

# **Project Team**



Katherine Moore **President** 



Nick Johnson
Senior Planner



Luben Raytchev **Designer/Planner** 



Will Johnston **Executive Director** 



Kim Morrison

Director of Policy and

Development



Erica Copenhaver **Project Coordinator** 





## What will we cover today?

- 1) Three main housing-related issues facing Jackson County:
  - a) Rapid growth rates
  - b) Housing mismatch between housing stock & demand
  - c) Policy that restricts varied housing types
- 2) Local context & values
  - a) Recent housing data & trends
  - b) Zoning ordinances & housing regulations
  - c) Geographical opportunities & limitations
- 3) Potential solutions
  - a) How can Jackson best advocate for growth management?
  - b) How can Jackson craft flexible policy that adds housing for everyone?
  - c) What are some tools to accomplish that?







## How is our state changing?

#### How is our state changing?

# <sup>~</sup>4 million

People added to GA since 1990

People coming to GA through 2050

Atlanta Region

+1.72 million

North GA

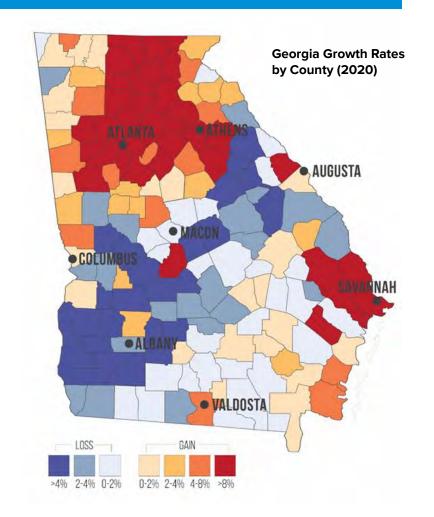
+750,000

#### How is our state changing?

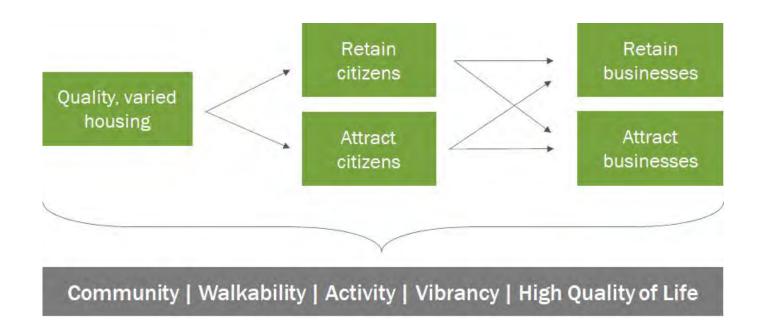
#### What we need our land to support:

Jobs & employment
Housing & people
Utilities & infrastructure
Ecological services & habitat
Outdoor recreation & natural resources

Intentional and thoughtful decisions about land put our communities in greatest control of their future economic resilience.

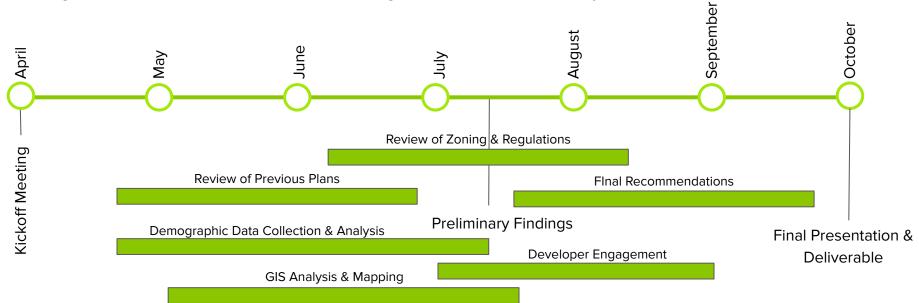


#### Why is housing important? Competitive Positioning



## **Project Background**

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce engaged Georgia Conservancy and Microlife Institute to assess housing and understand implications of housing conditions to the County's future:







## **Housing Core Values:**

- 1) Housing should *respond* to big economic development wins
- 2) Housing should **drive** small economic development growth
- 3) Housing should **accommodate** everyone, from factory floor employees to C-suite executives







#### Population Estimates (2019):

• **Jackson County:** 67,885

• Braselton: 11,452 (incl. other county shares)

• **Jefferson**: 11,114

• Commerce: 6,858

Maysville: 1,941

Nicholson: 1,798

Hoschton: 1,637

Arcade: 1,515

Pendergrass: 624

Talmo: 273

#### Household Estimates (2019):

• Jackson County: 23,166

• **Jefferson:** 3,933

• Braselton: 3,779 (incl. other county shares)

Commerce: 2,547

Maysville: 645

Hoschton: 591

Arcade: 548

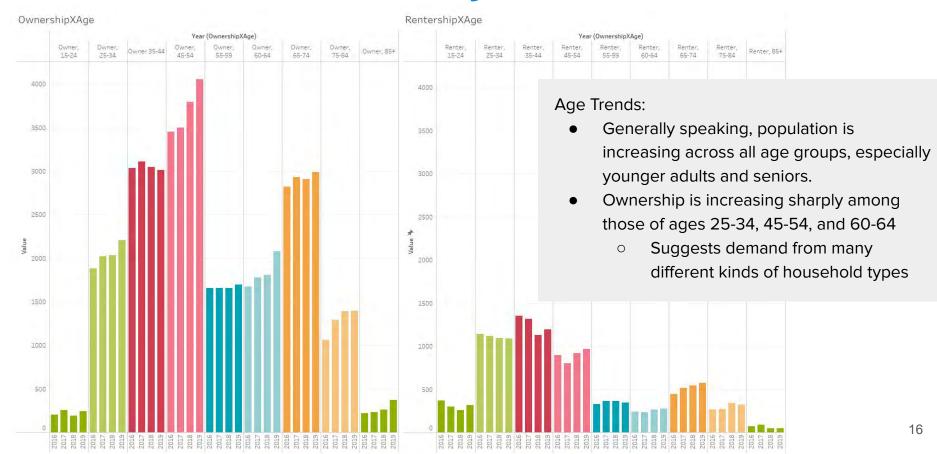
Nicholson: 523

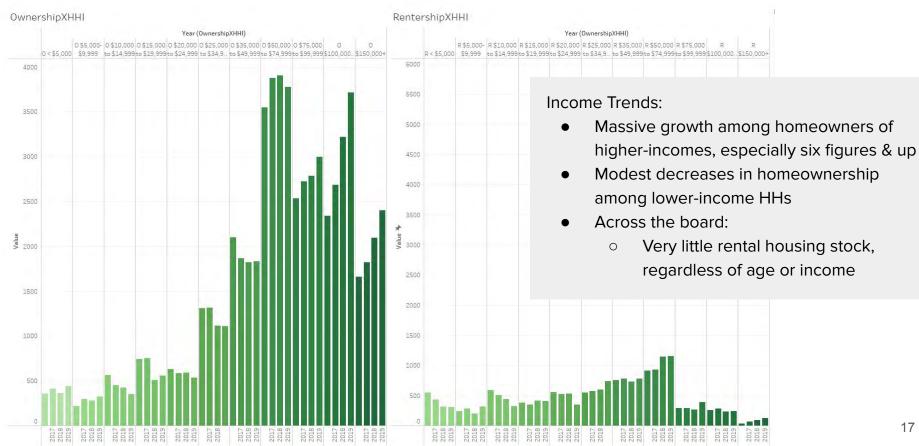
Pendergrass: 217

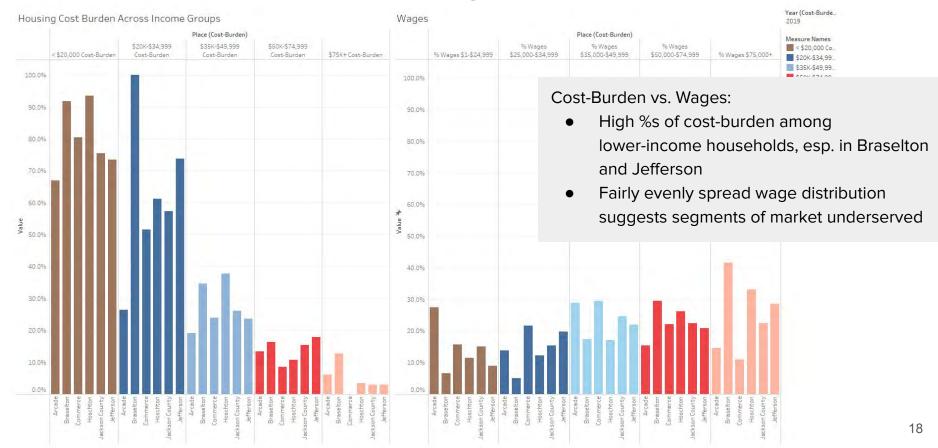
Talmo: 96











#### Who will Jackson be?

Current Population: 67,885

Projected Population: 120,345 (2050)

Current Households: 23,166

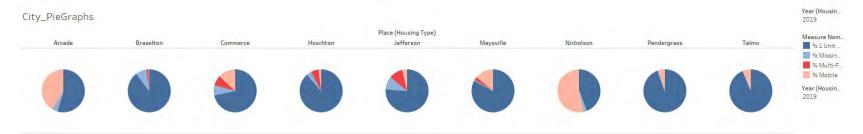
Projected Households: ~47,000

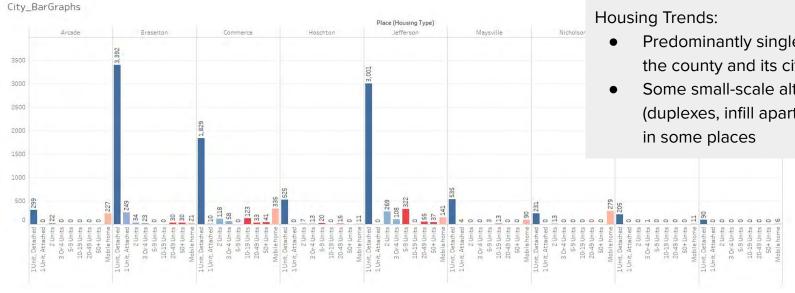
Jackson County wants to be a community in which a household can enjoy a high quality of life no matter their means. In order to achieve this, growth must be accommodated and planned for, not ignored.





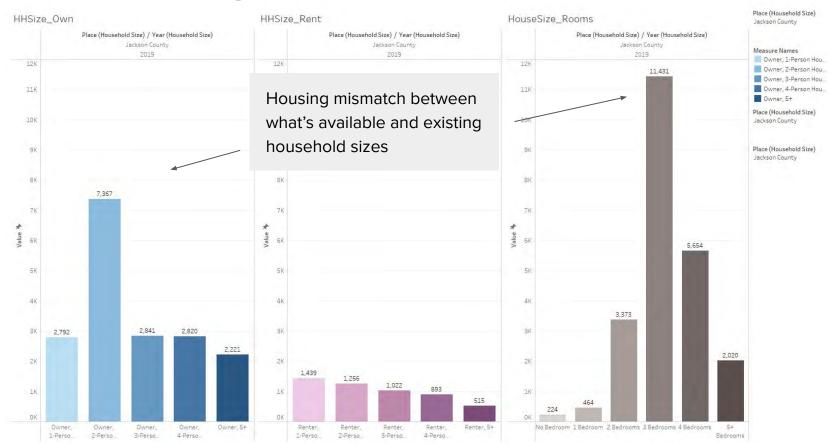
## What housing stock does Jackson have?



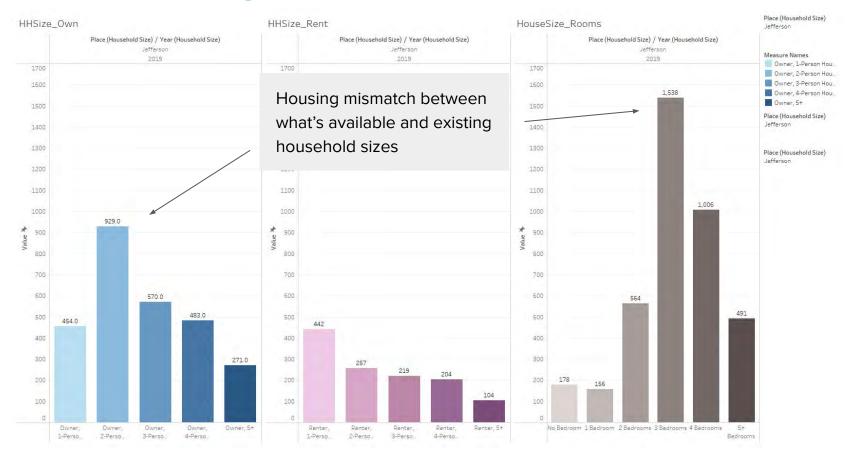


- Predominantly single-family across the county and its cities
- Some small-scale alternatives (duplexes, infill apartments) present

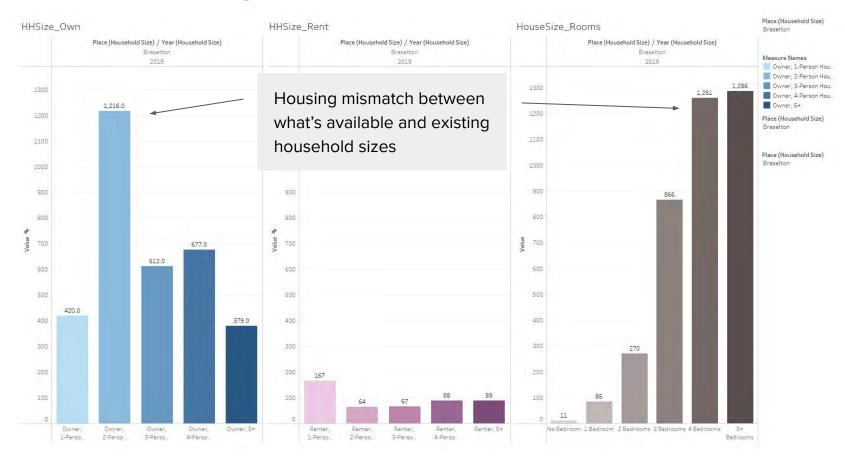
#### What housing stock does <u>Jackson</u> have?



## What housing stock does <u>Jefferson</u> have?



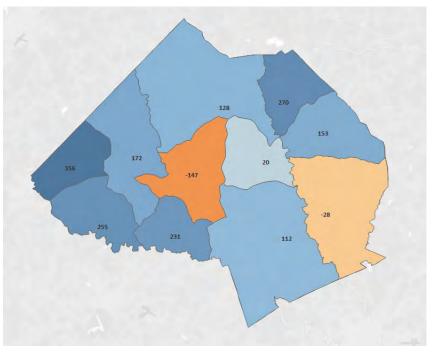
#### What housing stock does **Braselton** have?



## Where is Jackson Gaining Housing?

- Jackson County is growing across the board
- Most housing units added in the southwest and northeast parts of the county
- Map data reflects the difference b/w ACS 2019 and ACS 2016 housing unit estimates
  - Not a precise count of units
  - Does not capture 2020-21

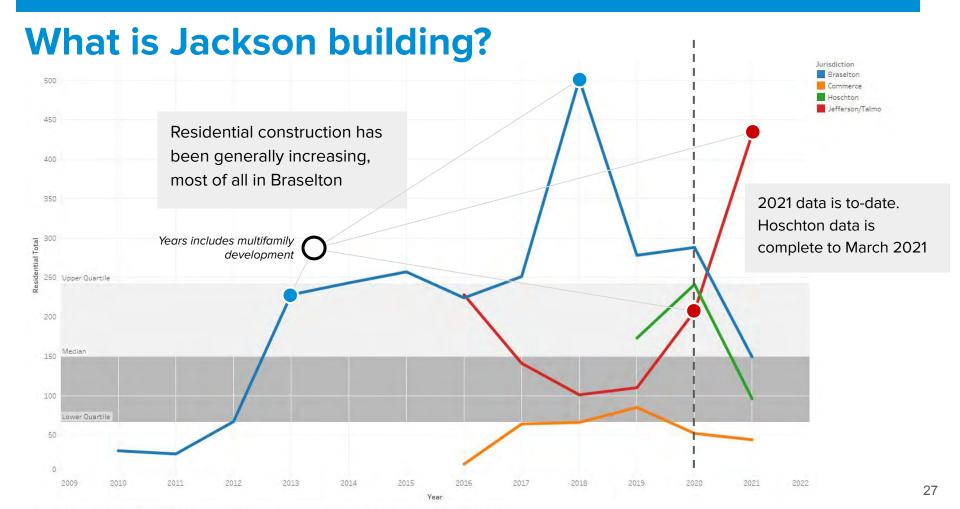
Estimated Housing Unit Changes 2016-19



Source: ACS 5-Year Reports (2016, 2019)







What is Jackson building? Single-Family Units Jefferson/Talmo Grand Total Multifamily Units 300 600 600 Multifamily developments are rare and seldom exceed new 500 single-family units in any given year Res (New): Single Family (Units) Data from Hoschton & Commerce did not differentiate between SF & MF permits 100 2010 2010 2020 2015

Year

Year

Year

Year

#### What is Jackson building?

Currently, nothing.

A 12-month moratorium on all new residential development is in place. Commercial and industrial building permits are not restricted.

This provides Jackson County leaders with an opportunity to create a comprehensive housing strategy that:

- promote varied housing types,
- supports economic development, and
- fosters a tight-knit, vibrant community.





#### What does all this data mean?

#### Two main findings:

- Demographic trends show that Jackson County is adding a large share of higher-income households.
- 2. Building stock data show that there is significant housing mismatch between the size of homes in Jackson and the households they accommodate.





#### **Gap 1: Rapid Growth in High-Income HHs**

A significant amount of wealthier households (HHs) has made Jackson County home in recent years.

When units of appropriate type and price point are not added, higher-earning HHs are able to price out lower-earning HHs, which significantly limits housing choices for lower-earning HHs.







## **Gap 2: Significant Housing Mismatch**

**Housing mismatch (n.)**: the difference between what households want or need from their housing and what is available to rent or own.

#### Facts:

- 1. # of smaller units < # of smaller households
- # of larger units far exceeds # of larger households in most communities

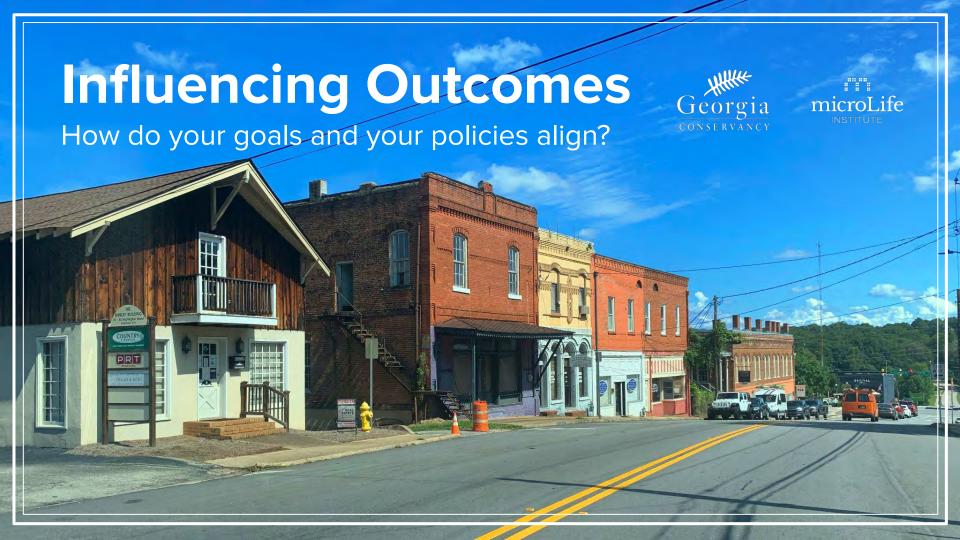
This indicates a lack of appropriate housing options for people who want them.







Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Discrepancies	Jackson County		Arcade		Braselton		Commerce		Hoschton		Jefferson		Maysville		Nicholson		Pendergrass		Talmo	
	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning	Comp	Zoning
Our community supports the conservation of natural resources and sustainable housing through Conservation Community Districts.		0		0	~		~	<b>&gt;</b>			<b>Z</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>~</b>	0	<b>Z</b>		~	<b>V</b>		~
Our community supports <b>Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)</b> such as garage apartments or mother-in-law units.				<b>~</b>	~	0		<b>&gt;</b>		<b>V</b>			<b>~</b>	<b>Z</b>				<b>~</b>	<b>V</b>	
Our community supports <b>Downtown Development</b> options such as retrofitting, infill housing, and mixed use developments.				0			~							0		0			<b>V</b>	
Our policies support <b>form-based</b> development and does not separate commercial, residential and retail uses in every district.		0		0	~		~	<b>V</b>						<b>Z</b>						
We value and allow for diverse housing sizes with <b>No Minimum Square Foot</b> requirement.													<u>~</u>							



#### Influencing Outcomes - Policy and Results

#### Three Tools:

- 1) **Density Regulations** that channel how much growth can go where
- 2) **Housing Type Regulations** that say where single-family and other types of housing can be built
- 3) **Special Districts** that allow for more unique, out-of-the-box developments

All of these are elements of **zoning and land use (policy)**, which influence the outcome of the **built environment (results)** 

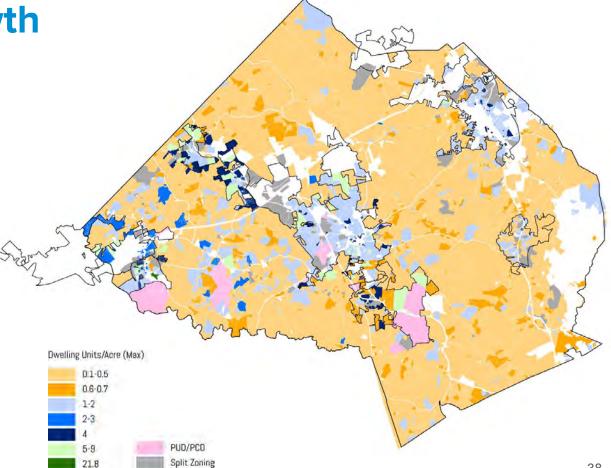




**Channeling Growth** 

Lower-density areas
 usually in unincorporated
 lands, higher-density areas
 usually in municipalities

- Growth preferably channeled near core areas
- Allowable densities in Jackson Co. are relatively low

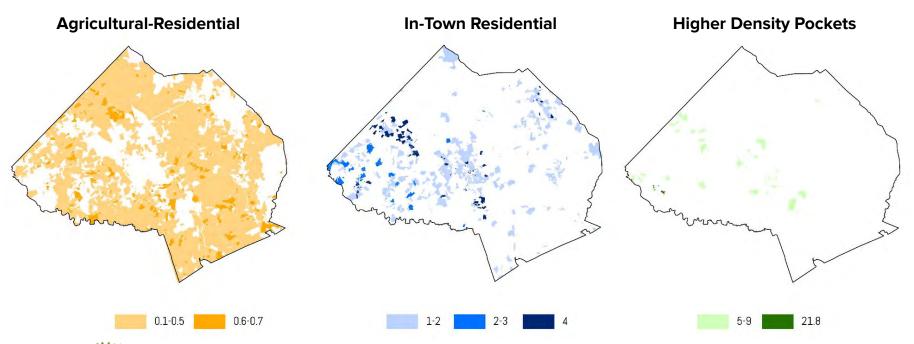






# **Channeling Growth**

1) Higher density zones are more often in incorporated areas, though not always







## **Promoting Varied Housing Types**

- Housing is better placed in areas with access to amenities, like in or near downtowns. It is logical that the greatest number and concentration of people would pair with well-serviced areas.
- Some developed multifamily housing is within a half-mile of downtown, as the crow flies.
- 3) Other developments, including many subdivisions, are "stranded"-- far from other land uses.
- The multifamily highlighted represents small & medium apartments and duplexes.









.5 mile radius



Developed multifamily

**Promoting Varied Housing Types** Sometimes, denser housing types directed outside of incorporated areas Often, these zoning districts are developed as Pendergrass single-family neighborhoods anyway ★ Hoschton Two-Family Permitted Multifamily (MF) Permitted MF Permitted, platted as single-family lots Lofts Above Retail Allowed Conditional Permit, non-single-family

#### **Special Districts - PCD & PUD Districts**

#### Common features:

- Promote more creative, flexible, imaginative, or truly unique projects
- Promote housing variety
- Preserve land 20% open space requirement
- Allow for a mix of uses in the same development
- Allowed only on properties of at least 10 acres

"This zoning district is intended to establish truly unique developments in which conventional design requirements and districts cannot accommodate. The P.U.D. district is not intended to allow developments in which higher densities are sought for the sole purpose of circumventing the existing zoning districts." - Braselton

"Provide for the more efficient use of land through clustering and other flexible, innovative development arrangements that will result in smaller networks of utilities and streets and thereby lower development and housing costs." - Jefferson/Talmo

"Provide development with greater benefits to the City than a development developed under a conventional zoning district." - Hoschton





### **Special Districts - PCD & PUD Districts**

- For the most part, PUDs seem to be developed as slightly denser subdivisions
- Housing types do not vary, although this is not fully confirmed
- 3) There does not appear to be a mix of land uses and PUD/PCD developed are not multi-faceted communities
- Land conservation results are questionable
- 5) PUD/PCD zones are not producing the creative developments that they are meant to facilitate





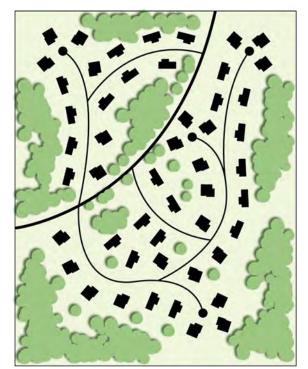


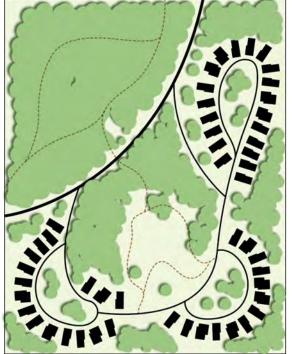




### **Special Districts - Conservation Subdivisions**

- Resembles PUD in respect to conserving undeveloped land
- 2) Further regulations, guidelines, or recommendations can encourage denser clustering of homes, contiguous stretches of conservation lands, a variety of housing types and land uses, and public greenspaces
- 3) Conservation subdivisions have been paired with or included working farms, regional parks, and areas that have been left in a natural state





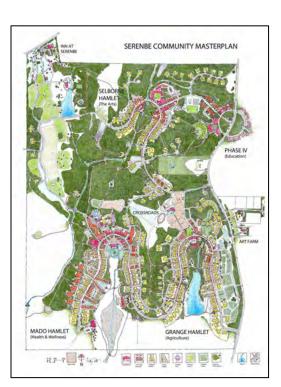




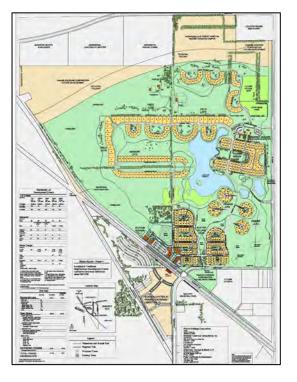
### **Special Districts - Conservation Subdivisions**



The Preserve - Hoover, AL



Serenbe - Chattahoochee Hills, GA







### **Smarter Growth - Developing to Conserve**

- 1) More compact development patterns pay off in *conserved land* elsewhere
- 2) Promotes *vibrant, walkable communities* and *supports local economies*
- 3) Concentrates services, amenities, and residents near existing infrastructure, resulting in **system-wide efficiencies**
- 4) Makes for **stronger**, **well-defined towns**



Loose Compact





### What's in the way?

#### 3 barriers:

- 1) *Misconceptions* of how housing supports a community
- 2) **Zoning** that restricts different types of housing
- 3) Lack of housing development that provides varied options





### What's in the way?

#### 3 barriers:

- 1) *Misconceptions* of how housing supports a community
- 2) **Zoning** that restricts varied types of housing
- 3) Lack of housing development that provides varied options

#### 3 ways to address these barriers:

- 1) **Education** for leaders and citizens
- 2) **Policies** that permit small-scale housing development/infill
- 3) Partnerships with institutions that can deliver housing one project at a time







# **Pocket Neighborhoods/Cottage Courts**

Clustering right size homes around a common area.

- Prevent suburban sprawl and maintain rural character of the area
- Expensive and unsustainable infrastructure due to homes being so spread out
- Lack of housing
- Lack of diversity of housing types
- Traditional development that clear cuts property
- Maintain rural character by keeping housing close to main street
- Spread out housing that creates isolation and loneliness-->Stronger communities by cluster housing types
- Streamline process





#### **Considerations**



#### ALLOW "BY RIGHT" IN SINGLE FAMILY ZONES

Pocket Neighborhoods should be permitted "by right" so that they are no more difficult to gain approval from the governing body with jurisdiction than are conventional subdivisions.



#### DENSITY BONUS IN EXCHANGE FOR SMALLER FOOTPRINT HOMES

By limiting the homes size to 1200 sf or less, you provide housing for individuals and smaller families which have less impact on infrastructure, so in exchange allowing twice the density of the typical underlying zoning classification incentivizes development.



#### BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Utilizing cottage court principles encourages community interaction. See our linked resources for best practices.



#### **ELIMINATE LOT SIZES**

Eliminate lot sizes and reduce setbacks from building within the pocket neighborhood so that houses can be clustered as efficiently as possible, and maximize land conservation.



Cottages on Vaughan, Clarkston, GA



# **Conservation Community Districts**

A conservation community are a type of residential subdivision that are designed in order to preserve open space while accommodating the full extent of development that would otherwise be possible under conventional subdivision designs by concentrating the development in a higher density in one area of the property while conserving a large percentage of land in the remaining area.

- Prevent suburban sprawl and maintain rural character of the area
- Expensive and unsustainable infrastructure due to homes being so spread out
- · Lack of housing
- Lack of diversity of types of housing
- Traditional development that clear cuts property
- Maintain rural character by keeping housing close to main street
- Spread out housing that creates isolation and loneliness--->Stronger communities by cluster housing types
- Streamline process





#### ALLOW "BY RIGHT"



Conservation Communities should be permitted "by right" so that they are no more difficult to gain approval from the governing body with jurisdiction than are conventional subdivisions.



#### CONSERVE 40% OR MORE OF LAND

By concentrating the development in one area it allows for the character and feel of the area to be maintained and discourages mass clearcutting that happens in typical suburban development.



#### ALLOW FOR SAME OVERALL DENSITY

Overall average density of project can match the underlying zoning districts, however it will be concentrated on 60% or less of the overall property.



#### ELIMINATE LOT SIZES

Eliminate lot sizes and reduce setbacks from building within the CC so that houses can be clustered as efficiently as possible, and maximize land conservation. For example: Jefferson / Talmo has reduced the lot size to 50% of the typical lot size required in the underlying zoning district which is an improvement, however is limiting the amount of conservation possible significantly

### **Considerations**



Serenbe, GA



### **Accessory Dwelling Units / Guest Houses**

An accessory dwelling unit is a second small dwelling on the same property (or attached to) as the primary single-family house, such as:

- -an apartment over the garage
- -a small house (on a foundation) in the backyard
- -a basement apartment

- Lack of housing stock ADUs are a great way to add housing inexpensively (without changing the character of the existing single-family neighborhood)
- Expensive and unsustainable infrastructure due to homes being so spread out -ADUs are not a burden on county and city infrastructure, so they are a great way to accommodate additional people without overburdening the system
- Create passive income Many communities do not have a lot of rental options, so ADUs are a great way to add those options without developing large multifamily apartment complexes.
- Adaptable Housing The cycle of an ADU allows the owner to be more flexible either living in the main residence or the ADU depending on the stage of life they are currently in and rent out the other.
- Aging in place ADUs can be an option for seniors to move in behind their homes and
  rent out their main homes to be able to age in place. Alternatively, live-in caretakers
  can live in an ADU allowing aging in place in the main home





### **Considerations**



#### ALLOW ADUS TO BE BUILT BY RIGHT

Allowing ADUs in all residential districts by right.



#### STREAMLINE PERMIT PROCESS

Time is money and allowing someone to go through the process without having to delay reduces the cost



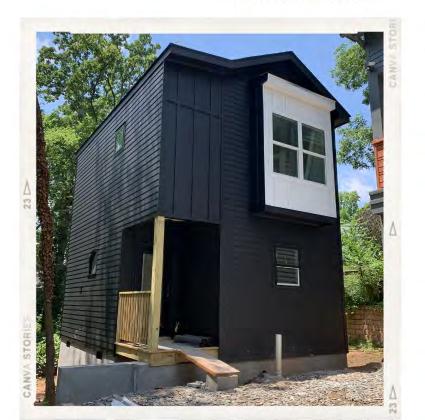
#### ALLOW ADUS AND GUEST HOUSES TO BE RENTED LONG-TERM

Having only short term rentals encourages Airbnb and does not allow one to invest into the community. Long-term rental allow for additional workforce housing.



#### PREAPPROVE PLANS FOR EASIER PERMITTING

Having preapproved plans by certain builders and architects that can be used on multiple properties in order to make the process easier for homeowners and builders. Designers or builders can submit their plans for approval, and if homeowners would like to use them they can do so easily without having to go through the lengthy permitting process.





### **Downtown Development**

Municipalities can maximize existing underutilized downtowns through new development, revitalization, and activation and experiential programming.

- Redefining Downtown Recently, downtowns have been seen as business and retail only, but as they once did in the early 1900s, downtowns can include housing and neighborhoods.
- Walkability According to AARP, 60% of Americans want walkability while only 5-10% of the United States is walkable.
- Additional households needed to support new businesses According to a study done in Dallas by Kronberg Urbanists +
   Architects, 2,000 households are needed to support 30k square feet of retail.





### **Considerations**



### ALLOW HOUSING IN EXISTING BUILDINGS



**IDENTIFY CHAMPIONS** 



TREAT HOUSING LIKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



TAKE CHARGE- IF YOU BUILD THEY WILL COME





# Reduce Minimum Lot Size and Minimum Home Size

- By reducing minimum lot size requirements, you can concentrate development in particular areas and reduce infrastructure costs to the county or municipality while increasing tax base.
- Many jurisdictions wrote their codes in the 70s to encourage a
  certain type of occupancy and demographics. Today we know
  from practical data and experience that many demographics
  want smaller more efficiently designed homes. Eliminating or
  reducing SF minimums can help to encourage more and better
  housing types.







### INCREASE AGING IN PLACE OPTIONS

### Benefits



INCREASE COMMUNITY ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT



INCREASE STARTER HOME STOCK



ALLOW NATURALLY AFFORDABLE HOME OPTIONS





### **Engage the Community**



### CREATE A COMMUNITY EDUCATION PLAN



VISIT REAL LIFE EXAMPLES



**BUILD A PILOT PROJECT** 





# **Cottage Court Resources**

- Pocket-Neighborhoods.net (including model ordinance): http://www.pocket-neighborhoods.net/blog/codes-for-courtyards/
- Municipal Resources Center and Services: https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/Housing/Cottage-Housing.aspx
- The Housing Partnership Cottage Guide: https://mrsc.org/getmedia/d33307b0-2510-4130-alac-aa85c70ea78b/chord.pdf.aspx



## **Additional Resources**

- MicroLife Website: www.microlifeinstitute.org/
- Cottages on Vaughan: www.microlifeinstitute.org/clarkston
- ADU Documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=8J51NbQqgaM&feature=emb\_logo&ab\_channel=WillJohnston
- All About ADUs: https://www.aarp.org/livablecommunities/housing/info-2019/accessory-dwelling-unitsadus.html
- Enabling Better Places: https://www.aarp.org/livablecommunities/tool-kits-resources/info-2020/enabling-betterplaces.html
- Livable Communities Resources: https://www.aarp.org/livablecommunities/tool-kits-resources/
- Sightline: https://www.sightline.org/



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