

The History of Wastewater in the City of Anderson, SC

The wastewater collection system in the City of Anderson most likely dates back the 1910's or 1920's. In the beginning, the first sewer collection and outfall lines directed sewer to the Rocky River and Whitner Creek with no treatment. In the 1930's as all cities began to recognize that untreated wastewater discharge created health problems, the City purchased tracts of land to be the first wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's) in the City of Anderson.

One plant was constructed on the Rocky River in the Liberty Hill area. The other was built on Byrum Creek on the site that currently houses the Anderson County Animal Shelter. Both plants used primary treatment technology consisting of clarification and sludge removal. Each plant was rated for a discharge of approximately 1 million gallons per day (MGD).

During the 1950's and 1960's, the United States government encouraged the prevention of pollution by providing funds for the construction of municipal water treatment plants, water pollution research, and technical training in treatment. In the 1960's, the City leaders recognized the need of increased plant capacity and the better treatment of wastewater. The City purchased additional lands that would become the site of the present day, Generostee Creek and Rocky River WWTP's. In 1965, the new secondary treatment plants were placed on line along with main sewer trunk line extensions. Each plant used state-of-the-art treatment technology as well as disinfection to treat wastewater prior discharge to the receiving streams.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 was implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency so the foresight of the City leaders was well ahead of the curve. A signed agreement in 1987 between the City of Anderson and Anderson County set forth the intent of both parties to improve the wastewater treatment facilities of the community. There was also a similar agreement signed between the City of Anderson and the Homeland Park Water and Sewer District. These agreements still stand today and are the road map of wastewater treatment and collection service in and around the City of Anderson. Based on these agreements, service areas were outlined and plant expansions were initiated.

These plants served the City until the 1989 when they were expanded by adding a second treatment train using the same treatment process. The Generostee Creek WWTP was expanded to 6.2 MGD, and the Rocky River WWTP was expanded to 6.1 MGD.

As a result of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) mandates, the plants were upgraded in the 1990's to meet more stringent ammonia discharge limits.

In 2003, the 1987 agreements were amended to provide for future expansions and upgrades to both treatment plants and a parallel main trunk line of the collection system. In 2005, the Generostee Creek WWTP was expanded by 3.8 MGD to 10 MGD and wet weather storage facilities were added to handle excess flows during storm events.

In 2005, the Rocky River WWTP was upgraded to meet SCDHEC mandated phosphorus discharge limits and wet weather storage facilities were also added. Construction was also completed on the Rocky River Relief Sewer that parallels the existing main trunk line on the collection system. Final design has been completed on an expansion project to increase the rated treatment capacity by 3.4 MGD to 9.5 MGD. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin in July 2008.