Zoning 101 Zoning and Land Development

November 14, 2017

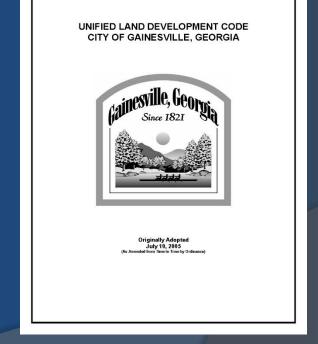
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Some info courtesy of City of Gainesville, GA

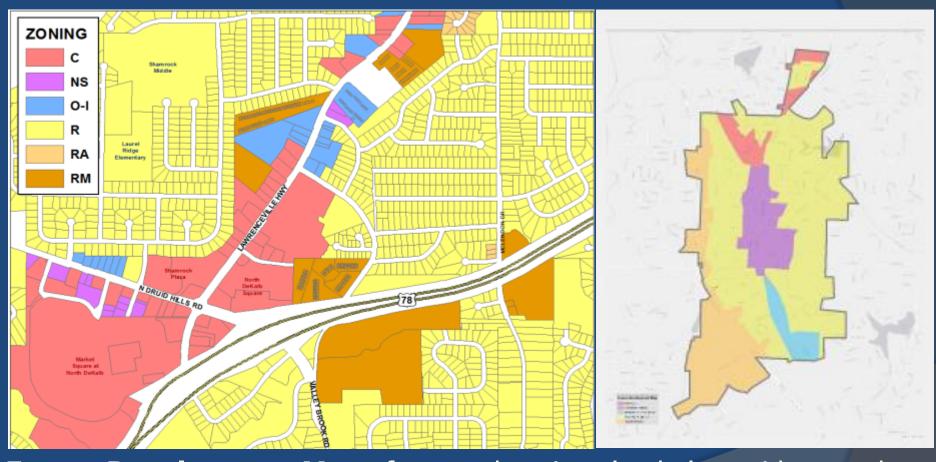
Zoning

- The legal power of government to regulate the use of private property for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare.
- Zoning is constitutional (court cases plus GA Constitution of 1983 authorizes local zoning)
- Includes zoning map and zoning ordinance
- Zoning regulates what can go where



Zoning has benefits and drawbacks

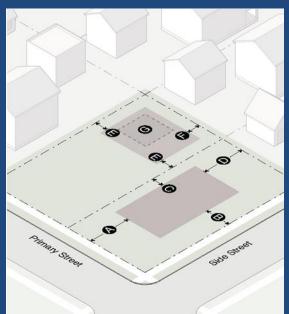
Official Zoning Map and Future Development Map

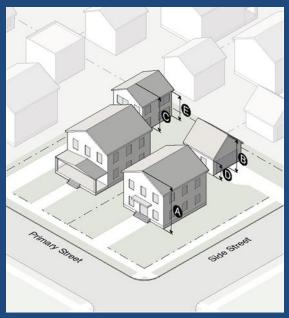


Future Development Map of comprehensive plan helps guide growth and should be used as part of the decision-making process for each proposed rezoning case

Rezoning and Conditional/Special uses

- Rezoning: changing property from one zone to another
- Conditional/Special uses: keep same zoning but request unusual use that would not normally be allowed
 - Example: particular business use on lot zoned residential
- District Requirements: uses, lot size, parking
- Site design and zoning: density, lot coverage, setbacks, height
- Approve, deny, or approve with conditions
 - Confirm with city/county attorney that decision is legally-defensible

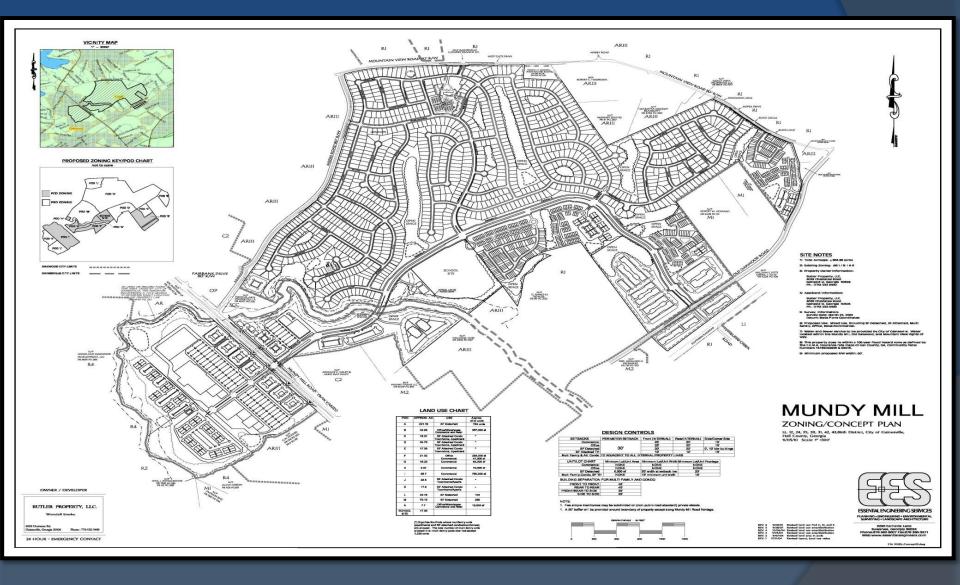




Building Height		
Principal building:		A
Lot less than 9,000 SF	see Sec. 2.1.6.B.4	
Lot 9,000 SF or more	2 stories/35' max	
1 story accessory structure	16' max	₿
2 story accessory structure	25' max	0

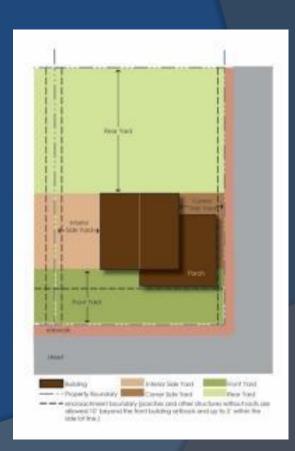


Concept Plan for Rezoning case



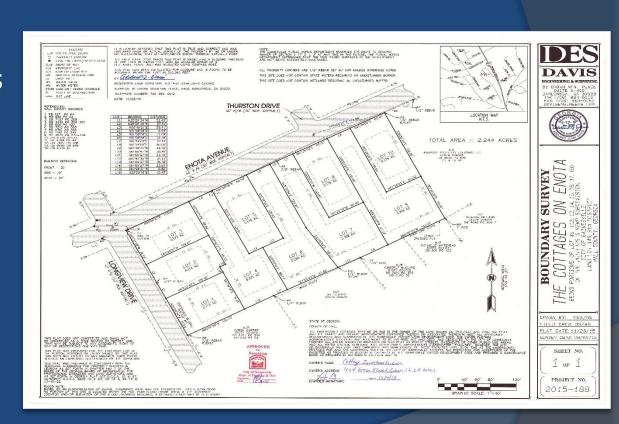
Variances

- Permission to deviate from usual regulations
 - Setback, height, etc.
 - Not for density (1 unit per acre cannot receive variance for 2 units)
 - Unusual and unnecessary hardship
- Zoning Board of Appeals
 - ZBA, BZA, ZRB, etc.
 - Decision-making body
 - Quasi-judicial actions
 - Appeals are to Superior Court

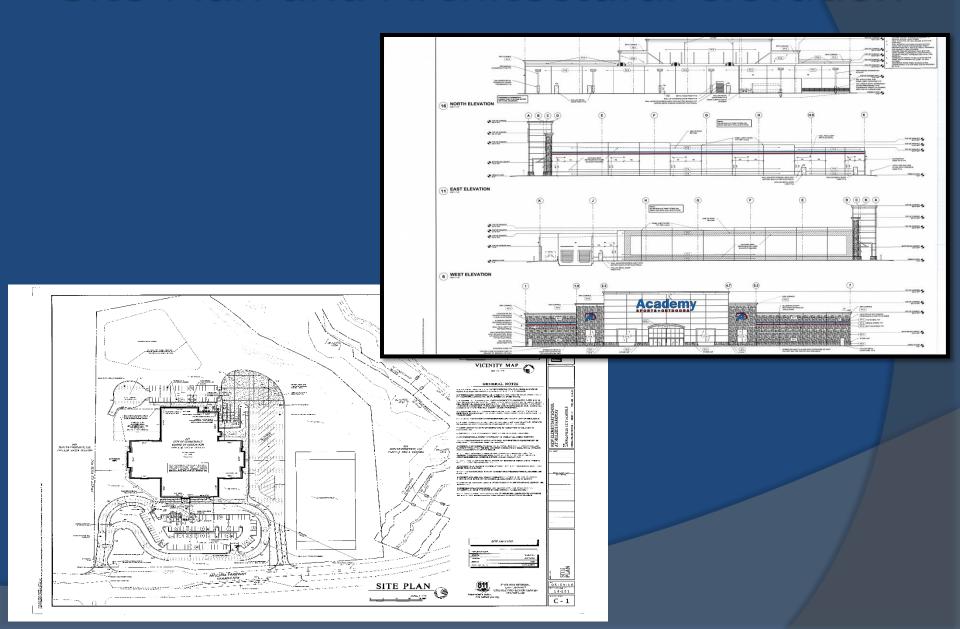


Subdivision of Land

- Single lots
- Residential subdivisions
- Commercial tracts
- Some Planning Commissions review subdivisions
- Confirm with staff and/or local attorney that standards are met



Site Plan and Architectural elevation



Permits & Inspections

- Confirm zoning
- Land Disturbance Permit
 - Civil plans review (site, erosion control)
- Septic permit if needed
- Driveway permit, 911 address
- Building permit
 - Building plans review
 - State-licensed contractor unless owner-occupied residential
- Inspections
- Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion
- Challenge variance cases can occur midway through a project



Take-aways

- Plans are guides, codes are the law
- Use the Future Development Map when considering rezonings
- Boards and Commissions must
 - Be objective
 - Be consistent
 - Rely upon plans, codes, and facts
 - Make legally-defensible decisions
- Plans and codes are living documents; adjust to changing conditions
- Implementation and enforcement are vital