

Grow Decatur May, 2015 General Strategy Session Results
Strength Category Details
June 3, 2015

Category	Count	Item	Category
unassigned	29	Law Enforcement - Police & Sheriff	unassigned
		Development of new technology (Sequestration Center) & education (Dennis Lab School)	unassigned
		Grow Decatur constituents can influence the city staff performance	unassigned
		Good place to raise family	unassigned
		Historic areas & homes	unassigned
		Unique retail shops	unassigned
		Potential for marketing what we do well	unassigned
		City with small town feel	unassigned
		Family-oriented community	unassigned
		Pride of hometown	unassigned
		Large town opportunities without large town hassles	unassigned
		Community "family" friendly	unassigned
		Addressing relationship issues	unassigned
		Crime low compared to other cities	unassigned
		Our neighborhoods	unassigned
		Compassionate Decatur Charter	unassigned
		We actually do have a lot of great assets and the city's attributes already provide a high quality of life (low cost of living, etc.)	unassigned
		Initiative to make Decatur part of the "worldwide" cities of compassion	unassigned
		Pride in Decatur	unassigned
		Young people w/ positive image	unassigned
		Anywhere in 10 minutes	unassigned
		Historic	unassigned
		Easy to get involved	unassigned
		Crime rate / safe community	unassigned
		Commitment to families	unassigned
		Tradition	unassigned
		Size of community - not too big, not too small	unassigned
		Faith-based community	unassigned
		Innovative manufacturing	unassigned
agriculture	6	Agriculture	agriculture
		Agriculture - best soil in the world - large companies - Farm Progress Show	agriculture
		Ag knowledge & resources	agriculture
		Agriculture	agriculture
		Community surrounded by Ag - have to make it "sexy"	agriculture
		Agricultural resources	agriculture
business climate	6	Enterprise Zone	business climate
		Small business start-up options	business climate
		Good job opportunities	business climate
		International trade hub	business climate
		Knowledge base - Millikin, Richland - ADM, Tate & Lyle	business climate
		Entrepreneurship opportunities	business climate
collaboration	19	Collaboration - Grow Decatur, et.al.	collaboration
		Business, social organizations collaboration	collaboration
		We come together as a community	collaboration
		Collaboration	collaboration
		Working together	collaboration
		Community cooperation	collaboration
		Community collaboration	collaboration
		Business, organizations working together	collaboration
		Unions / non-unions work together - in business and outside activities	collaboration
		Working together	collaboration
		Excellent collaboration	collaboration
		Collaborating and rallying together	collaboration
		Collaboration	collaboration
		Grow Decatur	collaboration
		Groups work together	collaboration
		Groups such as Grow Decatur and EdCo working to bring multiple people to the table for discussions	collaboration
		City/EDC/Chamber working together	collaboration
		Business / organizations work together	collaboration
		Beautify Decatur coalition	collaboration
companies	17	Large number of businesses with national and international reach	companies

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		Engaged and generous companies	companies
		Global organizations	companies
		Big businesses are willing to work with Decatur to make it a better place	companies
		Global companies - ADM, Cat	companies
		Big, engaged companies	companies
		Large global companies	companies
		Current big & small business	companies
		Global corporate companies	companies
		Good companies in our community	companies
		3 large employers	companies
		Multi-national connections	companies
		Good business base	companies
		Promotion of small businesses	companies
		Job opportunities	companies
		Large companies	companies
		Big businesses here	companies
cost of living	31	Super low cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Low cost of living	cost of living
		SUPER low cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Reasonable living costs	cost of living
		Affordable housing	cost of living
		Low cost of living	cost of living
		Affordability, cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Affordable labor	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Affordable housing	cost of living
		Housing cost / overall cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Low cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living	cost of living
		Cost of living in Decatur is phenomenal	cost of living
		Low cost of living	cost of living
		Low cost of living	cost of living
downtown	6	Downtown	downtown
		Beautiful downtown area	downtown
		beautiful downtown	downtown
		Downtown	downtown
		Revitalization of downtown	downtown
		Recent improvements in downtown and lakefront	downtown
education	32	Creative, innovative education	education
		New high schools	education
		Millikin and RCC's link to economic success	education
		Tech-focused public schools	education
		Higher Ed	education
		Local University, College	education
		Commitment to family and early childhood education	education
		Magnet schools & Education innovation, like Baby TALK, Caring Black Men, etc.	education
		new high schools	education
		good private schools	education
		Good schools	education
		Millikin & RCC & good high schools	education

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		Richland & Millikin	education
		Baby TALK	education
		Millikin & Richland	education
		Education	education
		Higher Ed	education
		New high schools	education
		Tech focused public schools	education
		DPS	education
		Higher ed	education
		Higher Education	education
		Local universities	education
		Local universities/colleges	education
		Education at all levels	education
		Higher Ed	education
		Educational opportunities	education
		Quality education	education
		DPS	education
		Better education system now	education
		Good education resources	education
		Education opportunities	education
health	4	Health Care	health
		Good healthcare systems	health
		Good health care	health
		Health/wellness	health
inland port	9	MIP	inland port
		MIP	inland port
		Midwest Inland Port - grow housing - increase prices & demand	inland port
		Inland Port	inland port
		Inland Port	inland port
		Inland Port	inland port
		Inland port - bypass crowded costal ports	inland port
		Inland port	inland port
		MIP	inland port
lake	11	Lake	lake
		Lake	lake
		Lake Decatur	lake
		Lake and Scovill	lake
		Lake/water	lake
		Lake	lake
		Lake	lake
		Lake	lake
		Lake & recreation	lake
		Beautiful lake	lake
		Lake	lake
leadership	6	Leadership	leadership
		Access to leadership is easy	leadership
		Strong local leadership	leadership
		Great resource of community leaders	leadership
		Leadership	leadership
		Experienced, committed leadership w/Grow Decatur	leadership
location / transportation	19	Transportation	location / transportation
		Easy access to Decatur	location / transportation
		Excellent transportation	location / transportation
		Transportation hub possibility	location / transportation
		Easy to commute	location / transportation
		central location	location / transportation
		Rt. 51 expansion south	location / transportation
		Location	location / transportation
		Physical location	location / transportation
		Access - highway & railroad	location / transportation
		Centrally located	location / transportation
		Accessibility	location / transportation
		Access - easy	location / transportation
		Great location logistically	location / transportation
		Location	location / transportation

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		Central location	location / transportation
		Central location	location / transportation
		Central location	location / transportation
		Location for logistics	location / transportation
people	40	People are passionate and talented	people
		Community Philanthropy	people
		High quality, generous people	people
		Old families, multi-generations	people
		Compassionate community	people
		Neighbors help neighbors	people
		Community support	people
		Cohesive community	people
		Philanthropy	people
		Caring people working together to improve	people
		Current residents who like Decatur - ambassadors	people
		Generous, caring people	people
		Lots of people who have a passion for this city	people
		Many people with amazing talents and skills	people
		Generous community	people
		Experienced manufacturing workforce	people
		Self sufficiency	people
		Individual contributions - time and money	people
		Diverse employees	people
		Workforce	people
		Giving community	people
		Generous	people
		Open & friendly	people
		Diversity	people
		Very giving community - i.e. food drive	people
		Workforce	people
		Diversity of population	people
		Good people / Midwest culture	people
		People caring for each other	people
		Kindness of community	people
		Generosity of community	people
		Community support	people
		People	people
		People - old families /w several generations w/ real sense of community	people
		Community friendliness	people
		Quality people	people
		Generous people	people
		We have a lot of people who want to make this a better place	people
		Quality, generous people	people
		Blue collar / hard working manufacturing history	people
recreation	22	Parks and recreation	recreation
		Recreation Capacity	recreation
		Parks & recreation, zoo, trails, Rock Springs, fairs, Macon Speedway	recreation
		Vibrant arts scene	recreation
		great parks	recreation
		Trails, green space, recreation	recreation
		Parks & recreation - walking & biking trails, pickleball courts coming!	recreation
		Park district	recreation
		Park District	recreation
		Recreation	recreation
		Recreation/parks/trails	recreation
		Parks, golf, zoo, trails	recreation
		Variety of parks & low cost or free entertainment	recreation
		Parks & recreation	recreation
		Large amount of recreation	recreation
		Lots of stuff for locals to do	recreation
		Great parks & recreation	recreation
		Park system	recreation
		Variety of things to do	recreation
		Parks	recreation
		Decatur Celebration	recreation

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		Great park system	recreation
resources	6	Available (some free) resources	resources
		Fiber Optic cable	resources
		Airport	resources
		Lots of resources - some are free	resources
		Low utility rates	resources
		Large amount of resources	resources
services	10	Broad array of social services	services
		Neighborhood and support organizations	services
		Good Samaritan Inn	services
		Programs designed to create self-sufficiency	services
		Dove, Inc.	services
		CONO	services
		Vast array of services and programs	services
		Strong social services	services
		Services and programs	services
		Workforce development programs	services
space available	8	Commercial space is available	space available
		available commercial space	space available
		Space	space available
		Available commercial space	space available
		Open/available commercial space to create/relocate new businesses	space available
		Available land/property	space available
		Farm land in close proximity	space available
		We have space	space available
spirit	24	Entrepreneurial spirit	spirit
		Community spirit of service	spirit
		Community spirit	spirit
		Cooperative spirit	spirit
		Community spirit of higher income residents - want to improve	spirit
		Community spirit (Hockeyville) - capitalize on this and expand	spirit
		Community spirit	spirit
		Entrepreneurial spirit	spirit
		Willingness/desire to improve/change	spirit
		Instestinal fortitude	spirit
		Progressive momentum	spirit
		Community spirit	spirit
		Can do attitude	spirit
		Decatur comes together for a cause	spirit
		Cheerleaders at all levels	spirit
		Momentum	spirit
		Attitude	spirit
		Engaged community	spirit
		Community-based community - we are proud of involvement	spirit
		Willingness to work on this long-term project (Grow Decatur)	spirit
		Movement by City Council to address long-standing issues	spirit
		Grow Decatur	spirit
		Friendly environment - quality, committed	spirit
		Change in perception	spirit
volunteerism	15	Volunteers	volunteerism
		Volunteerism	volunteerism
		Volunteers	volunteerism
		Volunteers	volunteerism
		Willingness to serve	volunteerism
		Volunteers	volunteerism
		Caring people, willing volunteers	volunteerism
		Volunteers - caring/generous citizens	volunteerism
		Volunteerism	volunteerism
		Volunteerism	volunteerism
		Volunteers	volunteerism
		Dedicated volunteers	volunteerism
		Community volunteerism	volunteerism
		Volunteerism	volunteerism
		Volunteerism	volunteerism
water	10	Water	water

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	Water	water
	Strong water supply	water
	Increase water supply	water
	Water	water
	Water source	water
	Water	water
	Available water	water
	Water supply	water
	Water	water