

# Shoal Creek Trunk Sewer Improvement Project

Department of Watershed Management | DeKalb County, Georgia

Fact Sheet

## What is the Project?

The Shoal Creek Trunk Sewer is a critical component of DeKalb County's sewer collection infrastructure and conveys sewerage from local residents, businesses, and industries to the Snapfinger Creek Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF). The project is a part of the county's \$2.4 billion capital improvement plan to improve its water and wastewater infrastructure. Once completed, the Shoal Creek Trunk Sewer Improvement Project will provide much needed capacity to accommodate future growth and enhance the environmental resilience of the County's infrastructure.

This project begins at the Snapfinger Creek AWTF and extends north through unincorporated DeKalb County and into the incorporated areas of Decatur and Avondale Estates. The primary components include:

- Replacing and/or upgrading of approximately 13 miles of gravity sewer ranging in diameters from 12 to 72 inches.
- Crossing underneath Interstate 20 and Interstate 285 connection of numerous existing residents and businesses.
- Removing aged infrastructure from adjacent stream banks.

The project is divided into three sections:

- Section 1: Snapfinger Creek AWTF to Flat Shoals Parkway
- Section 2: Flat Shoal Parkway to Interstate 20
- Section 3: Interstate 20 to South Columbia Drive

## Where is the Project?



The commissioner districts covered by this project include 1, 3, 4, and super districts 6 and 7.

## Things You Need to Know

DeKalb County owns and operates an expansive wastewater collection and transmission system. This system consists of 2,650 miles of sewer, 62 lift stations, 61,500 manholes, and two AWTFs – all of which serve approximately 620,000 DeKalb County residents. The county is divided into three sewer basins – Intergovernmental Basin, Snapfinger Basin, and Pole Bridge Basin – which consist of 35 sewer sheds. The County only provides wastewater treatment in the Snapfinger and Pole Bridge Basins, which contain the Snapfinger and Pole Bridge AWTFs, respectively.

The County's wastewater collection system has experienced significant Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) over the past several years. The SSOs are a result of infiltration and inflow of non-wastewater into the system, primarily caused by poor pipe conditions. As a result, DeKalb County entered a Consent Decree with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on December 20, 2011 (Civil Action File No. 1:10-CV-4039- SDG), to address deficiencies. The Consent Decree was later amended on September 9, 2021 to reflect additional discoveries and subsequent schedule modifications necessary to return the system to compliance.

The Shoal Creek Trunk Sewer Improvement Project has been identified by the County as an important Capital Improvement Project to foster Consent Decree compliance as well as provide additional conveyance capacity to the Snapfinger AWTF. The project must be substantially completed by 2027 to meet the most recent Consent Decree schedule. Failure to meet this timeframe could result in significant financial penalties to DeKalb County.

## What's the Project's Status?

DeKalb County's Department of Watershed Management awarded the design engineer, Atkins North America, Inc., in June 2022. Final design work is scheduled to be completed Spring 2025. Construction is estimated to begin in 2026 and will last approximately 3 years.

## What's Next?

- Project Development 2022-2025
- Construction Begins 2026
- Substantial Completion 2035

## Stay Connected

All current project layouts and alignments are subject to change so check back to the project website for updates.

DWM Project Information Hotline at  
1-800-986-1108 Monday through Friday, from 8:30  
a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or email:

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