

SPECIAL USE INFORMATION

FEE: Type I - \$1,250 Type II - \$750 (*Cash/check only – make check payable to ACC*)

Athens-Clarke County Planning Department – accgov.com/planning
120 West Dougherty Street · Athens, Georgia 30601 · 706-613-3515

Quick Checklist for Planning Commission Applications

- Completed pre-application conference
- Application form with original signatures and one copy
- 20 copies of application report
- 20 copies of professionally sealed site plan (6 to scale no larger than 2' x 3', 14 reductions of 11" x 17"), collated & folded
- 1 Tree Management Plan to scale, if required; 21 copies if requesting a Tree Management variance or waiver (follow site plan requirements for copies and size)
- 20 copies of exterior architectural elevations or photographs (can be included in application report)
- Digital (PDF) versions of signed application, report, plans, and elevations
- Stamped, blank envelopes of a number sufficient to address all property owners within 400 feet of property for which request is being made. (Planning Department to provide the number of needed envelopes)
- Application fee
- Traffic Impact Analysis for all projects that may be expected to generate 100 vehicle trips within a single hour or 1000 vehicle trips per day (contact Traffic Engineer at 706-613-3460)
- ACC water and sanitary sewer demands to Public Utilities (706-613-3490) or septic system analysis from Clarke County Health Department (706-583-2658)

Pre-Application Conference

All applicants shall have completed a pre-application conference for the proposal within a two-week to six-month period preceding the application date.

Application Report

An application report must be prepared and submitted by the applicant detailing how the application meets the following approval criteria.

If the proposed Special Use does not conform to the Future Land Use Map, or if the proposed use is a halfway house, drug rehabilitation center, or other facility for treatment of drug dependency, then it is considered a Type I application and the report should address the following considerations:

1. The proposed Special Use conforms to the Future Land Use Map, the general plans for the physical development of Athens-Clarke County, and any master plan or portion thereof adopted by the Mayor and Commission.
2. The proposed Special Use will not adversely affect the balance of land uses in Athens-Clarke County.
3. Public facility elements of the comprehensive plan and how the proposed change will affect the provision of the services anticipated in the plan.
4. The proposed Special Use meets all objective criteria set forth for that use provided in the zoning ordinance and conforms to the purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan and all its elements.

If the proposed Special Use conforms to the Future Land Use Map and is not a halfway house, drug rehabilitation center, or other facility for treatment of drug dependency, then it is considered a Type II application and the report should address the following considerations:

1. The proposed Special Use conforms to the Future Land Use Map, the general plans for the physical development of Athens-Clarke County, and any master plan or portion thereof adopted by the Mayor and Commission.
2. The proposed Special Use meets all objective criteria set forth for that use provided in the zoning ordinance and conforms to the purpose and intent of the comprehensive plan and all its elements.
3. Public services, which include physical facilities and staff capacity, exist sufficient to service the proposed Special Use.
4. The proposed Special Use will not adversely affect the balance of land uses in Athens-Clarke County.

All Special Use applications should address the following considerations:

5. Is the proposed use in conformance with all standards within the zoning district in which the use is proposed to be located, and in conformance with relevant Comprehensive plan policies implemented by Athens-Clarke County and with all state or federal laws?
6. Is there adequate capacity of Athens-Clarke County facilities for water, sewer, paved access to and through the development, electricity, urban storm drainage, and adequate transportation that can and will be provided to and through the subject property?
7. Will the Special Use have an adverse impact on the surrounding area? When evaluating the effect of the proposed use on the impact area, the following factors shall be considered:
 - a. Similarity in scale, bulk, and coverage.
 - b. Character and volume of traffic and vehicular parking generated by the proposed use and the effects on surrounding streets.
 - c. Architectural compatibility with the surrounding area.
 - d. The possible impact on the environment, including, but not limited to, drainage, soil erosion and sedimentation, flooding, air quality and water quality, including the generation of smoke, dust, odors, or other environmental pollutants.
 - e. Generation of noise, light, and glare.
 - f. The development of adjacent properties compatible with the Future Land Use Map and the zoning district.
 - g. Impact on future transportation corridors.
 - h. Impact on the character of the neighborhood by the establishment or expansion of the proposed use in conjunction with similar uses.

Site Plan Requirements

The plan or drawing accompanying the application shall be prepared by a licensed surveyor, architect, landscape architect, or engineer and shall include the following information:

1. Vicinity map.
2. North arrow.
3. Depiction and names of all streets within and abutting the subject property.
4. Depiction of the subject property, including the metes and bounds of all lot lines.
5. Location and use of all buildings existing and proposed on the subject property.
6. Location of all parking areas, parking spaces, and ingress, egress and traffic circulation for the subject property.
7. Schematic landscaping plan showing area and type of landscaping proposed.

8. For any proposed structural or site improvement, a topographic map of the site showing contour intervals of five feet or less.
9. Approximate location of all existing natural features in areas which are planned to be disturbed, including, but not limited to, all existing vegetation, any natural drainage ways, ponds or wetlands, any substantial outcroppings of rocks or boulders, and protected environmental buffer zones.
10. Project name.
11. Scale (plan must be drawn to a standardized engineering scale).
12. Date of plan origination and latest revision.
13. Tax parcel identification numbers and zoning designations for the subject property and adjacent properties.
14. Existing and proposed public water, sanitary sewer, and access easements, and stormwater management facilities.
15. Total acreage, the area and percentage of lot coverage, the total number of parking spaces, sufficient information for required parking determination for each non-residential use, and the total number of dwelling units (including the number of bedrooms in each dwelling unit for multifamily development).

In addition to the site plan, a special use application shall include the following:

16. A tree management plan in accordance with section 8-7-17, if required by said section.
17. Traffic Impact Analysis for projects that may be expected to generate 100 vehicle trips within a single hour or 1000 vehicle trips per day, per the specifications of the Athens-Clarke County traffic engineer.
18. Water and sanitary sewer demands per specifications of the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department.
19. Schematic architectural elevations of proposed structures and/or photographs of existing structures, as applicable, with the existing or proposed maximum height denoted.
20. Written description of proposed stormwater management.
21. If the project is to be built in phases, a description of the areas contained in each phase.

After Submittal Deadline

- The Planning Department will send letters by regular mail giving notice of the public hearing and proposal to all property owners of parcels lying in whole or in part within a distance of 400 feet as measured from the subject property lines. The Planning Department will also post notice on or near the subject property.
- ACC staff will review the application and prepare a recommendation report for the Planning Commission. These reports are e-mailed to applicants or their authorized agents, as well as made available to the general public, following distribution of the staff reports to the Planning Commission. With a typical agenda, applicants will receive the reports by the Friday or Monday preceding the Thursday Planning Commission meeting.
- The Planning Commission meets the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Planning Department Auditorium.
- The day after the Planning Commission meeting, Staff will contact the applicants if additional application document copies are needed for forwarding to the Mayor and Commission for their consideration. If the Planning Commission recommends conditions of approval, then the applicant may choose to revise the submittal documents to address the conditions prior to Mayor and Commission consideration. Whether revised or not, sufficient application copies must be available by noon the Monday following the Planning Commission meeting for the proposal to be considered at the next Mayor and Commission meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the application or procedures, please call the Planning Department at (706) 613-3515, e-mail at planning@accgov.com, or write to 120 W. Dougherty Street; Athens, GA 30601.