

ARTICLE 23, CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Statement of Intent.

This Zoning District is intended to encourage residential development in the rural areas of Stone County to conserve open space and by doing so promote the following:

- A. Efficient use of the land while preserving agricultural land, significant stands of trees, open space, historical features, vistas, drainage systems, sinkhole watershed, and other significant environmental or cultural items on a case by case basis.
- B. Housing located and grouped to promote efficiency and viable open space, and reduce impervious surface area.
- C. Housing with access to parks, trails, greenways, and other open areas for recreation.
- D. Economic viability of farms and farmland.
- E. Open space for private or public use for recreation or agriculture production.
- F. Preservation of historic areas or landscapes as well as the rural image of the County.
- G. Diversity of housing sizes and styles in the County.
- H. Preservation of the County's cultural history.

Section 1, Principal Permitted Uses.

- A. Single family detached dwelling on parcels of a minimum size of two (2) acres, as determined by a soils profile conducted by a registered soil scientist, that will have room for planned improvements, an on-site waste water disposal system and a replacement location for the soil absorption field, unless otherwise approved during platting.
- B. The open space portion of the development can be used for one or more of the following:
 - 1. Conservation of significant natural or cultural features and views.
 - 2. Agricultural uses that will support the conservation of open space.
 - 3. Common horse stables and associated trails.
 - 4. Recreational trails for non-motorized uses.

Stone County Zoning Regulations

Amendments current through July 20 2010

5. Recreational uses for the property owners, as regulated by the property owners' association.

- a. Trails
- b. Picnicking
- c. Gardens
- d. Passive areas for use
- e. Ball fields
- f. Playgrounds
- g. Tennis, basketball and other courts
- h. Swimming pools
- i. Community building
- j. Stables and equestrian trails and facilities
- k. Rifle, skeet, trap, and pistol ranges, and similar uses.

6. Roadside stands, offering for sale only agricultural products produced on the premises or in the vicinity.

Section 2, Accessory Uses. Accessory uses may include buildings, and structures customarily incidental to any of the aforesaid permitted uses, including:

- A. Uses, buildings, and structures customarily incidental to any of the aforesaid permitted uses.
- B. Home occupations as listed in Article 4, Section 21.
- C. Temporary real estate and small announcement signs.
- D. Temporary buildings for uses incidental to construction work, which building shall be removed upon completion or abandonment of the construction work.
- E. Swimming pool incidental to a single family dwelling, provided the pool will not hamper the use or location of the on-site waste water system.

Stone County Zoning Regulations

Amendments current through July 20 2010

F. Day care homes, if not more than six (6) children are kept, in addition to the caregiver's own children.

G. Accessory apartments.

Section 3, Development Standards

A. Residential requirements

1. Single family detached structures

2. The residential lot shall be a minimum of two (2) acres and shall be large enough to accommodate an onsite disposal system and a replacement system. The area requirements will be based on soils and size of the structure.

3. Setbacks will follow the R-1 Suburban Residence District guidelines.

4. Accessory buildings will follow location guidelines as shown in the R-1 residential regulations.

5. Maximum lot coverage will be thirty-five (35) percent and maximum height of all structures will be thirty-five (35) feet.

6. The property owners' association will provide for maintenance of the on-site waste water system within the context of their covenants. Covenants must receive the discretionary approval of the County Commission.

B. Minimum required acreage - 20 acres

C. Development considerations

1. Community commons

2. Residential and/or open space siting

a. Open space shall be arranged so that large contiguous areas of open space can be formed.

b. Impact on natural, environmental, and historical areas is to be minimized by the location of residential development.

3. Protection of scenic views.

4. Minimize the impact on mature stands of trees.

Stone County Zoning Regulations

Amendments current through July 20 2010

5. Protect historic buildings, views or landscapes.
6. Avoid prime farm land with residential development.
7. Roads will not be extended through open space; however, open space accessory parking and structures can be located in the open space.
8. Variance to design standards will be considered and may be approved as the Conservation Development is approved.

Section 4, Submittal Requirements

A. A completed change of zoning application will be required for an open space development.

B. In addition, a conservation development report and site plan shall be required and shall include the following items. (The development report and site plan must be prepared by a land development professional that is qualified by their education and experience to do site plan work.)

1. Ten foot contour lines.
2. Rock outcrops
3. Slopes of more than fifteen (15) percent
4. Soil.
5. Water features and flood plains
6. Sinkholes, caves and springs
7. Land cover
8. Visual or historical resources
9. Special environmental considerations
10. Existing buildings or improvements
11. Identify the maximum number of five (5) acre tracts that could be developed
12. Site design to show the open space, lots, roads, and storm water facilities

Stone County Zoning Regulations

Amendments current through July 20 2010

13. Phasing, if any
14. Location map
15. Conservation easement

C. No open space development will be considered approved until all hearings are complete and the conservation easements are recorded permanently preserving the open space. The requirement for a conservation easement may be waived by the Planning & Zoning Commission if the development's property owners' association retains ownership of the open space.

Section 5, Road or Street Setback.

No structure may be erected closer than 25 feet from the nearest road or street right-of-way boundary.