

# REGIONAL REVIEW NOTIFICATION

Atlanta Regional Commission • 229 Peachtree Street NE | Suite 100 | Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • ph: 404.463.3100 fax: 404.463.3205 • atlantaregional.org

**DATE**: March 21, 2022

TO: Chairman Robert Patrick, Dekalb County Board of Commissioners

ATTN: Larry Washington, Planning Administrator, Dekalb County

RE: Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Review

FROM: Mike Alexander, Director, ARC Center for Livable Communities

ARC has completed a preliminary regional review of the below DRI. ARC reviewed the DRI's relationship to regional plans, goals and policies and impacts it may have on the activities, plans, goals and policies of other local jurisdictions as well as state, federal and other agencies. This preliminary report does not address whether the DRI is or is not in the best interest of the local government.

Name of Proposal: North Dekalb Mall Redevelopment DRI 3582

**Submitting Local Government**: Dekalb County

<u>Date Opened</u>: March 21, 2022 <u>Deadline for Comments</u>: April 5, 2022 <u>Date to Close</u>: April 10, 2022

<u>Description</u>: A DRI Review of a proposal to redevelop North Dekalb Mall as a mixed-use residential, office and retail center on its 74.3 acre site at 2050 Lawrenceville Highway in Dekalb County with 300,000 SF of new or repurposed retail space, 100 townhomes, 1,700 multi-family units, 150 hotel rooms, and 200,000 SF of office space. A conservation area with walking trails will be provided next to the existing nature preserve west of the site. The project will include an extensive sidewalk network connecting to the surrounding areas as well as a segment of a multi-use regional trail. Vehicular access will be provided by five existing full movement driveways along North Druid Hills Road and Lawrenceville Highway.

# **Preliminary Comments**

# **Key Comments**

- The project is strongly aligned with applicable Maturing Neighborhoods growth policy recommendations which note: "infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings in this area needs to be balanced with the preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods, as well as the need for additional usable parks and greenspace close to residents, including amenities such as trails and sidewalks."
- The project directly advances a broad range of regional policies related to walkable mixed-used development, natural resource conservation and environmental protection, transit-oriented development, adaptive reuse, and placemaking among others.

- While the project will generate a significant number of new vehicular trips, its mixed-use and highly walkable design as well as immediate adjacency to several MARTA bus lines offer meaningful multimodal alternatives to driving.
- The project includes a robust pedestrian network including a multi-use regional trail segment and connections to surrounding commercial uses, residential neighborhoods, and open space.
- The project density is appropriate to its location and provides substantial new households to support
  existing and new businesses as well as retail and commercial destinations for surrounding
  neighborhoods.
- The proposed lower density townhomes and dedicated large natural green space on the project's west side properly buffers the adjacent single-family neighborhood from the project's higher intensity but complementary uses.
- The project is creating or preserving a total of 19 acres of publicly accessibly green space including a large area around the South Fork Peachtree Creek adjacent to the existing 28 acre Clyde Shepherd Nature Preseve which is roughly 3 times the amount required. Further, no existing trees or natural areas are being removed.

## **General Comments**

According to the ARC Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM), part of The Atlanta Region's Plan, this DRI site is designated as Maturing Neighborhoods. The Plan's Regional Development Guide (RDG) provides general information and policy recommendations for Maturing Neighborhoods as described at the end of these comments.

# **Transportation and Mobility Comments**

The project is expected to generate a total of roughly 15,000 daily new car trips. Roadway improvements to mitigate the traffic impact are proposed. Significant multi-modal pedestrian and transit options are incorporated into the project and provide meaningful alternatives to driving. A total of 1,532 non-residential parking spaces are proposed in a mix of surface, street, and structured parking facilities.

Additional bicycle parking spaces would strengthen the project's multi-modal transportation approach.

Care should be taken to ensure that the constructed development provides an interconnected, functional, clearly marked and comfortable pedestrian experience on all driveways, paths, entrances, and parking areas. To the maximum extent possible, new driveways and intersection corners where pedestrians will cross should be constructed with minimal curb radii to reduce speeds of turning vehicles and decrease crossing distances for pedestrians.

# **Environment Comments**

The project can further support The Atlanta Region's Plan by incorporating other aspects of regional environmental policy, including green infrastructure and/or low-impact design, e.g., pervious pavers, rain gardens, vegetated swales, etc., in parking areas and site driveways, and as part of any improvements to site

frontages. Adequate tree canopy to reduce the urban heat island effect of the roughly 900 surface parking spaces proposed would also reinforce regional heat and climate change mitigation goals.

Inclusion of additional EV charging stations would be supportive of regional EV infrastructure development plans.

# **Unified Growth Policy: Maturing Neighborhoods**

This DRI site falls under the UGPM Maturing Neighborhoods category which are older neighborhoods that include both single- and multi-family development, as well as commercial and office uses at connected key locations, that were mostly built out before 1980. They represent the largest part of the region that is facing infill and redevelopment pressures. In many cases, infrastructure is in place to handle additional growth, but in some areas, infrastructure is built out with limited capacity for expansion. This may constrain the amount of additional growth possible in certain areas. Many arterial streets in this area are congested due to their use as regional routes for commuters. Limited premium transit service is available in these areas.

The demand for infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings in this area needs to be balanced with the preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods, as well as the need for additional usable parks and greenspace close to residents, including amenities such as trails and sidewalks. The intensity and land use of this project strongly aligns with The Atlanta Region's Plan's recommendations for Maturing Neighborhoods. The project utilizes previously developed land for new higher-density office, retail, and residential uses in a manner that can relieve development pressure on surrounding single family neighborhoods. Dekalb County leadership and staff, along with the applicant team, should collaborate closely to ensure absolute maximum sensitivity to nearby local governments, neighborhoods, land uses and natural resources.

# THE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES RECEIVED NOTICE OF THIS REVIEW:

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

CITY OF AVONDALE ESTATES TUCKER - NORTHLAKE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE GEORGIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY GEORGIA CONSERVANCY CITY OF DECATUR **MARTA** 

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION **DEKALB COUNTY** CITY OF CLARKSTON CITY OF ATLANTA

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact Donald Shockey at (470) 378-1531 or dshockey@atlantaregional.org. This finding will be published to the ARC review website located at http://atlantaregional.org/plan-reviews.





# **Developments of Regional Impact**

**DRI Home** Tier Map **View Submissions** <u>Login</u> **Apply** 

## DRI #3582

## **DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT Initial DRI Information**

This form is to be completed by the city or county government to provide basic project information that will allow the RDC to determine if the project appears to meet or exceed applicable DRI thresholds. Refer to both the Rules for the DRI Process and the DRI Tiers and Thresholds for more information.

#### **Local Government Information**

Submitting Local Government: DeKalb County Individual completing form: Larry Washington

Telephone: 404-275-4198

E-mail: Lwashington@DeKalbcountyga.gov

\*Note: The local government representative completing this form is responsible for the accuracy of the information contained herein. If a project is to be located in more than one jurisdiction and, in total, the project meets or exceeds a DRI threshold, the local government in which the largest portion of the project is to be located is responsible for initiating the DRI review process.

# **Proposed Project Information**

Name of Proposed Project: North DeKalb Mall Redevelopment

Location (Street Address, GPS 2050 Lawrenceville Highway Decatur GA 30033 Coordinates, or Legal Land Lot Description):

If yes, property owner: Is the proposed project entirely

located within your local government's jurisdiction?

Brief Description of Project: Description :Mixed use development that consist of retail,office,hotel ,multi-family and townhouses. The development program is as follows: Retail: 300,000 SF Office:

200	0,000 SF Hotel: 150 Rooms Multi-Family	: 1,700 Units Townhouses: 100 Units
Development Type:		
(not selected)	Hotels	Wastewater Treatment Facilities
Office	Mixed Use	Petroleum Storage Facilities
Commercial	Airports	Water Supply Intakes/Reservoirs
Wholesale & Distribution	OAttractions & Recreational Facilities	OIntermodal Terminals
Hospitals and Health Care Facilities	Post-Secondary Schools	Truck Stops
Housing	Waste Handling Facilities	Any other development types
Olndustrial	Quarries, Asphalt & Cement Plants	
If other development type, describe:		
Project Size (# of units, floor area, etc.): 1,800		
Developer: ED	M Edens, LLC (Jim McKenney	
Mailing Address: 30	50 Peachtree Road, NW Suite 580	
Address 2:		
Cit	y:Atlanta State: GA Zip:30305	
Telephone: 770	0.569.5509	
Email: jmo	ckenney@edens.com	
Is property owner different from developer/applicant?	(not selected) Yes No	

(not selected) Yes No



GRTA DRI Page | ARC DRI Page | RC Links | DCA DRI Page

**DRI Site Map | Contact** 





# **Developments of Regional Impact**

**DRI Home** 

Tier Map

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## **DRI #3582**

## **DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT Additional DRI Information**

This form is to be completed by the city or county government to provide information needed by the RDC for its review of the proposed DRI. Refer to both the Rules for the DRI Process and the DRI Tiers and Thresholds for more information.

#### **Local Government Information**

Submitting Local Government: DeKalb County

Individual completing form: Larry Washington

Telephone: 404-275-4198

Email: Lwashington@DeKalbcountyga.gov

## **Project Information**

Name of Proposed Project: North DeKalb Mall Redevelopment

DRI ID Number: 3582

Developer/Applicant: EDM Edens, LLC (Jim McKenney

Telephone: 770.569.5509

Email(s): jmckenney@edens.com

# **Additional Information Requested**

Has the RDC identified any additional information required in order to proceed with the official regional

(not selected) Yes No review process? (If no,

proceed to Economic Impacts.)

If ves, has that additional information been provided to your RDC and, if applicable, GRTA?

(not selected) Yes No

If no, the official review process can not start until this additional information is provided.

# **Economic Development**

Estimated Value at Build-Out:

\$800,000,000

Estimated annual local tax revenues (i.e., property tax,

11.000.000

sales tax) likely to be generated by the proposed

Is the regional work force sufficient to fill the demand created by the proposed

displace any existing uses?

(not selected) Yes No

project?

Will this development

(not selected) Yes No

If yes, please describe (including number of units, square feet, etc): 608,671 SF of vacant and leased mall space will be demolished.

# Water Supply

Name of water supply

DeKalb County

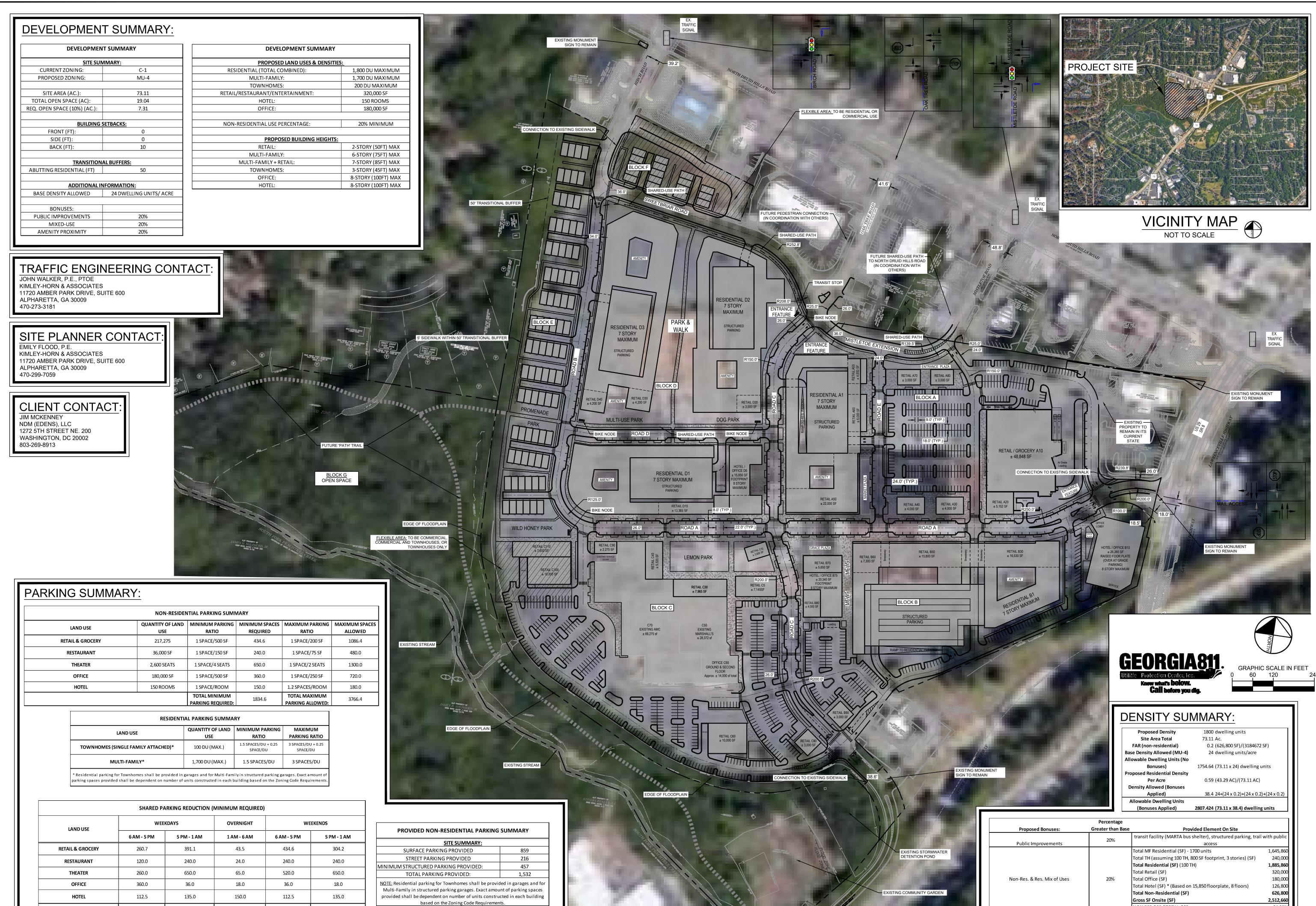
provider for this site:			
What is the estimated water			
supply demand to be generated by the project,	0.68 MGD		
measured in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)?			
Is sufficient water supply			
capacity available to serve the proposed project?	○(not selected) ○ Yes ○ No		
If no, describe any plans to expand the existing water supply capacity:			
Is a water line extension required to serve this project?	(not selected) Yes No		
If yes, how much additional line (in miles) will be required?			
Wastewater Disposal			
Name of wastewater			
treatment provider for this site:	DeKalb County		
What is the estimated sewage flow to be			
generated by the project, measured in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)?	0.82 MGD		
Is sufficient wastewater			
treatment capacity available to serve this proposed project?	(not selected) Yes No		
If no, describe any plans to expand existing wastewater treatment capacity:			
Is a sewer line extension required to serve this project?	(not selected) Yes No		
If yes, how much additional li	ne (in miles) will be required?		
	Land Transportation		
	Land Transportation		
How much traffic volume is expected to be generated			
by the proposed			
development, in peak hour vehicle trips per day? (If	15,748 net daily trips,1,060 net AM peak trips,918 net peak trips		
only an alternative measure of volume is available,			
please provide.) Has a traffic study been			
performed to determine			
whether or not transportation or access	(not selected) Yes No		
improvements will be needed to serve this			
project?			
Are transportation improvements needed to	(not selected) Yes No		
serve this project?			
If yes, please describe below:Please refer to the traffic study prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates.			
Solid Waste Disposal			
How much solid waste is the			
project expected to	17,241 tons		
generate annually (in tons)?  Is sufficient landfill capacity			
available to serve this proposed project?	○(not selected) Yes No		
If no, describe any plans to expand existing landfill capacity:			
Will any hazardous waste			
be generated by the development?	O(not selected) Yes No		
If yes, please explain:			
Stormwater Management			
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	.1.740/		

What percentage of the site +/-74% is projected to be impervious surface once the

proposed development has been constructed?				
Describe any measures proposed (such as buffers, detention or retention ponds, pervious parking areas) to mitigate the project's impacts on stormwater management: The proposed development will utilize buffers, detention, runoff reduction or water quality as necessary to meet the DeKalb County and the State of Georgia stormwater requirements for the site.				
Environmental Quality				
Is the development located w	vithin, or likely to affect any of the following:			
Water supply watersheds?	(not selected) Yes No			
2. Significant groundwater recharge areas?	(not selected) Yes No			
3. Wetlands?	(not selected) Yes No			
4. Protected mountains?	(not selected) Yes No			
5. Protected river corridors?	(not selected) Yes No			
6. Floodplains?	(not selected) Yes No			
7. Historic resources?	(not selected) Yes No			
8. Other environmentally sensitive resources?	(not selected) Yes No			
If you answered yes to any question above, describe how the identified resource(s) may be affected:  Note#6: Site is located adjacent to,but not impacting a floodplain of the South Fork Peachtree Creek.				
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DRI Site Map | Contact



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1,347.2

1,113.2

1,452.1

300.5

1,343.1

ENS), ROAD, NW SU (ED 

GSWCC NO. (LEVEL II) 00000XXXXX DRAWN BY DESIGNED BY

REVIEWED BY 02/21/2022 PROJECT NO. 018381014

**ZONING SITE** PLAN

SHEET NUMBER

C1-50

24.95%

NON RES GSF / TOTAL GSF

Amenity Proximity

