

Sewer Moratorium – Little River Water Pollution Control Plant and Etris/Kent Road Rezoning

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Water Pollution Control Facilities

Fulton County owns and operates six water pollution control plants (WPCP). The plants are currently permitted to treat a combined total average flow of approximately 43 million gallons per day (mgd). These plants treat wastewater generated inside and outside the county. Three of those that serve this area are:

Big Creek and Johns Creek: The Big Creek WPCP was originally constructed in 1969 with a design capacity of 0.75 mgd (million gallons/day). The plant has been expanded numerous times and has a current capacity of 24 mgd. The Johns Creek WPCP was originally constructed in 1980 with an average design capacity of 5 mgd. The plant was expanded in 1992 to a permitted discharge capacity of 7 mgd. These two plants are combined now and serve the *majority* of sewered North Fulton.

Little River: The Little River WPCP is owned and operated by Fulton County, but is located at 2415 Cox Road in Woodstock, GA, in neighboring Cherokee County. The plant serves approximately 6 square miles or 6 percent of the sewered area in North Fulton. The plant property is located at the confluence of Rocky Creek and Little River and is surrounded by a golf course and residential areas. It serves portions of Milton and Roswell in north Fulton and part of Cherokee County in the Little River Basin, part of the Etowah Watershed. This area is bounded by Cox Road on the north, Arnold Mill Road (SR 140) on the east, Hardscrabble Road and Woodstock Road (Hwy 92) on the south and the Fulton-Cherokee-Cobb county line on the west. The plant originally had a capacity of 0.175 mgd. In March 1992, the plant was expanded to 0.85 mgd. The Little River plant is currently permitted for 1 mgd.

The Johns Creek, Little River and Big Creek plants experienced operational problems, some of which resulted in permit violations. Several of these violations resulted in the issuance of Consent Orders from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Operational problems at the facility were due primarily to limited plant capacity and high wet peak weather flows during rain events. As a result of the permit violations, in January, 2000, the Georgia EPD issued a Consent Order that limited sewer service connections in the Big Creek and Johns Creek service areas. The problems were corrected and the moratorium for those two plants was lifted January 1, 2003. The Little River WPCP was placed on a moratorium June 4, 1997. Although it was originally scheduled to be decommissioned, there is now an expansion planned to take it from its current capacity of 1.0 mgd to 2.6 mgd.

Currently the Little River Plant, which serves the area where the R3-A rezoning is located, remains under the moratorium until the expansion is completed, which is not expected to be until 2016 or 2017. The Fulton County Board of Commissioners allotted Fulton County 437 residential sewer connection permits in 1998, a certain number of which were given to the City of Roswell when it annexed parts of unincorporated Fulton County in 2000. The City of Roswell is now out of permit credits and the property cannot be permitted to tie into the sewer line, therefore the zoning request of R-3A should be denied.

~~unless the applicant has secured the
required number of permits~~

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The only development that could legally be done on the property at this time would be 1 acre lots on a septic system (Fulton County lot regulations for septic system use is one acre). This would mean a zoning change from AG-1 to nothing smaller than R-1 to allow for the fields. In our opinion, it makes no sense for the City to grant the R-3A zoning only to see the property sit unused for another 4 to 5 years when another builder may wish to develop the property as one acre R-1 or E-2 lots. This would definitely be in keeping with the character of the area and would be most acceptable to the neighborhoods involved.

Sources: Fulton County 2025 Comprehensive Plan-Water Pollution Control Facilities
Letter from the Fulton County Dept. of Public works to the City of Mountain Park amending the June 4, 1997 Sewerage Moratorium Resolution for the Little River Sewer Service Area
Telephone discussions with Ray Wooten, Engineering Administrator, Fulton County Department of Public Works, Water Services Division