissioners Ted Tery and Chakira Johnson.

**DDA Strategic Visioning Plan** with Georgia Tech started in 2025. This was a project designed to provide a strategic vision and mission statement for the Downtown Development Authority.

**Safe Street for All (SS4A)** with Kimley-Horn kicked off in 2025. This project will provide for a better understanding of the safety concerns of the N Indian Creek Drive corridor and how to manage future transportation projects.

**Clarkston Greenway Phase 1 Greenway and Trail Design** with Atkin Realis kicked off in 2025. This phase of the project will provide design concepts for Phase 1 of the Clarkston Greenway.

**Historic Preservation Design Guidelines** were drafted in 2025. Staff provided the Historic Preservation Commission with a draft set of Historic Preservation Design Guidelines. These will be updated with the Historic Resources Survey information once that is completed in 2026.

**2025 Permits Issued**

New Residential	6
Residential Alterations	10
Commercial Alterations	14
Trades	51
Land Disturbance	8
Demolition	5
Utility Encroachment	7
Solar Panel (residential)	6
Fence	6
Tree Removal	12
Permanent Sign	12
Temporary Sign	10
Temporary Dumpster	2
Film	5
Special Events	10
Plat	4
Variance	2 (1 passed, 1 failed)
Rezoning/PUD/Amendment	5 (4 passed, 1 failed)
Zoning Verification Letter	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>

## 2025 Code Compliance

Violation Warning Notices Issued – 593

Violations Issued – 510

Disposed Cases – 135

Open Cases - 375

## PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

### Events

The Police Department hosted three annual community engagement events:

- Coffee with a Cop - March 2025
- National Night Out - Canceled due to inclement weather in 2025 (Scheduled month was August 2025)
- Faith in Blue - October 2025

### Programs

The S.T.E.P. (Safety Traffic Enforcement Patrol) Unit-Implemented in July 2025.

- The Safety Traffic Enforcement Patrol (S.T.E.P.) program focuses on improving public safety and reducing road related fatalities. It directly supports community goals of enhancing the quality of life through the reduction of speeding, traffic accidents, and pedestrian fatalities. Additionally, it helps to maintain a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors, which is a key objective in the City's mission to enhance public trust and community engagement. Also, the S.T.E.P program increases positive impact by Increase patrol frequency in high incident areas, implement more targeted enforcement strategies using technology like LPRs (License Plate Readers) to identify offenders quickly, and increase public awareness through community outreach, social media, and educational initiatives on traffic safety.
- The S.T.E.P. (Safety Traffic Enforcement Patrol) Unit has had a significant impact on public safety in the City of Clarkston. From July 2025 to December 2025, through proactive enforcement efforts, the unit issued 385 citations, made 23 misdemeanor arrests, and, most notably, conducted 10 felony arrests demonstrating its strong commitment to keeping our community safe.

### Grants

- Department of Justice (DOJ) Vest Grant: \$4,000 (Apply annually)-The grant reimburses up to 50% of the cost of the vest.
- Shield Grant (Georgia State University): \$5,000 (Pending)

## Crime Statistics

Reporting Period: 2024

Part I Crimes:

Homicide:	3
Rape:	4
Robbery:	31
Aggravated Assault:	169
Burglary:	45
Theft:	198
Auto Theft:	79

Reporting Period: 2025

Part I Crimes:

Homicide:	5
Rape:	6
Robbery:	13
Aggravated Assault:	134
Burglary:	27
Theft:	185
Auto Theft:	44

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department continued to support city operations through maintenance activities, community engagement initiatives, and interagency coordination to enhance public safety and service delivery.

### MS4 Program Stormwater Management Program

The Municipal Separate Stormwater System Program (MS4) is a federal regulation requiring cities, counties, and entities to manage stormwater runoff, preventing pollutants from entering waterways. It mandates a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) focused on six minimum control measures, including public education, construction site runoff, and illicit discharge detection.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The City's Public Works Department conducted public education efforts to increase awareness of stormwater pollution and promote best management practices (BMPs).

Activities included:

- Distribution of stormwater educational materials to residents
- Posting stormwater information on the City website
- Participation in community clean-up events
- Promotion of proper disposal of waste, oils, and household chemicals

Community events supporting stormwater awareness:

- Community Clean-Up Event (November 15, 2025) – 29 volunteers participated
- Earth Day Event (April 22, 2025) – 15 participants

Partners included Waste Pro and Latham Home Sanitation Company.

Through the MS4 program, Public Works picked-up 11,900 lbs of debris.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

The City encouraged public involvement through:

- Volunteer clean-up events
- Coordination with local service providers
- Opportunities for residents to report drainage issues and illegal dumping

These efforts enhanced community engagement and environmental stewardship.

## **ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION (IDDE)**

The Public Works Department continues to monitor the MS4 system for illicit discharges and illegal dumping.

Actions taken:

- Routine field inspections of stormwater infrastructure
- Investigation of reported complaints
- Removal of debris and obstructions from drainage structures

The Public Works Department performed routine maintenance on stormwater infrastructure, including:

- Catch basin and inlet cleaning
- Ditch and drainage line clearing
- Debris removal
- Inspection of stormwater structures

Maintenance activities improve system performance and reduce flooding risk.

## CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Challenges encountered:

- Aging drainage infrastructure
- Increased debris from storm events
- Staffing and resource limitations

## OTHER SERVICES

A major focus this period was community involvement through organized clean-up events. The Community Clean-Up Event held on November 15, 2025, recorded strong participation, with **21 residents preregistered** online and a total turnout of **29 volunteers**. Program partners included Waste Pro and Latham Home Sanitation Company, whose support contributed to the success of the event. Additionally, the Earth Day event on April 22, 2025, engaged 15 participants, further promoting environmental awareness and civic responsibility.

The department also collaborated with the City Manager to initiate coordination with Big Grin Fireworks for inclusion in the City's Christmas Lighting Event. This effort required close communication with the DeKalb County Fire Marshal to ensure all activities met code compliance requirements and adhered to safety regulations.

Through these initiatives, the Public Works Department strengthened partnerships with service providers and county agencies while maintaining a strong commitment to community engagement and public safety. These efforts support the City's broader goals of fostering resident participation, ensuring regulatory compliance, and enhancing the quality of city-sponsored events.

