



TAKE THE DOWNTOWN TURTLE TRAIL CHALLENGE AND WIN A PRIZE!



**MORE
INFO**
◀◀◀

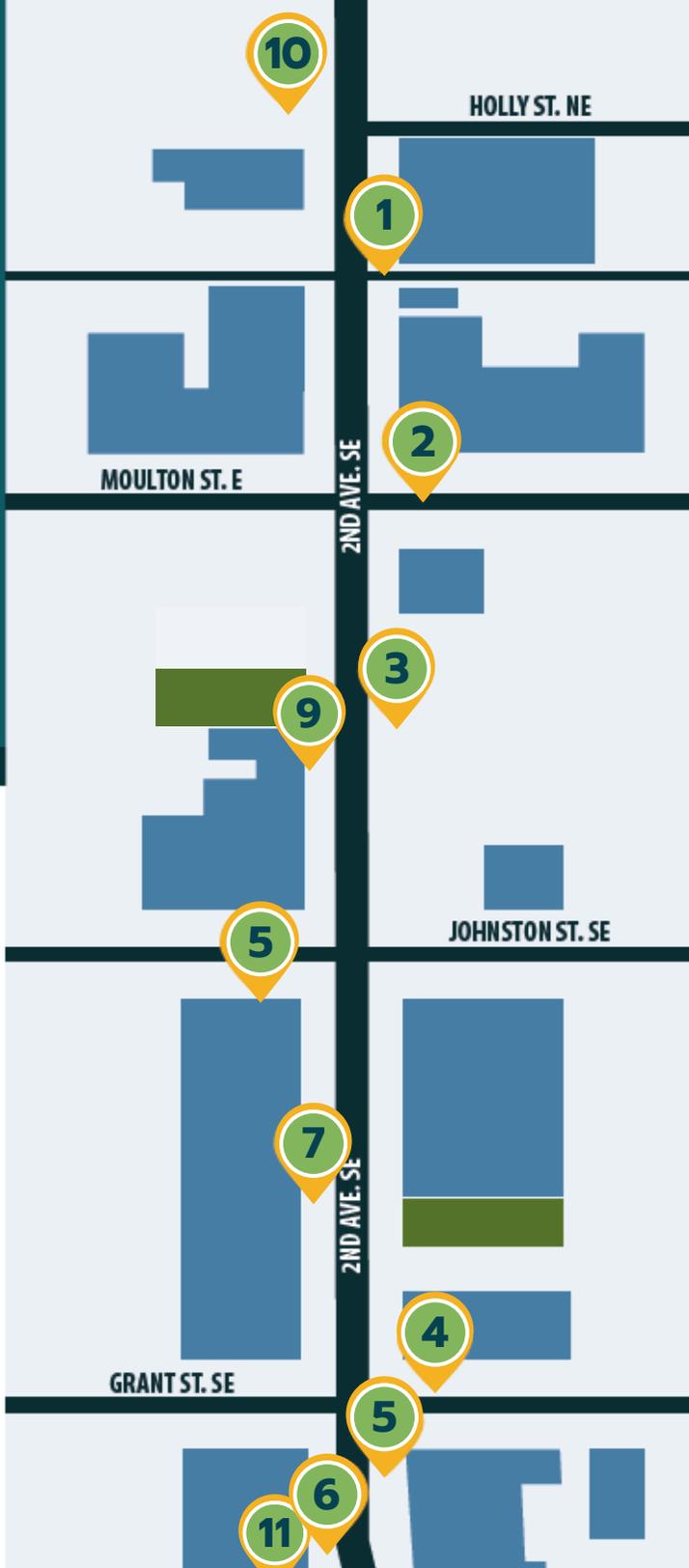


It's Simple! Post pictures with all eleven turtles on any social media platform using the hashtags #TurtleTrail, #DecaturDowntown, and #VisitDecaturAL. Then, visit one of the following locations and show your pictures to receive a **SPECIAL PRIZE!**
Find the Bonus Turtle for an Extra Decatur Sticker!


Cook Museum of Natural Science
133 4th Ave NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601


Decatur Morgan County Tourism
350 Market Street NE
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Visit DecaturDowntown.org/turtle-trail to learn more!



EXPERIENCE THE ADVENTURE!



READY FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT?

Take the **Downtown Turtle Trail** and find 10 bronze turtles located along Decatur's historic 2nd Avenue. Learn about the significant places and events that helped make Downtown Decatur what it is today along the way!

#1 MIKEY



The **Princess** knows just what it's like;
To be part of this **2nd Avenue** hike;
A **lamppost** out front
Will aid in your hunt,
As Mikey sings into a mic.

Beginning in 1887 as a livery stable, the Princess Theatre was converted in 1919 to a silent film and vaudeville playhouse. It would later become a local movie theater before being renovated into a performing arts center by the City of Decatur in 1983.

#2 LOYD



At **Moulton** there'll be no mistake;
The old drug store's the site of
your break;
Solve this quick test
Of **where bicycles rest**,
To find Loyd enjoying a shake.

The building constructed on this corner in about 1900 became Loyd's Drug Store in 1935. Loyd's was a pharmacy and had a soda fountain, a popular gathering place for generations of residents seeking a refreshing milkshake on a hot summer day.

#3 GOVERNOR ALBERT



From **Moulton** towards Johnston
you meander;
The **crosswalk** requires a good gander;
As a rising attorney
On a post office journey,
Governor Albert would lead with
great candor.

On this block was the law office of Albert P. Brewer, a Decatur native who served as Governor of Alabama from 1968-1971. This turtle suggests Gov. Brewer as a young Decatur attorney walking to mail an important letter at the Albany Station Post Office that stood near the corner on Johnston St. from 1949-1965.

#4 BARBARA



Past **Johnston to Grant** you'll be there;
'Round the corner at the top of the stair;
Believe it or not
With the clippers she's got,
Barbara can also cut hair!

This space below street level served continuously as a traditional barber shop from 1935-2019. Basement Barber Shop was uniquely accessible to its customers via this exterior staircase, marked by the trademark spinning red, white, and blue barber pole.

#5 PEGGY



From the barber, **cross Grant** and
then **stop**;
You can skip, you can saunter, or hop;
Though pigs cannot fly
Oh the groceries they'll buy,
Just like Peggy who's ready to shop.

While in the late 1880's the neighborhood well and orchard were located on this site, this corner was the home of Decatur's first Piggly Wiggly from 1921 until 1940. The four-story building was, at the time, the tallest building in the city.

#6 NICKY



Crossing **Second** is part of this game;
To the **left** and **down the block** you
should aim;
While the changing of times
Means fewer nickels and dimes,
Nicky has coins just the same.

Second Avenue was the retail center of Decatur for much of the 20th century. Among the most popular retail outlets were five-and-dime stores, which sold various household items for just a nickel or a dime.

#7 CASEY



Head North as your feet do propel;
Towards the old Casa Grande Hotel;
A ledge is your tip
Casey's on her next trip,
With a suitcase on top of her shell.

Look up! Though the current structure was built in 1904, you can still see the name of the Casa Grande Hotel written in the stone at the top of the building. The Casa Grande was a convenient resting point for travelers arriving at the nearby L&N Train Station near First Avenue.

#8 MASON



On **Johnston** look this way and that;
Where the **Cotaco Opera House** sat;
Mason looks dapper
In chelonian wrapper,
While sporting his own top hat.

The Cotaco Opera House opened in 1890 at 115 Johnston St. and was the first opera house in the state of Alabama. It later became the Masonic Lodge, Masonic Theatre, and Payne Theatre.

#9 HARRY



Down the block on a **stoop made of brick**;
Where a Truman parade did the trick; Sit
back and relax Harry belts out the sax;
A musical campaign makes him tick.

On October 21, 1960, during the crucial final days of the 1960 Presidential campaign, former President Harry S. Truman came to Decatur to campaign for John F. Kennedy. Truman paraded down Second Avenue to Delano Park where he gave a campaign speech to an estimated crowd of 12,500.

#10 SAM



On the lawn of **Decatur's ACA**;
It's a hoot to find Sam here this day;
He honors our vets
So that no one forgets,
And waves a flag for the U S of A!

On May 9, 1919, following the conclusion of World War I, Second Avenue was the site of a grand parade, welcoming approximately 500 soldiers from Company E and other units of the 167th Infantry from across Alabama who had served in The Great War.

#11 TALLULAH



Near **Gordon's bridge**, on Rainey's **wall** she
stays,
A turtle with chicken and spuds on her tray.
Salons once above,
Cafeteria to love,
Honoring women who led the way.

Built in 1948 by Mrs. JT Rainey, Rainey's Beauty Salon and Academy were located on the upper floors of the building. Crane's Cafeteria, owned by Mrs. Tallulah Crane, was in the basement and was a local favorite for their meat & three cafeteria-style meals.

#12 THE JUDGE



Near **river, rail, and hedge**;
Where The Judge takes his seat on a
ledge;
With a jolly laugh and a smile,
You'll stay for a while,
Hearing his love for Decatur pledged.

Rhodes Ferry Park in Decatur is a historic site, named for Dr. Henry W. Rhodes who operated a key ferry across the Tennessee River in the early 1800s before Decatur was incorporated. The Judge (Judge David Breland) would famously welcome riverboat guests upon their arrival with his colorful tales of Decatur history and deep belly laughs. The Judge served as a historian for the City of Decatur from 2013-2024.

BONUS FIND!