



RESTAURANT INSPECTIONS

## Food found unprotected at deli in Covington

By Laura Berrios  
For the AJC

Food was stored uncovered and not separated to prevent cross-contamination at an American Deli in Covington.

The beef steak was uncovered and out of its original container in the freezer during the routine health inspection. And tomatoes and broccoli were uncovered in the walk-in cooler. Other items in that cooler were at risk of cross-contamination. French fries were beside and on top of boxes of raw chicken, and beef and fish were next to each other.

American Deli, 3154 Highway 278, scored 44/U, down from 83/B. It will be re-inspected.

Among other violations, multiple foods were at unsafe temperatures in the prep cooler, with an air temperature of 47 degrees. Cheese, cooked meats and seafood, deli meats and vegetables were discarded.

Cooked items on time control for food safety did not have a start or discard time marking. Other items in the prep cooler were not date marked for disposal. Cooked chicken, beef and shrimp, deli meats, lettuce and tomatoes were disposed of.

**AMERICAN DELI**

3154 Highway 278, Covington. Score: 44/U.

**ACROSS METRO ATLANTA**

Here are other recent inspection scores for area restaurants.

**Cobb County**

- Cinco Mexican Cantina, 2851 Akers Mill Road, Atlanta. 91/A
- Five Guys, 1125 Barrett Parkway, Kennesaw. 100/A
- Marlow's Tavern, 2960 Shallowford Road, Marietta. 90/A
- McAlister's Deli, 2950 Busbee Parkway, Kennesaw. 98/A

**DeKalb County**

- Chou Lee Restaurant, 2348 Panola Road, Lithonia. 93/A
- Grecian Gyro Restaurant, 3989 Lawrenceville Highway, Tucker. 91/A
- Taco Bell, 2436 Wesley Chapel Road, Decatur. 100/A
- Wheelhouse Craft Pub & Kitchen, 1479 Scott Blvd., Decatur. 100/A

**Fulton County**

- Afro Dish, 209 Edgewood Ave., Atlanta. 100/A
- Auntie Vee's Kitchen, 12890 Highway 9, Alpharetta. 95/A
- Doodle Pies, 1105 Woodstock Road, Roswell. 100/A
- The Flying Biscuit Café, 857 Collier Road, Atlanta. 93/A

**Gwinnett County**

- 9292 BBQ, 3360 Satellite Blvd., Duluth. 87/B
- Church's Chicken, 6111 S. Norcross Tucker Road, Norcross. 94/A
- Manhattan NY Deli & Bagel, 5275 Peachtree Parkway, Peachtree Corners. 73/C
- Sportsline Bar & Grille, 2100 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville. 96/A

**MORE DETAILS**

Information about restaurants is taken from public records and reflects scores from the latest Health Department inspections.

**ajc.com**

- Read past scores: [ajc.com/inspections-archive](http://ajc.com/inspections-archive)
- How to look up scores: [ajc.com/restaurant-inspections](http://ajc.com/restaurant-inspections)
- Keep up on restaurant reviews and food news: [ajc.com/atlanta-restaurants-blog/](http://ajc.com/atlanta-restaurants-blog/)

JOHN RIPLEY FORBES BIG TREES FOREST PRESERVE

## Urban forest with big trees creates hidden sanctuary

Park is maintained by volunteers and community donations

By Karen Huppertz | For the AJC

Tucked away in an unexpected corner of Sandy Springs is the John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve. One can easily miss this 30-acre sanctuary tucked away alongside one of the city's major thoroughfares at 7645 Roswell Road.

It might even be fair to say visitors to the North Fulton County Government Services Center right next door may have never noticed this peaceful wooded sanctuary that shares a parking lot with the preserve.

Big Trees Founder, John Ripley Forbes, known for his development and organization of 24 natural science centers and 15 tree, plant and wildlife sanctuaries for youth, organized and established the Outdoor Activity Center and the Chattahoochee Nature Center. He founded the nonprofit Southeast Land Preservation Trust to preserve Atlanta's natural spaces, maintain conservation easements and promote community involvement in nature education.

According to the preserve's website, Forbes "first learned of a beautiful forest in Sandy Springs about to be marketed as land suitable for a car dealership. Upon visiting the property, he was awed by the beauty of the forest and felt it should be saved for use as an urban forest education center."

The John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve and the Southeast Land Preservation Trust, jointly hold the conservation easement and are responsible for management of the forest.

Easier said than done. The park is lovingly maintained by a volunteer board of directors, a youth nonprofit called the Pebble Tossers, Leadership Sandy Springs and countless volunteers.

"We want to protect the forest for future generations," said Sam Hale, BTFFP board president who has volunteered with the organization for about 20 years.

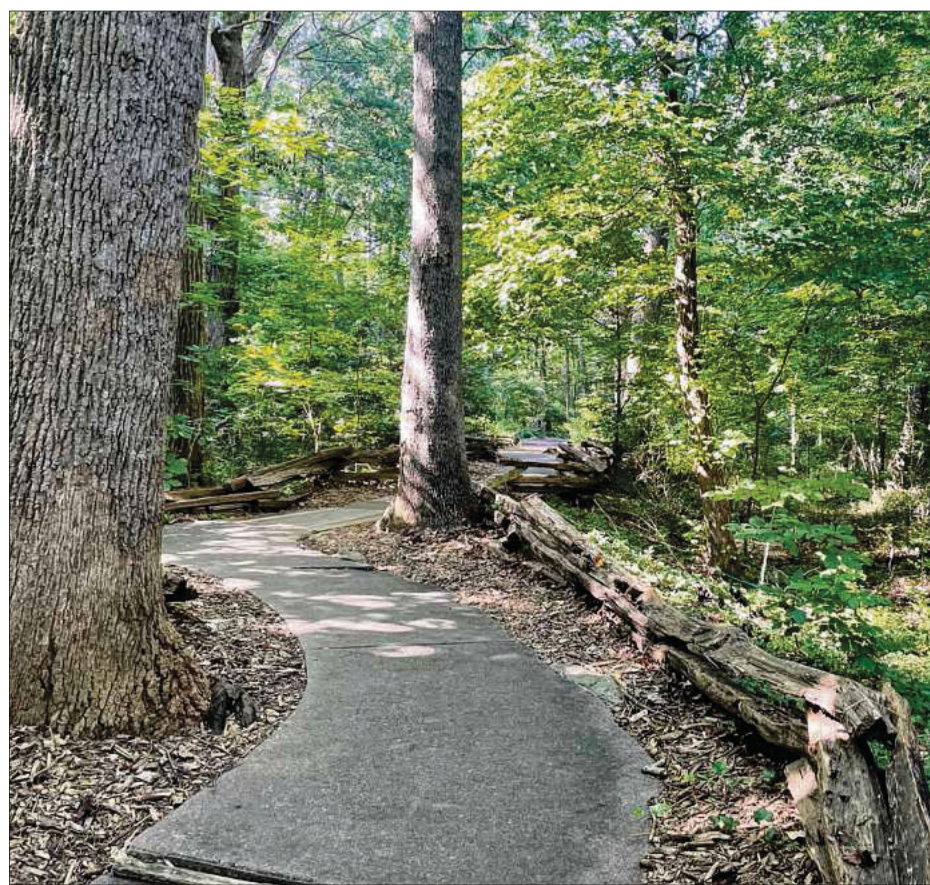
Sandy Springs built the restrooms and helps provide tools, but most of the funding to support the park's safe and well-managed trails comes from community donations.

The youth development nonprofit, Pebble Tossers, commits the second Saturday of each month to Big Trees and you can find an Eagle Scout from time to time helping build benches, split-rail fences or addressing an erosion area along one of the pathways.

"Our adult volunteers come out three to four times a year," said Hale. "The events are well organized with wheelbarrows and pitchforks ready so volunteers can focus on providing the labor."

Visitors to the park can escape the hustle of the city and enjoy the fresh air only a forest can provide along the Backcountry Trail System. Its three trails total slightly less than one mile and are all easy to walk with no steep grades.

Among the preserve's scenic features is a cliff above the cascading Powers Branch gorge and the fern-lined banks of the Trowbridge Branch. The trail is



Entering the Big Trees Forest Preserve in Sandy Springs allows for an escape from the hustle and bustle of nearby Roswell Road. COURTESY OF KAREN HUPPERTZ



The nonprofit Pebble Tossers is seeking volunteers to join work to support Big Trees Forest Preserve in Sandy Springs on the second Saturday of each month. COURTESY OF PEBBLE TOSSERS

fully canopied with a wide variety of hardwood and softwood trees and an understory of dogwoods, sourwoods, native azaleas, blueberries, sparkleberries and various wildflowers.

The trails pass near two historical features, the long-abandoned Bull Sluice Railroad bed used for only two

years exclusively for hauling material to construct the Morgan Falls hydroelectric dam and the former Roswell Road wagon trail used in the 1800s before the present Roswell Road was built.

Learn more, volunteer or plan a peaceful visit at [bigtreesforest.com](http://bigtreesforest.com).

GWINNETT

## County wins 22 national awards for last year's programs



Volunteers help sort food from the Atlanta Food Bank into boxes for Gwinnett's Mobile Food Distribution program. COURTESY OF GWINNETT COUNTY

### National Association of Counties recognizes new social services.

By Alia Malik  
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Gwinnett County recently accepted 22 achievement awards from the National Association of Counties for programs it implemented last year.

"Having our staff and programs recognized on a national level reflects our passion and commitment to providing comprehensive support to every corner of our county," Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson said in a news release. "The Gwinnett Board of Commissioners values the role they play in creating a forward-think-

ing and agile local government."

Among the county's winning initiatives were its mobile food distribution program, Black History Month exhibit, online donation app and watershed cleanup.

The mobile food distribution program began after the coronavirus pandemic increased food insecurity. In fewer than three years, it has helped nearly 50,000 households and distributed more than 1.5 million pounds of food, according to a county news release.

To win a NACo Achievement Award, a program must offer new services, fill in gaps, tap into new revenue, source in new revenue, improve the existing program, upgrade employee training levels or enhance citizen participation.

A full list of Gwinnett's award-winning projects this year can be found on NACo's website.