

**For Immediate Release
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ACWORTH **Atlanta's Lakeside Village**

Nestled on the soft sandy shores of Lake Acworth and Lake Allatoona, the historic city of Acworth is part of Atlanta's trendy northside. The roots of the city extend back to antebellum days and traces of that history can still be found today in its historic neighborhoods and homes. Add to the historic setting a blend of trend-setting boutiques, a variety of restaurants and stunning lakeside parks, live theater, art galleries and you have a town that deserves a second look.



History

Located 18 miles north of I-285, Atlanta's perimeter highway, Acworth traces its history back to the early 19th century. The Great Locomotive Chase of book and film fame ran through the city's historic downtown and highlighted its prominence in Sherman's notorious March to the Sea. To this day, collectors still find memorabilia such as miniballs and belt buckles buried in Acworth's red clay.

The railroad has always played a key role in the city's history. Today, the tracks are in constant use by freight trains on their way to Atlanta and Chattanooga. Beside the tracks



downtown, an historic 1942 Santa Fe-style red caboose reminds visitors of the city's ties to a romantic era.

A visit to Acworth's historic downtown and adjacent residential streets offers a glimpse into the past history of a former railroad town. Main Street and the railroad follow the path of a once prominent Cherokee trading route. Following the railroad,

Sherman's troops torched much of the town in 1864 on their March to the Sea. But recovery was in full swing by 1879 and Acworth's commercial district grew to include two flour mills, a tannery, and a cotton gin. Most buildings in downtown Acworth date from that late-1800s period. By the 1920s, a major North-South thoroughfare, Main Street was part of the Dixie Highway (Old Highway 41), paralleling today's Interstate 75.

Acworth's historic neighborhoods boast everything from antebellum homes and Victorian mansions to Craftsman bungalows designed by renowned Atlanta architect Lila Ross Wilburn. The streets of Acworth's historic neighborhoods, lined with century-old oaks, invite visitors to stroll to the lakeshore parks or downtown boutiques and restaurants.



Acworth's downtown buildings still retain the architectural details of commercial buildings of the late 19th-early 20th centuries and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Historic structures also extend beyond Acworth's downtown. Homes in the Collins Avenue Historic District capture 150 years of Southern architecture—Pioneer homestead to Victorian through Arts & Crafts styles. The homes along Dallas Street, Willis Street, Carnes Street, and Northside Drive offer similar architecture. Historic commercial and spiritual structures such as the 1895 Romanesque Revival-style Bethel A.M.E. Church are also a treat. A self-guided walking tour of the historic areas is a pleasant way to see some of the city's restored treasures.

Shopping/Dining

No village is complete without its fine dining and pedestrian-friendly shopping. The century-old shops nestled across from the train tracks in the historic downtown invite guests to browse for a favorite antique, stop for a relaxing spa visit, find a cherished bottle of wine, or take in a show at the theater.



When the shopping is over and the show ends, it's time to eat, drink, and be merry. Acworth's downtown boasts some of metro Atlanta's finest dining. From fresh seafood to sandwich shops, from Italian and Cajun to haute Southern, historic

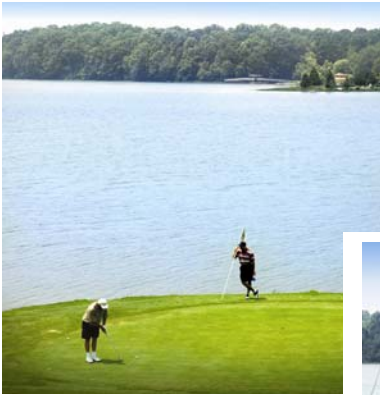


downtown Acworth offers something to please any palate. In between are places to unwind over coffee, pick up a box of chocolate truffles or cool off with a hand-scooped ice cream cone.

Parks and recreation

The city's in town park is on the edge of Lake Acworth, at the tip of an historic neighborhood. Cauble Park boasts long stretches of shoreline where swimming, kayaking and canoeing, bird watching and fishing are popular pastimes. A walking path leads to a boardwalk over the water, beside a memorial to war veterans. During the summer, Cauble Park's gazebo is center stage for a variety of musical performances that draw crowds of thousands. Picnic tables, barbecue grills and plenty of sand for blankets and chairs make the park a busy spot in warm weather. During the summer, a concession stand and changing area are open in the Lake Acworth Bathhouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Acworth's newest park facility includes a playground with accommodations specifically designed for children of all abilities to enjoy a day out.



The parks at Dallas Landing and Proctor Creek on 12,000-acre Lake Allatoona's have beaches, bathrooms and picnic facilities. Boat ramps provide easy lake access for all kinds of watercraft. At South Shore Park on Lake Acworth, near the Cobblestone Golf Course, there is a 30-acre park offering a fishing point, swimming, picnicking, and non-motorized boating.

More than 12,000 acres of water and 23,000 acres of forest with numerous hiking trails appeal to the nature lover, while several sandy beaches around both lakes attract swimmers. Bird watchers flock to Acworth for the exciting number and variety of avian species present here. And, with more than 700 campsites located around the lakes, you can pitch a tent or park your RV and listen to the waves break on the shore.



Events - Spring into Summer

First Fridays

On the first Friday of each month, the downtown district is the city's center of activity. Merchants remain open well after dark. Wine tastings, food samples, live entertainment bring visitors from around the metro area who crowd the sidewalks.

Classic Car Cruises

Several times a year, vintage cars line the downtown streets. Visitors and locals meander downtown's Main Street, a pedestrian-only avenue for the night, to check out the historic autos.



Family Day at Logan Farm Park

A full day of fun for all ages, this early spring event features a kite flying and a variety of children's activities.

Pro Wake Board Tour



One of the highlights of May is the Pro Wake Board Tour, a family-oriented event that spans several days. Professional athletes compete for prizes and cash on the waters of Lake Allatoona at Dallas Landing Park.

Drivin' the Dixie Yard Sale

On the first weekend in June the annual event offers a 90-mile stretch of yard sales – small, large, and gigantic – along a route from the Tennessee line at Ringgold to the Square in Marietta. Families, communities, church and merchants offer a wide variety of items.

Summer Concert Series

Thousands pack the beachside at Cauble Park for this series of musical events. Crowds gather early to picnic, swim and groove to sounds of live bands. The highlight is the Fourth of July celebration that wraps with a rousing fireworks display over the water.



Acworth Women's Sprint Triathlon

In August each summer more than 500 women from around the U.S. converge on Acworth annually to swim, run and bike.

Events - Fall into Winter

Holiday Merchants Open House

In early November, downtown merchants celebrate the season with specials, tastings, and sales. Each of the merchants will welcome visitors and residents alike with holiday delights from treats and goodies to an abundance of unique holiday merchandise. “The Holiday Open House gives the downtown merchants an opportunity to showcase their—often lavishly—decorated stores and kick off the holiday shopping season before the after-Thanksgiving rush,” said Amanda Sutter, Main Street manager for the city of Acworth. “Downtown Acworth’s many eclectic specialty shops offer a unique shopping experience in a friendly, personal atmosphere that is unheard of at the malls.”

Downtown Acworth truly does offer something for everyone, from imported French and Irish wares, embroidered gifts and antiques to personalized wine bottles, home décor, and haute couture for the family diva!

Santa Claus is comin’ to town

Forget the mall crowds and hassles! Bring the children to see Santa in Dickensian downtown Acworth when Mr. and Mrs. Claus ring in the season on the first Friday in December annually.

Santa’s fire truck arrival at the Depot is slated for 6:30 but come early for historic Acworth’s grand tree lighting ceremony and a special reading of “Twas the Night Before Christmas”



by Mayor Allegood. Stay late and enjoy the shopping and special events in Acworth’s downtown boutiques and streets; stroll with our carolers and dance in the streets. Acworth’s highly rated restaurants offer an opportunity for that special dining experience.

Photographs are courtesy of City of Acworth and Acworth.Net. For higher resolution copies or for original photography, contact Amanda Sutter at asutter@acworth.org or editor@acworth.net.