

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA, TO ADD DIVISION 4  
TO CHAPTER 27, ARTICLE III CREATING THE ARABIA MOUNTAIN  
CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT AND ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL ZONING  
MAP, CITY OF STONECREST, GA ARABIA MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION  
OVERLAY DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stonecrest, Georgia Mayor and City Council are authorized by the City Charter to provide comprehensive planning and zoning for land usage inside the city boundaries; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stonecrest is authorized to exercise the power of zoning Ga. Const. Art. IX, Section II, ¶ IV, Ga. Const. Art. IX, Section II, ¶¶ I and III, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 36-66-1 et seq., the City's Charter, the City's general police powers, and by other powers and authority provided by federal, state and local laws applicable hereto; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stonecrest continues to exercise its zoning powers to provide comprehensive city planning and ensure a safe, healthy, and aesthetically pleasing community; and

**WHEREAS,** as the City of Stonecrest experiences growth and gains knowledge through the exercise of these powers, it is necessary to add certain requirements in the Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stonecrest recognizes necessity of implementing regulations which protect the health, safety and welfare of its citizens as well as tourists in the city who choose alternative accommodations.

**THEREFORE,** the Mayor and City Council of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia, hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1: The Code of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia, is hereby amended by adding Chapter 27, Article III, Division 4- ARABIA MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT, which reads as follows:**

**27-3.4 – DIVISION 4- ARABIA MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT**

**Sec. 3.4.1. - Title.**

The provisions contained within this division are the regulations of the Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District.

**Sec. 3.4.2. - Purpose and intent.**

The purpose and intent of the city council in establishing the Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District (AMCOD) is as follows:

- 39       A. To provide for the protection of natural resources and of scenic views of areas within  
40       the boundaries of the AMCOD, so as to protect and enhance the public welfare  
41       associated with these natural resources and the aesthetic qualities within this area,  
42       consistent with the policies of the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan;  
43  
44       B. To provide reasonable and creative planning and development within the AMCOD  
45       while preserving the natural land form and features, trees and tree canopy, and the  
46       views to and from Arabia Mountain as indicated on the adopted map;  
47  
48       C. To assure that all activities and authorized uses of land allowed within the AMCOD,  
49       whether allowed uses or permitted uses, are activities or uses which are designed so as  
50       not to detract from or damage the protected natural resources and scenic beauty of this  
51       district;  
52  
53       D. To encourage and promote the dedication of conservation easements to appropriate  
54       public and not-for-profit entities established and authorized to hold easements in  
55       perpetuity pursuant to the Georgia Uniform Conservation Easement Act (O.C.G.A. 44-  
56       10 and 12-6A) , for the purposes of protecting historical and arch logical areas, the  
57       habitat of endangered or threatened animal and plant species (as defined in the federal  
58       Endangered Species Act U.S.C. 1531 and the Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973),  
59       providing passive recreational and educational opportunities, preserving the cultural  
60       history of the area, protecting open space within the city, and protecting scenic views to  
61       and from Arabia Mountain; and  
62  
63       E. To provide consistent development standards that will adhere to common design  
64       characteristics that include but are not limited to: deep setbacks from the main road;  
65       strategic buffer zones; home “clustering”; shorter streets within a development and  
66       shared open spaces connected by trails, walkways and paths.  
67

68   Sec. 3.4.3. - District boundaries.

69       The boundaries of the AMCOD shall be depicted on the official zoning maps entitled  
70       "Official Zoning Map, City of Stonecrest, Georgia, Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay  
71       District")(the “AMCOD overlay maps”). The Official Zoning Map, City of Stonecrest, Georgia,  
72       Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District, to be adopted contemporaneously with this  
73       chapter, together with all explanatory information contained or referenced thereon, is hereby  
74       adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this chapter.  
75

76       The AMCOD overlay maps shall be adopted contemporaneously with this chapter in digital  
77       format and contained on a compact disk to be maintained in its original, unedited and unaltered  
78       form by the clerk to the city council. A printed copy of the compact disk's contents depicting the  
79       AMCOD overlay maps on the date of its initial adoption shall also be maintained in its original,  
80       unedited and unaltered form by the clerk to the city council.  
81

82   Sec. 3.4.4. - Applicability of regulations.



83 This division establishes standards and procedures that apply to development of any lot or  
84 portion thereof which is in whole or in part contained within the boundaries of the AMCOD. The  
85 procedures, standards, and criteria shall apply only to that portion of the subject property within  
86 the boundaries of the district.

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88  
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90 Sec. 3.4.5. - Principal uses and principal structures.

91 A. The principal uses of land and structures which are allowed in the AMCOD are as is  
92 provided by the applicable underlying zoning district, except for those listed in B below,  
93 subject to the limitations and standards contained within this district. Additional  
94 permitted uses are as follows:

- 95  
96 1. Recreation, passive and Nature preserve  
97 2. Dog Parks  
98 3. Bed and Breakfast homes  
99 4. Outdoor Concert halls  
100 5. Urban Gardens

101  
102 B. Prohibited uses. The following principal uses of land and structures shall be prohibited  
103 within the AMCOD:

- 104 1. Sexually-oriented businesses  
105 2. Drive-in Theater  
106 3. Fairground or Amusement Park  
107 4. Swimming pools as part of a commercial Recreation, Outdoor use or  
108 Recreation club; but not including swimming pools incidental to Open space,  
109 clubhouse or pool amenity  
110 5. Coliseum or stadium, except for outdoor Concert Halls  
111 6. Nightclub or late night establishment  
112 7. Outdoor storage, mini-warehouses, and storage buildings  
113 8. Pawn shops  
114 9. Mortuary or Crematorium  
115 10. Alcohol Outlets  
116 11. Salvage yards and junk yards  
117 12. Motel or Extended Stay Motel  
118 13. Shelter for homeless persons  
119 14. Transitional housing facility  
120 15. Fuel Dealers, Fuel Pumps and Accessory Fuel Pumps  
121 16. Automobile and truck rental and leasing, Automobile brokerage, Automobile  
122 mall, Automobile recovery and storage, Automobile rental and leasing,  
123 Automobile repair and maintenance, major, Automobile repair and  
124 maintenance, minor, Automobile sales, Automobile service station,  
125 Automobile upholstery shop, Automobile wash/wax service, Recreational  
126 vehicle/boat sales and service, Freight service, Transportation equipment and  
127 storage or maintenance (vehicle), and Vehicle storage yard

17. Commercial parking garage/structure; Commercial parking lots
18. Convenience store
19. Drive-through facilities
20. Personal service establishments
21. Check cashing facility
22. Heavy equipment storage
23. Truck stops
24. Warehouses
25. Solid waste disposal, Private industry solid waste disposal facility
26. Bus station or terminal
27. Ambulance service facility, Private ambulance service, Dispatch office

Sec. 3.4.6. - Accessory uses and accessory structures.

The accessory uses of land and structures which are allowed in the AMCOD are as is provided by the applicable underlying zoning district, subject to the limitations and standards contained within this division.

Sec. 3.4.7. - Lot coverage.

Except as provided in Sec. 3.4.9, lot coverage within the AMCOD shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of net lot area.

Sec. 3.4.8. - Clearing and grading of lots.

No lot shall be cleared and graded to an extent exceeding thirty-five (35) percent of the net lot area. Said limitation is intended to permit twenty-five (25) percent lot coverage as allowed in section 3.4.7 above, and to permit appropriate slopes from the remaining natural land contours to the finished site grades.

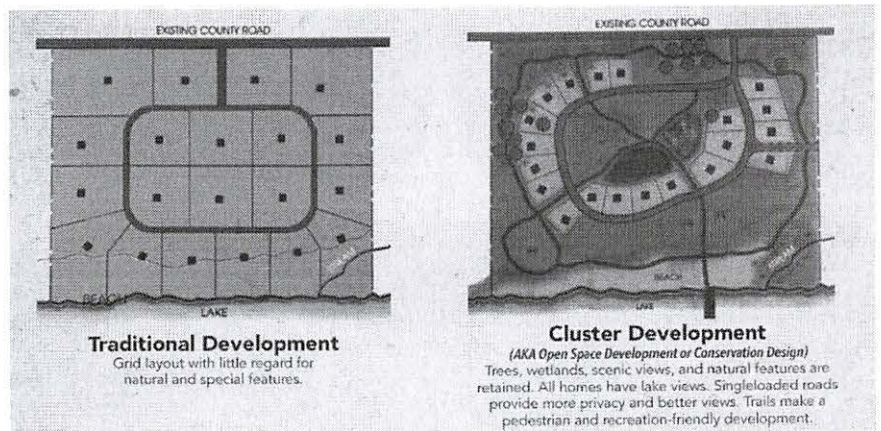
Sec. 3.4.9- Development Standards

There shall be no impervious surfaces within the seventy-five (75) foot stream buffer. All dwelling units shall be provided convenient access to all green space throughout the development via pedestrian paths or trails.

A. Conservation Communities  
(residential /subdivisions)

Maximum density: Eight (8) dwelling units to the acre of total land area excluding undevelopable areas listed below:

1. Streams and stream buffers
2. Wetlands
3. Rock outcroppings





4. Slopes steeper than 1:2 slope
5. Sites of archaeological significance
6. Floodplains
7. Areas intended to be dedication for right of way

Minimum lot width: Seventy (70) feet as measured from the front building setback line; except for a lot on a cul-de-sac, which shall have a measurement of thirty-five (35) feet

Minimum lot area: Seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet, except that each lot on the periphery of the development is at least ten thousand (10,000) square feet.

Minimum side-yard setback: 10 ft.

Maximum single-family dwelling lot coverage: 50%

Greenspace: Thirty (30) percent of the total land area must be designated greenspace. Sixty (65) percent of the greenspace should be in a contiguous tract.

Green space may consist of:

1. Natural undisturbed areas
2. Passive recreational areas
3. Trails and Green ways
4. Bikeways and paths
5. Mature wooded areas

Greenspaces shall be preserve and maintained by one of the following:

- a. Establishment of a mandatory home owner's association (HOA) to own and maintain the common green space.
- b. Dedication of legally described and platted "greenspace" to a land trust.

Minimum building setback adjacent to public or private street(s):

- From thoroughfares, arterials and collectors: 30 ft.
- Local streets: 20 ft.

- B. Road Specifications all roads shall be built in accordance with Chapter 14. In the event of a conflict, the provisions of this section shall control. Thedesign of the streets must be designed as noted below with the approval of the City Engineer:
- a. Minimal amount of cul-de-sac streets by providing more than one entrance to the to the development and interconnect streets as much as possible.
  - b. Cul-de-sac streets must minimize the amount of impervious surface by limiting the internal radius to thirty (35) feet and the width of the paved lane to sixteen (16) feet. Use grass and vegetation for the inner circle of turn-arounds, rather than

paving the whole area. Declare the HOA responsible for the maintenance of the grassy area in the neighborhood bylaws.

c. Omit curbs where possible.

d. As an alternative to curbs and gutters, allow run off from roofs and pavements to pass immediately through grass swales or infiltration basins. Use plant materials that will absorb rainwater and act as a natural filter to oil and pollution.

e. Provide marked, paved paths for non-vehicular traffic with in the development and connecting neighboring residential and commercial areas.

C. Buffer Requirements. An exterior boundary buffer is required (per community/subdivision). The land area designated to the exterior buffer may be used as part of the required greenspace. The buffer area shall not be included as part of any platted residential lot within the community/subdivision.

Lots less than 10,000 sq. ft.	25 ft.
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Lots between 10,000-15,000 sq. ft.	30 ft.
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Lots greater than 15,000 sq. ft.	50 ft.
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D. Trails. Trails maybe constructed with in the buffer. The maximum width is eight (8) feet and must be located within the first twenty-five (25) percent of the buffer furthest from the exterior boundary line.

Sec. 3.4.9.1 – Non- residential zoning district dimensional requirements.

All non-residential districts shall be developed in accordance with the regulations for the Neighborhood Shopping (NS) District.

Sec. 3.4.9.1.a Design Standards

Buildings. New commercial buildings and renovations shall conform to the guidelines noted below.

1. Pedestrian Amenities – All buildings shall be configured to allow safe, convenient, direct and continuous access for pedestrians to all primary building entrances. Principle building entry shall open directly on to the public right-of-way.

2. “Build-to” line (i.e. “Building façade line”) – The building shall be setback five (5) feet from the buildable areas as indicated with in their approved site plan. Awnings and canopies are not counted in building façade line determination. Permanent structures other than buildings, such as ATMs and similar elements, shall not be located closer to the street than the building façade lines.

3. Building height. All new buildings shall be no more than two (2) stories, maximum height thirty (35) feet.

4. Façade articulation – Street-facing building facades shall be horizontally divided by floors using architectural means such as string courses, recesses, reveals or the like. They



shall also be vertically divided utilizing Major and Minor Articulations to create visual interest and avoid monotony.

a. Major Articulations shall occur at least every sixty (60) feet of horizontal façade length and may be accomplished through: a change of façade materials extending from grade through the cornice; change in storefront systems; physical off-sets; and/or similar means intended to convey the impression of separate buildings.

b. Minor Articulations shall occur approximately every thirty (30) feet of horizontal façade length and may be accomplished by: the use of pilasters; the use of off-sets; or similar means intended to create the appearance of structural bays.

5. Entrances. All first story uses adjacent to a sidewalk shall have a primary pedestrian entrance, which faces, is visible from, and is directly accessible from said sidewalk. All first story businesses with more than sixty (60) feet of frontage along sidewalks shall provide one (1) pedestrian entrance for every sixty (60) linear feet of frontage or fraction thereof.

6. Parking: Parking areas should be located to the side or rear of the building. When parking areas are located in front of the building, a buffer of 10 feet of shrubbery or landscape trees is required. All vegetation should be native to the region.

Cross Access: In order reduce traffic conflicts, cross access drives with adjacent properties must be considered. This may include the interconnection of parking areas or a shared drive between properties.

7. Storefront canopies at least five (5) feet in depth extending over the sidewalk are recommended at all retail frontage for relief from inclement weather and for shade. These should be roofed with glass, metal, or fabric wholly supported by brackets or cables attached to the building façade. Columns to support canopies are not permitted in the public right of way (hereafter called "R.O.W."). Awnings and canopies shall not include signage on them, except when such signage is located within an apron that is less than twelve inches in height and is subject to all other applicable sign requirements of this document.

8. Building Finish Materials. Each street-facing building facade shall have an exterior finish skin primarily of Lithonia tidal grey granite. Material that may be combined with the granite is limited to: wood, exterior brick, cementitious stucco, rustic or cut stone, architectural cast concrete, and glass panels. No more than two additional materials may be used. Concrete masonry units or artificial materials having the appearance of wood, and/or stone are not permitted as a finish material.

Decorative embellishments shall be permanent in nature and shall be of the following materials: copper, brass, bronze, cast concrete, formed exterior plaster, porcelain tile, terracotta, formed metals, glass, wood. No artificial materials having the appearance of wood, and/or stone should be used.

Primary building façade materials shall be combined only horizontally, with the heavier appearing one(s) below the lighter appearing (ones). This shall not apply to embellishments, storefronts systems, or windows frames.

Awnings. Awnings shall be of canvas and similar fabrics, fixed metal, or similar materials. Internally lit awnings and canopies that emit light through the awning or canopy material are prohibited.

8. Lighting. Building facades facing a public R.O.W. shall be illuminated for safety and aesthetics. Lighting shall be designed to avoid producing glare in the public R.O.W.. Lighting should be downcast with a zero-degree tilt. Fixtures should not exceed 15 feet in height. Light spillage onto adjacent residential properties shall be minimized by cutoff luminaires.

9. Utility service lines – Must be provided via underground conduit or pipes. Overhead utility service is not permissible in the Overlay. New construction on existing sites within Overlay must include replacement of all above-ground utility service lines with underground service or otherwise fully concealed utility service to buildings and sites.

10. Building Numbering. Building numbering shall be located above or beside primary entrances of building. Numbering shall be clearly visible from sidewalks. All numbering shall be 6 inches in height.

11. Dumpsters, Loading Areas and Mechanical Electrical and Plumbing Features shall be screened so as not to be visible from any public plaza, outdoor dining area, public R.O.W., or residential area. All dumpsters shall be located behind buildings and shall be enclosed by opaque fences or walls made of stone, brick, wood, or stucco; and these enclosures shall have opaque gates made of wood or metal. Chain-link gates are not permitted.

Rooftop Mechanical features shall be set at least ten (10) feet from the edges of roofs and screened vertically from view through use of parapet walls or similar features. Additionally, all such features greater than five (5) feet in height shall be set a least twenty (20) feet behind front building façades.

Sec. 3.4.9.2 - Height limitation.

- A. Except as provided in section 5.2.5, and in subsection B., no building or structure within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District shall exceed a height of thirty-five (35) feet, all other requirements of this chapter notwithstanding.
- B. If the placement of a telecommunications tower or antenna within this overlay district in excess of thirty-five (35) feet in height is mandated by federal law, said tower or antenna, in



addition to meeting all other standards and criteria applicable thereto, shall meet the following design requirements:

1. No portion of any such tower or antenna shall extend a distance of more than ten (10) feet above the top of the tree canopy existing on the lot upon which the tower or antenna is placed. If no tree canopy exists on said lot, then no portion of such tower or antenna shall extend a distance of more than ten (10) feet above the top of the tree canopy closest to such tower or antenna.
2. All portions of a tower or antenna that extend above the top of the existing mature tree canopy pursuant to subsection B.1., shall consist of an alternative tower structure that is designed and colored in a way that blends said tower or antenna with the closest tree canopy to a degree that renders said tower or antenna indistinguishable from said tree canopy at a distance of two hundred (200) feet measured horizontally from said tower or antenna.

Sec. 3.4.10. - Tree removal and replacement.

No trees other than dead, dangerous or diseased trees shall be removed from any lot except within areas of permissible grading as provided in section 3.4.8 above. Removal of trees should be certified by an arborist and/or by city permit.

Sec. 3.4.11. - Protection of steep slopes.

No lot or portion of a lot having a grade in excess of fifteen (15) percent shall be altered.

Sec. 3.4.12. - Driveways.

The director of planning is authorized to approve shared driveways for two (2) or more dwellings within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District in order to minimize lot coverage and tree removal within the district.

Sec. 3.4.13. - Recording of conservation easements.

The director of planning shall record, after approval by the city attorney and the city council, conservation easements within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District which are made in favor of City of Stonecrest, Georgia.

Sec. 3.4.14. - Notation of all conservation easements on official zoning maps.

The director of planning shall cause to be noted on the official zoning maps any conservation easements granted within the district to any public or private entity authorized to hold such easements.

Sec. 3.4.15. - Lighting.

No light standard shall be installed that extends above the height of the tree canopy. No lighting element of any kind shall be placed upon any structure so as to extend above the height of the tree canopy. No light spillage of any kind is permitted above said tree canopy except as may be otherwise required by any applicable requirement of federal, state or local law.

Sec. 3.4.16. - Density bonus.

The director of planning is authorized to approve an increase of up to twenty-five (25) percent in housing density within the district for any parcel of land having a single-family residential zoning classification. In making application to the director of planning the applicant shall present a site plan in which required lot coverage limitations are met. The site plan shall further demonstrate that the tree canopy will be preserved and protected. In approving any such plan, the director of planning is authorized to approve gravel or other permeable surface for driveways and parking areas where it is demonstrated that such permeable surface will aid in minimizing damage to the root system of trees and will prevent the impaction of soil under the canopies of trees. It is the intent of these regulations that houses be clustered rather than spread out to protect and preserve the tree canopy which is essential to the maintenance of the character of the district.

Sec. 3.4.17. - Approval of plats where density bonus permitted.

The director of planning is authorized to record plats in which a density bonus has been approved pursuant to section 3.4.16 above. The approval of any such plat shall be noted on the official zoning map by the director of planning.

Sec. 3.4.18. – AMCOD Advisory Committee

The Mayor and City Council may create an AMCOD advisory committee pursuant to Chapter 2. The AMCOD advisory committee may meet with applicants for variances, rezoning and special land use permit applications prior to the submission of the application to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. The AMCOD advisory committee shall act in an advisory capacity only and may present its recommendations on each application in writing to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, applying the standards or criteria contained in Article 7. The failure of the AMCOD to make a recommendation on an application shall not invalidate any zoning decision or decision on a variance and shall not be a condition precedent to final action on the application.

Sec. 3.4.19. – Residential properties which are not subject to Sections 3.4.7 and 3.4.8.

Section 3.4.7 (lot coverage) and Section 3.4.8 (clearing and grading of lots) shall not apply to any lot in the R-100, R-85, R-75, or R-60 zoning district if a certificate of occupancy for the house thereon was issued prior to August 7, 2017, and if the lot is less than one-half (1/2) acre.

## Section 2:

1. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and City Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are and were, upon their enactment, believed by the Mayor and City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.



2. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Mayor and City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is severable from every other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the Mayor and City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

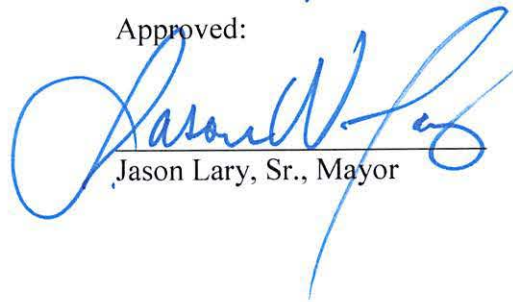
3. In the event that any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the Mayor and City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality, or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of the Ordinance and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of the Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

4. All ordinances or resolutions and parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed.

5. The within ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

**SO ORDAINED AND EFFECTIVE** this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

Approved:

  
Jason Lary, Sr., Mayor

Attest:

  
Interim City Clerk



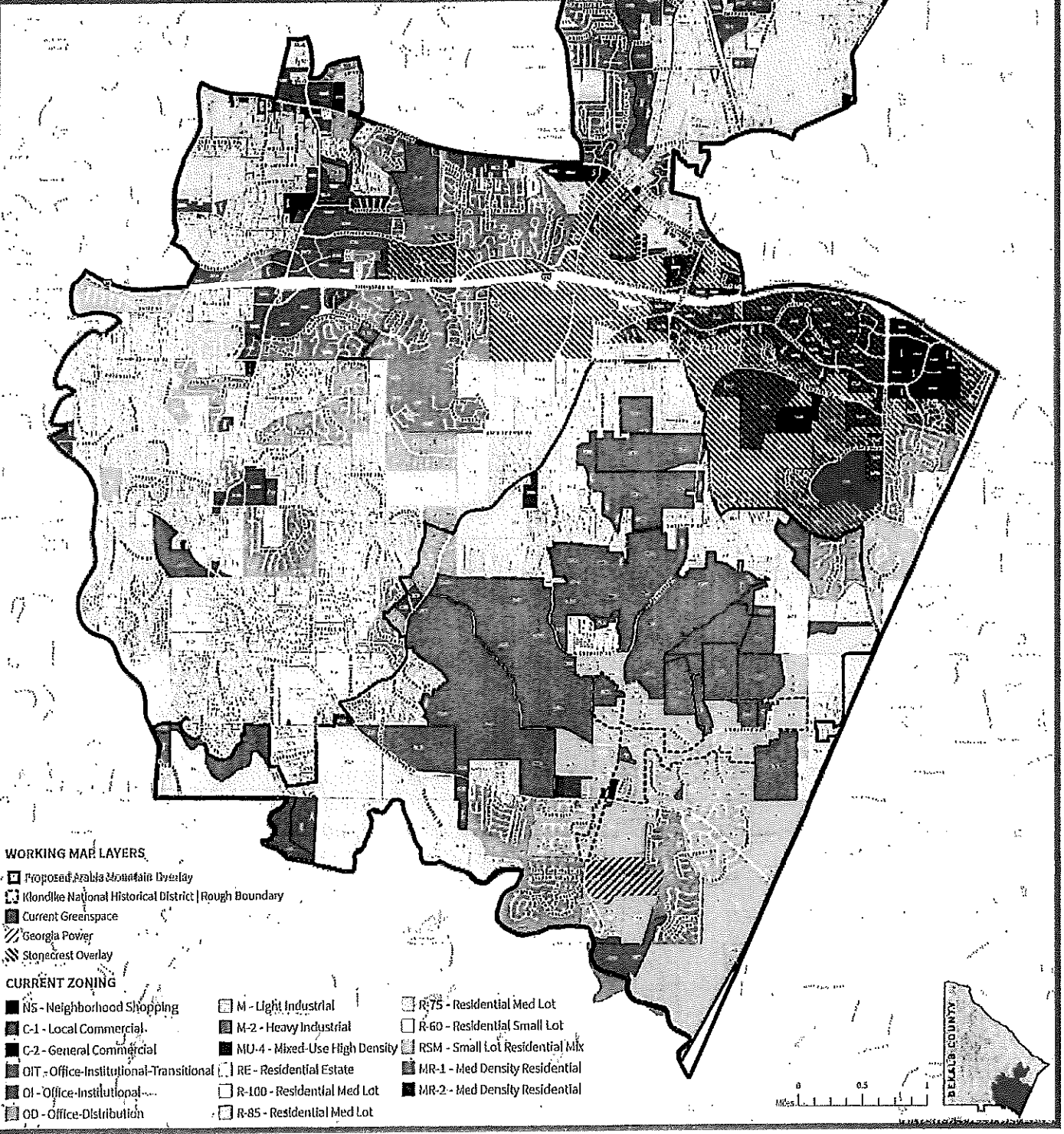


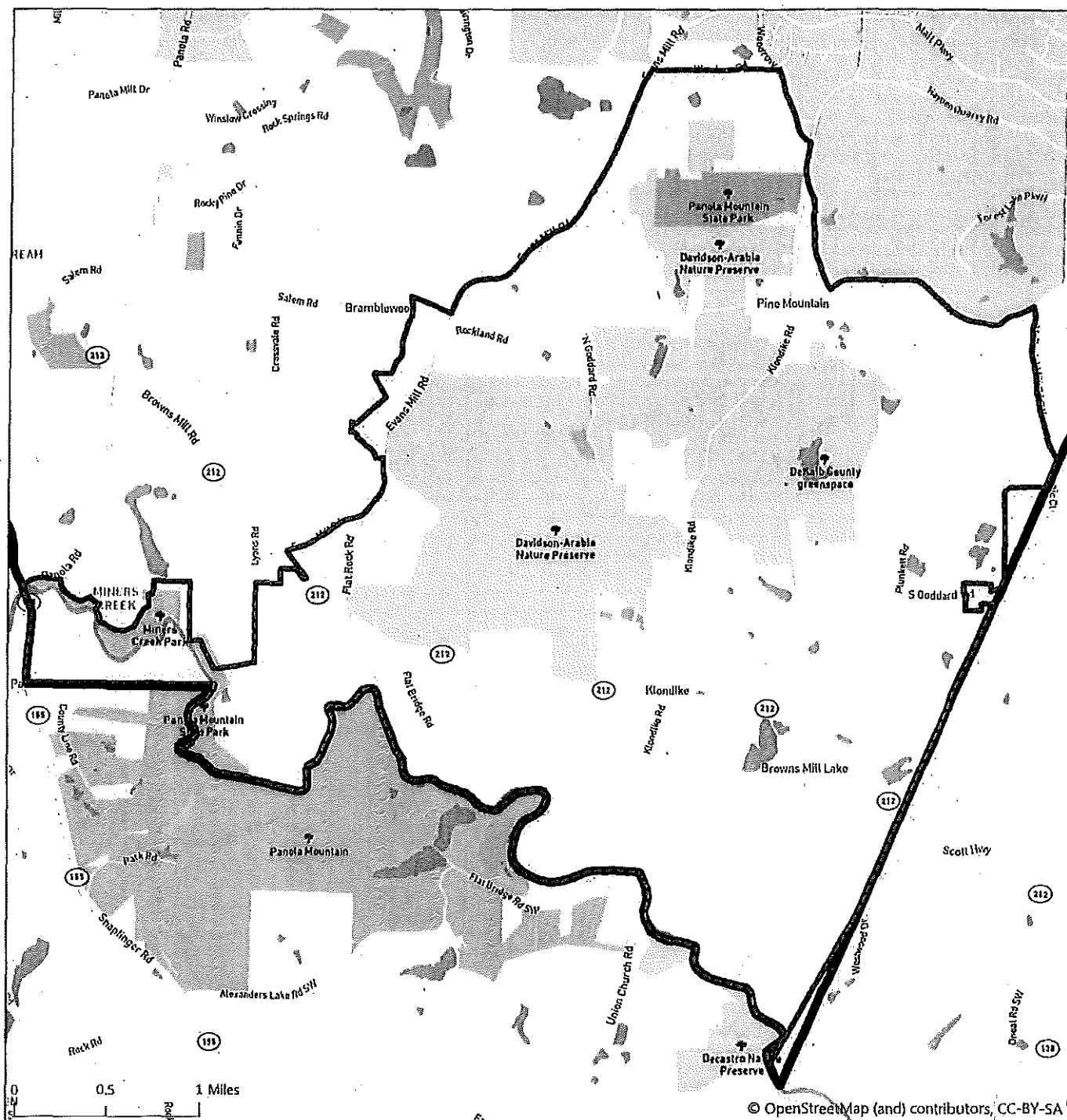
*John Robinson*




# PROPOSED ARABIA MOUNTAIN OVERLAY


STONECREST, GEORGIA

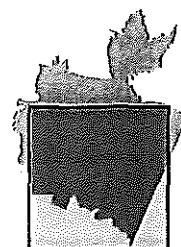




# PROPOSED ARABIA MOUNTAIN OVERLAY

 Proposed Arabia Mountain Overlay

 Existing Overlays





## 27-3.4 – DIVISION 4- ARABIA MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT

### Sec. 3.4.1. - Title.

The provisions contained within this division are the regulations of the Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District.

### Sec. 3.4.2. - Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of the city council in establishing the Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District (AMCOD) is as follows:

- A. To provide for the protection of natural resources and of scenic views of areas within the boundaries of the AMCOD, so as to protect and enhance the public welfare associated with these natural resources and the aesthetic qualities within this area, consistent with the policies of the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan;
- B. To provide reasonable and creative planning and development within the AMCOD while preserving the natural land form and features, trees and tree canopy, and the views to and from Arabia Mountain as indicated on the adopted map;
- C. To assure that all activities and authorized uses of land allowed within the AMCOD, whether allowed uses or permitted uses, are activities or uses which are designed so as not to detract from or damage the protected natural resources and scenic beauty of this district;
- D. To encourage and promote the dedication of conservation easements to appropriate public and not-for-profit entities established and authorized to hold easements in perpetuity pursuant to the Georgia Uniform Conservation Easement Act (O.C.G.A. 44-10 and 12-6A) for the purposes of protecting historical and arch logical areas, the habitat of endangered or threatened animal and plant species (as defined in the federal Endangered Species Act U.S.C. 1531 and the Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973), providing passive recreational and educational opportunities, preserving the cultural history of the area, protecting open space within the city, and protecting scenic views to and from Arabia Mountain; and
- E. To provide consistent development standards that will adhere to common design characteristics that include but are not limited to: deep setbacks from the main road; strategic buffer zones; home “clustering”; shorter streets within a development and shared open spaces connected by trails, walkways and paths.

### Sec. 3.4.3. - District boundaries.

The boundaries of the AMCOD shall be depicted on the official zoning maps entitled "Official Zoning Map, City of Stonecrest, Georgia, Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District" (the "AMCOD overlay maps"). The Official Zoning Map, City of Stonecrest, Georgia, Arabia Mountain Conservation Overlay District, to be adopted contemporaneously with this chapter, together with all explanatory information contained or referenced thereon, is hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this chapter.

The AMCOD overlay maps shall be adopted contemporaneously with this chapter in digital format and contained on a compact disk to be maintained in its original, unedited and unaltered form by the clerk to the city council. A printed copy of the compact disk's contents depicting the AMCOD overlay maps on the date of its initial adoption shall also be maintained in its original, unedited and unaltered form by the clerk to the city council, as shown in Exhibit 27-A. The boundaries may be expanded by a zoning map amendment adopted pursuant to this chapter which amendment shall be incorporated herein and made a part of this chapter 27.

Sec. 3.4.4. - Applicability of regulations.

This division establishes standards and procedures that apply to development of any lot or portion thereof which is in whole or in part contained within the boundaries of the AMCOD. The procedures, standards, and criteria shall apply only to that portion of the subject property within the boundaries of the district.

Sec. 3.4.4.1 - Sealed Site Plan

Must be submitted in accordance with Sec. 2.10.1 with the exception with B (all shall be single family detached dwellings.) I'm not sure if something got changed in the editing but this doesn't seem to make sense

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Sec. 3.4.5. - Principal uses and principal structures.

A. The principal uses of land and structures which are allowed in the AMCOD are as is provided by the applicable underlying zoning district, except for those listed in B below, subject to the limitations and standards contained within this district. Additional permitted uses are as follows:

1. Recreation, pPassive and Nature preserve
2. Dog Parks
3. Bed and Breakfast homes
4. Outdoor Concert halls Amphitheater
5. Urban Community Gardens

B. Prohibited uses. The following principal uses of land and structures shall be prohibited within the AMCOD:

1. Sexually-oriented businesses
2. Drive-in Theatre
3. Fairground or Amusement Park
4. Swimming pools as part of a commercial Recreation, Outdoor use or Recreation club; but not including swimming pools incidental to Open space, clubhouse or pool amenity-commercial
5. Coliseum or stadium, except for outdoor Concert Halls
6. Nightclub or late night establishment
7. Outdoor storage, mini-warehouses, and storage buildings and indoor storage facilities
8. Pawn shops
9. Mortuary or Crematorium



10. Alcohol Outlets
11. Salvage yards and junk yards
12. Motel or Extended Stay Motel
13. Shelter for homeless persons
14. Transitional housing facility
15. Fuel Dealers, Fuel Pumps and Accessory Fuel Pumps
16. Automobile and truck rental and leasing, Automobile brokerage, Automobile mall, Automobile recovery and storage, Automobile rental and leasing, Automobile repair and maintenance, major, Automobile repair and maintenance, minor, Automobile sales, Automobile service station, Automobile upholstery shop, Automobile wash/wax service, Recreational vehicle/boat sales and service, Freight service, Transportation equipment and storage or maintenance (vehicle), and Vehicle storage yard
- ~~16. All automobile, boat and trailer sales and service, new or used including leasing, brokerage, storage, maintenance, repair, wash/wax and service stations.~~
17. Parking-Commercial parking garage/structure; Commercial parking lotslots or commercial garages
18. Convenience store
19. Drive-through facilities
20. Personal service establishments
21. Check cashing facilities establishments
22. Heavy equipment storage
23. Truck stops
24. Warehouses
25. Solid waste disposal, Private industry solid waste disposal facility
26. Bus station or terminal
- ~~26-27. Ambulance service facility, Private ambulance service, Dispatch office~~
- ~~27. Taxi ambulance or limousine services, dispatch or storage~~

Sec. 3.4.6. - Accessory uses and accessory structures.

The accessory uses of land and structures which are allowed in the AMCOD are as is provided by the applicable underlying zoning district, subject to the limitations and standards contained within this division.

Sec. 3.4.7. - Lot coverage.

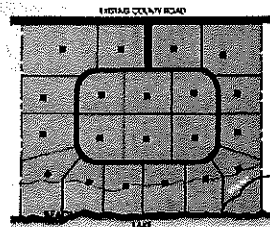
Except as provided in Sec. 3.4.9, Lot coverage within the AMCOD shall not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of net lot area, except within tiny home communities.

Sec. 3.4.8. - Clearing and grading of lots.

No lot shall be cleared and graded to an extent exceeding thirty-five (35) percent of the net lot area. Said limitation is intended to permit twenty-five (25) percent lot coverage as allowed in section 3.4.7 above, and to permit appropriate slopes from the remaining natural land contours to the finished site grades.

#### Sec. 3.4.9- Development Standards

There shall be no impervious surfaces within the seventy-five (75) foot stream buffer. All dwelling units shall be provided convenient access to all green space throughout the development via pedestrian paths or trails.



**Traditional Development**  
Grid system with little regard for natural and special features.



**Cluster Development**  
(HMA Open Space Development or Conservation Design)  
Trees, wetlands, scenic views, and natural features are retained. All homes have lake views. Single-loaded roads provide more privacy and better views. Trails make a pedestrian and recreation friendly development.

##### A. Conservation Communities (residential /subdivisions)

Maximum density: Eight (8) dwelling units to the acre of total land area excluding undevelopable areas listed below:

1. Streams and stream buffers
2. Wetlands
3. Rock outcroppings
4. Slopes steeper than 1:2 slope
5. Sites of archaeological significance
6. Floodplains
7. Areas intended to be dedicated for right of way

Minimum lot width: Seventy (70) feet as measured from the front building setback line; except for a lot on a cul-de-sac, which shall have a measurement of thirty-five (35) feet

Minimum lot area: Seven thousand five hundred (7,500) square feet, except that each lot on the periphery of the development is at least ten thousand (10,000) square feet.

Minimum side-yard setback: 10 ft.

Maximum single-family dwelling lot coverage: 50%

Greenspace: Thirty (30) percent of the total land area must be designated greenspace. Sixty (65) percent of the greenspace should be in a contiguous tract.

Green space may consist of:

1. Natural undisturbed areas
2. Passive recreational areas
3. Trails and Green ways
4. Bikeways and paths
5. Mature wooded areas

Greenspaces shall be preserve and maintained by one of the following:

- a. Establishment of a mandatory home owner's association (HOA) to own and maintain the common green space.



- b. Dedication of legally described and platted "greenspace" to a land trust.

Minimum building setback adjacent to public or private street(s):

- From thoroughfares, arterials and collectors: 30 ft.
- Local streets: 20 ft.

~~B. Tiny Home Communities. At this time, the committee does not wish to include tiny homes in the overlay. However, it does not wish to restrict them either, should the city decide to act on them.~~

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- B. Road Specifications all roads shall be built in accordance with Chapter 14, See, —. In the event of a conflict, the provisions of this section shall control. The design of the streets as must be designed as noted below with the approval of the City Engineer:
- a. Minimal amount of cul-de-sac streets by providing more than one entrance to the development and interconnect streets as much as possible.
  - b. Cul-de-sac streets must minimize the amount of impervious surface by limiting the internal radius to thirty (35) feet and the width of the paved lane to sixteen (16) feet. Use grass and vegetation for the inner circle of turn-arounds, rather than paving the whole area. Declare the HOA responsible for the maintenance of the grassy area in the neighborhood bylaws.
  - c. Omit curbs where possible.
  - d. As an alternative to curbs and gutters, allow run off from roofs and pavements to pass immediately through grass swales or infiltration basins. Use plant materials that will absorb rainwater and act as a natural filter to oil and pollution.
  - e. Provide marked, paved paths for non-vehicular traffic with in the development and connecting neighboring residential and commercial areas.

- C. Buffer Requirements. An exterior boundary buffer is required (per community/subdivision). The land area designated to the exterior buffer may be used as part of the required greenspace. The buffer area shall not be included as part of any platted residential lot within the community/subdivision.

Lots less than 10,000 sq. ft.	25 ft.
Lots between 10,000-15,000 sq. ft.	30 ft.
Lots greater than 15,000 sq. ft.	50 ft.

- D. Trails. Trails may be constructed with in the buffer. The maximum width is eight (8) feet and must be located within the first twenty-five (25) percent of the buffer furthest from the exterior boundary line.

Sec. 3.4.9.1 – Non- residential zoning district dimensional requirements.

~~\*\*The committee does recommend requiring all commercial development obtain a SLUP so that the community could be involved in the process. At this time, only a handful of properties within the proposed boundary are zoned commercial so the committee felt it was not an undue burden.~~

All non-residential districts shall be developed in accordance with the regulations for the Sec. 27-2-25 Neighborhood Shopping (NS) District.

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Sec. 3.4.9.1.a Design Standards (Newly considered and inserted design standards, approved at the 12/11/2018 meeting) The committee did request a sign provision similar to the Stonecrest Overlay offering some standardization and protection. Please let me know if you want me to pull text.

Buildings. New commercial buildings and renovations shall conform to the guidelines noted below.

1. **Pedestrian Amenities** – All buildings shall be configured to allow safe, convenient, direct and continuous access for pedestrians to all primary building entrances. Principle building entry shall open directly on to the public right-of-way.
2. **“Build-to” line (i.e. “Building façade line”)** – The building shall be setback five (5) feet from the buildable areas as indicated with in their approved site plan. Awnings and canopies are not counted in building façade line determination. Permanent structures other than buildings, such as ATMs and similar elements, shall not be located closer to the street than the building façade lines.
3. **Building height.** All new buildings shall be no more than two (2) stories, maximum height thirty (35) feet.
4. **Façade articulation.** – Street-facing building façades shall be horizontally divided by floors using architectural means such as string courses, recesses, reveals or the like. They shall also be vertically divided utilizing Major and Minor Articulations to create visual interest and avoid monotony.
  - a. Major Articulations shall occur at least every sixty (60) feet of horizontal façade length and may be accomplished through: a change of façade materials extending from grade through the cornice; change in storefront systems; physical off-sets; and/or similar means intended to convey the impression of separate buildings.
  - b. Minor Articulations shall occur approximately every thirty (30) feet of horizontal façade length and may be accomplished by: the use of pilasters; the use of off-sets; or similar means intended to create the appearance of structural bays.
5. **Entrances.** All first story uses adjacent to a sidewalk shall have a primary pedestrian entrance, which faces, is visible from, and is directly accessible from said sidewalk. All first story businesses with more than sixty (60) feet of frontage along sidewalks shall provide one (1) pedestrian entrance for every sixty (60) linear feet of frontage or fraction thereof.
6. **Parking:** Parking areas should be located to the side or rear of the building. When parking areas are located in front of the building, a buffer of 10 feet of shrubbery or landscape trees is required. All vegetation should be native to the region.



Cross Access: In order reduce traffic conflicts, cross access drives with adjacent properties must be considered. This may include the interconnection of parking areas or a shared drive between properties.

7. Storefront canopies at least five (5) feet in depth extending over the sidewalk are recommended at all retail frontage for relief from inclement weather and for shade. These should be roofed with glass, metal, or fabric wholly supported by brackets or cables attached to the building façade. Columns to support canopies are not permitted in the public right of way (hereafter called "R.O.W."). Awnings and canopies shall not include signage on them, except when such signage is located within an apron that is less than twelve inches in height and is subject to all other applicable sign requirements of this document.

8. Building Finish Materials. Each street-facing building facade shall have an exterior finish skin primarily of Lithonia tidal grey granite. Material that may be combined with the granite is limited to: wood, exterior brick, cementitious stucco, rustic or cut stone, architectural cast concrete, and glass panels. No more than two additional materials may be used. Concrete masonry units or artificial materials having the appearance of wood, and/or stone are not permitted as a finish material.

Decorative embellishments shall be permanent in nature and shall be of the following materials: copper, brass, bronze, cast concrete, formed exterior plaster, porcelain tile, terracotta, formed metals, glass, wood. No artificial materials having the appearance of wood, and/or stone should be used.

Primary building façade materials shall be combined only horizontally, with the heavier appearing one(s) below the lighter appearing (ones). This shall not apply to embellishments, storefronts systems, or windows frames.

Awnings. Awnings shall be of canvas and similar fabrics, fixed metal, or similar materials. Internally lit awnings and canopies that emit light through the awning or canopy material are prohibited.

8. Lighting. Building facades facing a public R.O.W. shall be illuminated for safety and aesthetics. Lighting shall be designed to avoid producing glare in the public R.O.W. Lighting should be downcast with a zero-degree tilt. Fixtures should not exceed 15 feet in height. Light spillage onto adjacent residential properties shall be minimized by cutoff luminaires.

9. Utility service lines – Must be provided via underground conduit or pipes. Overhead utility service is not permissible in the Overlay. New construction on existing sites within Overlay must include replacement of all above-ground utility service lines with underground service or otherwise fully concealed utility service to buildings and sites.

10. Building Numbering. Building numbering shall be located above or beside primary entrances of building. Numbering shall be clearly visible from sidewalks. All numbering shall be 6 inches in height.

11. Dumpsters, Loading Areas and Mechanical Electrical and Plumbing Features shall be screened so as not to be visible from any public plaza, outdoor dining area, public R.O.W., or residential area. All dumpsters shall be located behind buildings and shall be enclosed by opaque fences or walls made of stone, brick, wood, or stucco; and these enclosures shall have opaque gates made of wood or metal. Chain-link gates are not permitted.

Rooftop Mechanical features shall be set at least ten (10) feet from the edges of roofs and screened vertically from view through use of parapet walls or similar features. Additionally, all such features greater than five (5) feet in height shall be set at least twenty (20) feet behind front building façades.

Sec. 3.4.9.2 - Height limitation.

- A. Except as provided in section 5.2.5, and in subsection B., no building or structure within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District shall exceed a height of thirty-five (35) feet, all other requirements of this chapter notwithstanding.
- B. If the placement of a telecommunications tower or antenna within this overlay district in excess of thirty-five (35) feet in height is mandated by federal law, said tower or antenna, in addition to meeting all other standards and criteria applicable thereto, shall meet the following design requirements:
  1. No portion of any such tower or antenna shall extend a distance of more than ten (10) feet above the top of the tree canopy existing on the lot upon which the tower or antenna is placed. If no tree canopy exists on said lot, then no portion of such tower or antenna shall extend a distance of more than ten (10) feet above the top of the tree canopy closest to such tower or antenna.
  2. All portions of a tower or antenna that extend above the top of the existing mature tree canopy pursuant to subsection B.1., shall consist of an alternative tower structure that is designed and colored in a way that blends said tower or antenna with the closest tree canopy to a degree that renders said tower or antenna indistinguishable from said tree canopy at a distance of two hundred (200) feet measured horizontally from said tower or antenna.

Sec. 3.4.10. - Tree removal and replacement.

No trees other than dead, dangerous or diseased trees shall be removed from any lot except within areas of permissible grading as provided in section 3.4.8 above. Removal of trees should be certified by an arborist and/or by city permit.

Sec. 3.4.11. - Protection of steep slopes.

No lot or portion of a lot having a grade in excess of fifteen (15) percent shall be altered.

Sec. 3.4.12. - Driveways.



The director of planning is authorized to approve shared driveways for two (2) or more dwellings within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District in order to minimize lot coverage and tree removal within the district.

Sec. 3.4.13. - Recording of conservation easements.

The director of planning shall record, after approval by the city attorney and the city council, conservation easements within the Arabia Mountain Natural Resource Protection Overlay District which are made in favor of City of Stonecrest, Georgia.

Sec. 3.4.14. - Notation of all conservation easements on official zoning maps.

The director of planning shall cause to be noted on the official zoning maps any conservation easements granted within the district to any public or private entity authorized to hold such easements.

Sec. 3.4.15. - Lighting.

No light standard shall be installed that extends above the height of the tree canopy. No lighting element of any kind shall be placed upon any structure so as to extend above the height of the tree canopy. No light spillage of any kind is permitted above said tree canopy except as may be otherwise required by any applicable requirement of federal, state or local law.

Sec. 3.4.16. - Density bonus.

The director of planning is authorized to approve an increase of up to twenty-five (25) percent in housing density within the district for any parcel of land, not used or proposed to be a tiny home community, having a single-family residential zoning classification. In making application to the director of planning the applicant shall present a site plan in which required lot coverage limitations are met. The site plan shall further demonstrate that the tree canopy will be preserved and protected. In approving any such plan, the director of planning is authorized to approve gravel or other permeable surface for driveways and parking areas where it is demonstrated that such permeable surface will aid in minimizing damage to the root system of trees and will prevent the impaction of soil under the canopies of trees. It is the intent of these regulations that houses be clustered rather than spread out to protect and preserve the tree canopy which is essential to the maintenance of the character of the district.

Sec. 3.4.17. - Approval of plats where density bonus permitted.

The director of planning is authorized to record plats in which a density bonus has been approved pursuant to section 3.4.16 above. The approval of any such plat shall be noted on the official zoning map by the director of planning.

Sec. 3.4.18. - ~~AMCOD Advisory Committee~~Reserved

Definitions approved by the committee 12/11/2018:

Passive Park or Recreation, Passive - The following uses may be allowed within the primary conservation space: passive recreational amenities, paths, green-ways, minimal parking spaces (pervious surfaces encouraged), and picnic and restroom facilities. The following

activities may be allowed in primary conservation space: removing invasive or non-native exotics; removing hazardous trees that threaten public safety; constructing paths for passive recreation activities such as, but not limited to, community hiking, running, dog walking, bird watching, biking and similar outdoor activities. (This definition was taken from Gwinnett County codes)

Dog Park—a dedicated fenced-in area where dogs run off-leash in the presence and control of their owners or handlers. The city of Stonecrest may design an ordinance that further defines and apply standards to the development of dog parks.

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Bed & Breakfast—Accessory use of a single-family detached dwelling by the homeowner who resides in the dwelling, to provide sleeping accommodations to customers. Breakfast may also be provided to the customers at no extra cost. For the purpose of this definition, the term "customer" means a person who pays for the sleeping accommodations for fewer than thirty (30) consecutive days.

Amphitheater—no model text was found. Committee recommends any definition that limits artificial sound amplification and the number of seats, i.e. a "natural" amphitheater.

The Mayor and City Council may create an AMCOD advisory committee pursuant to Chapter 2. The AMCOD advisory committee may meet with applicants for variances, rezoning and special land use permit applications prior to the submission of the application to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals. The AMCOD advisory committee shall act in an advisory capacity only and may present its recommendations on each application in writing to the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning Appeals, applying the standards or criteria contained in Article 7. The failure of the AMCOD to make a recommendation on an application shall not invalidate any zoning decision or decision on a variance and shall not be a condition precedent to final action on the application. Additional provisions requested by the committee (UPDATE).

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Demolition: The committee amended their recommendation (12/11) to request that, prior to the issuance of any demolition permit, a sign is posted at the property and a notice is posted in the legal organ 11 days prior.

Grandfather Clause: The committee agrees the provisions in Article 8 / Nonconformities is adequate to protect current properties.

Review Process: The committee recommends a review process similar to DeKalb's. And advisory / recommending body made of 5 members (one from each district), appointed by the mayor and confirmed by council. This would include SLUPS, Rezoning application, and redevelopment plans.

From DeKalb:

Community council review of proposed applications. Special land use permit applications shall be reviewed by the community council, according to the procedures in section 7.3.6. Prior to presentation to the community council, each application for a

special land use permit shall be made available to the appropriate community council in accordance with the provisions of section 7.3.6 for consideration.

Signs: Can you confirm the note that billboards are prohibited ~~entirely~~ in the city? If not, we do want a provision that would restrict billboards from the overlay.

DRAFT