# RMLUI THE PATHOLOGY OF SUBURBS (or accommodating suburbs)

March 5, 2010

#### PATHOLOGY:

- **1.** The scientific study of the nature of disease and its causes, processes, development, and consequences.
- **2.** The anatomic or functional manifestations of a disease: the pathology of cancer.
- **3.** A departure or deviation from a normal condition: "Neighborhoods plagued by a self-perpetuating pathology of joblessness, welfare dependency, crime"

## **Challenge:**

How do we create/re-create a city without knowing what the future holds?

1) EVERYONE HAS DIFFERENT OPINIONS ABOUT WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN

2) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHAT THE MARKET WILL DO

#### Master Plan/Street Plan: A Standard City Planning Enabling Act 1928

- It shall be the function and duty of the commission to make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the municipality
- Such plan, shall show the commission's recommendations for the development of the location, character, and extent of streets, boulevards, parkways, playgrounds, squares, parks, and other public ways, grounds and open spaces



### **Looking to the Past for Answers to the Future: Manhattan**



Manhattan c. 1800



Manhattan Today



The size, shape, orientation, legal process of the subdivision

# How we divide up our land is more important than what we do with it.

Zoning, use changes, bulk limitations

(because this allows USES to change over time)

RMLUI

**EUCLID** 

#### **U.S. Supreme Court**

VILLAGE OF EUCLID, OHIO v. AMBLER REALTY CO., 272 U.S. 365 (1926) 272 U.S. 365

VILLAGE OF EUCLID, OHIO, et al.

V.

AMBLER REALTY CO.

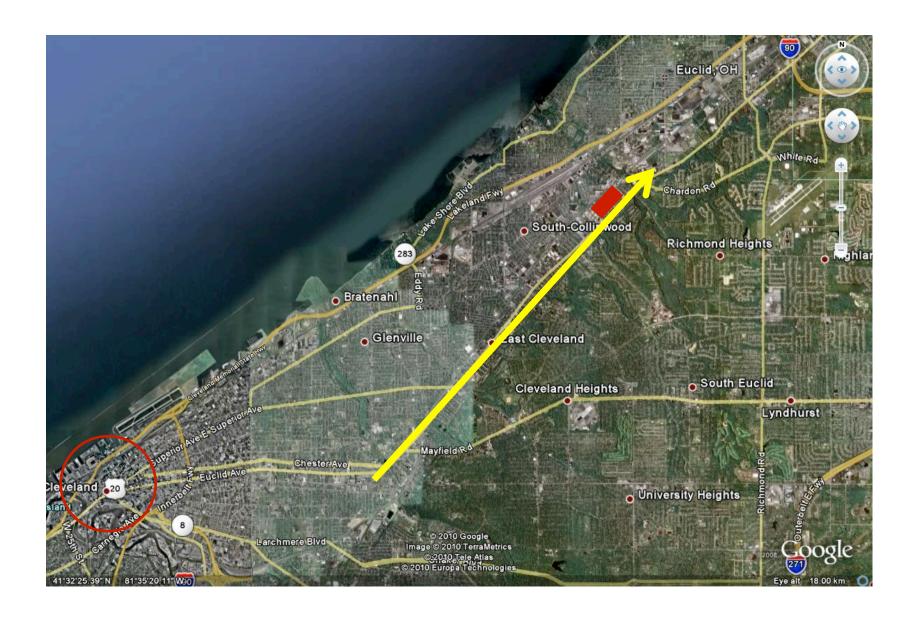
No. 31.

Reargued Oct. 12, 1926. Decided Nov. 22, 1926.

[272 U.S. 365, 367] Mr. James Metzenbaum, of Cleveland, Ohio, for appellants.

[272 U.S. 365, 371] Messrs. Newton D. Baker and Robert M. Morgan, both of Cleveland, Ohio, for appellee.

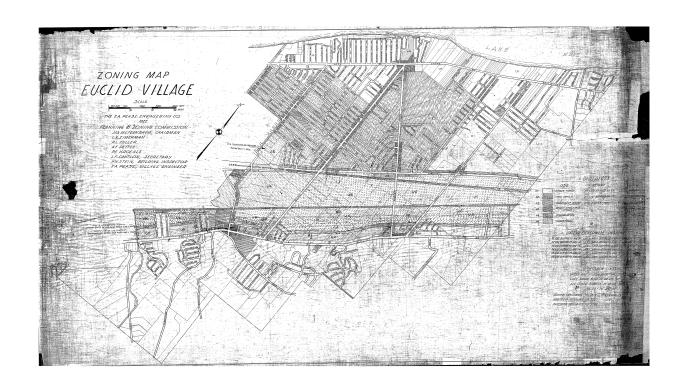
[272 U.S. 365, 379]



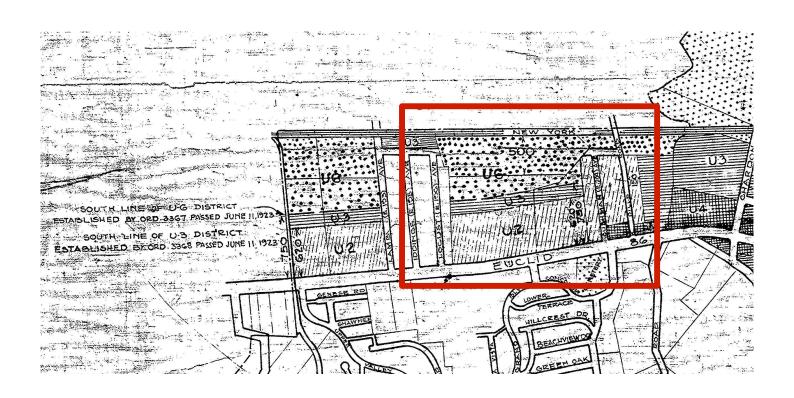


We find no difficulty in sustaining restrictions of the kind thus far reviewed. The serious question in the case arises over the provisions of the ordinance excluding from residential districts apartment houses, business houses, retail stores and shops, and other like establishments. This question involves the validity of what is really the crux of the more recent zoning legislation, namely, the creation and maintenance of residential districts, from which business and trade of every sort, including hotels and apartment houses, are excluded. Upon that question this court has not thus far spoken. The decisions of the state courts are numerous and conflicting; but those which broadly sustain the power greatly outnumber those which deny it altogether or narrowly limit it, and it is very apparent that there is a constantly increasing tendency in the direction of the broader view. We shall not attempt to review these decisions at length, but content ourselves with citing a few as illustrative of all.

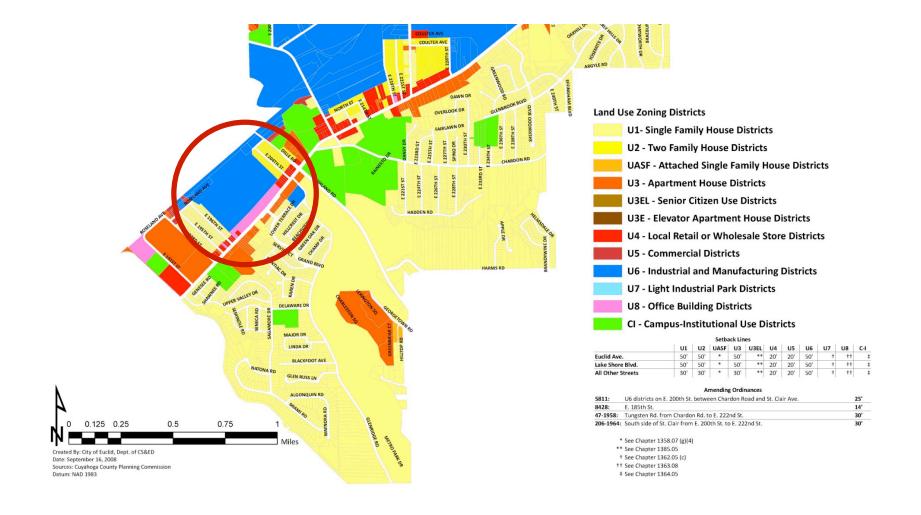
The entire area of the village is divided by the ordinance into six classes of use districts, denominated U-1 to U-6, inclusive...: U-1 is restricted to single family dwellings, public parks, water towers and reservoirs, suburban and interurban electric railway passenger stations and rights of way, and farming, non-commercial greenhouse nurseries, and truck gardening; U-2 is extended to include two-family dwellings; U-3 is further extended to include apartment houses, hotels, churches, schools, public libraries, museums, private clubs, community center buildings, hospitals, sanitariums, public playgrounds, and recreation buildings, and a city hall and courthouse;



Appellee's tract of land comes under U-2, U-3 and U-6. The first strip of 620 feet immediately north of Euclid avenue falls in class U-2, the next 130 feet to the north, in U-3, and the remainder in U-6. The uses of the first 620 feet, therefore, do not include apartment houses, hotels, churches, schools, or other public and semipublic buildings, or other uses enumerated in respect of U-3 to U-6, inclusive. The uses of the next 130 feet include...





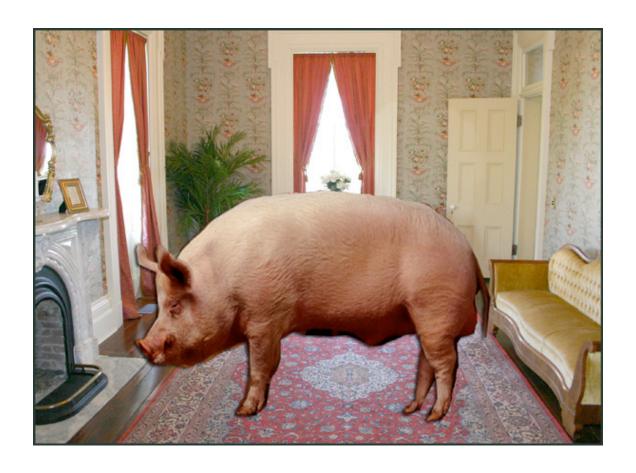


The ordinance now under review, and all similar laws and regulations, must find their justification in some aspect of the police power, asserted for the public welfare. The line which in this field separates the legitimate from the illegitimate assumption of power is not capable of precise delimitation. It varies with circumstances and conditions. A regulatory zoning ordinance, which would be clearly valid as applied to the great cities, might be clearly invalid as applied to rural communities. In solving doubts, the maxim 'sic utere tuo ut alienum non laedas,' which lies at the foundation of so much of the common low of nuisances,

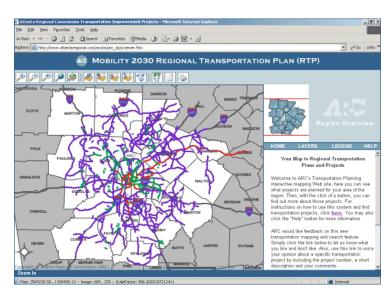
ordinarily will furnish a fairly helpful clew. And the law of nuisances, likewise, may be consulted, not for the purpose of controlling, but for the helpful aid of its analogies in the process of ascertaining [272 U.S. 365, 388] the scope of, the power. Thus the question whether the power exists to forbid the erection of a building of a particular kind or for a particular use, like the question whether a particular thing is a nuisance, is to be determined, not by an abstract consideration of the building or of the thing considered apart, but by considering it in connection with the circumstances and the locality.

So use your own as not to injure another's property.

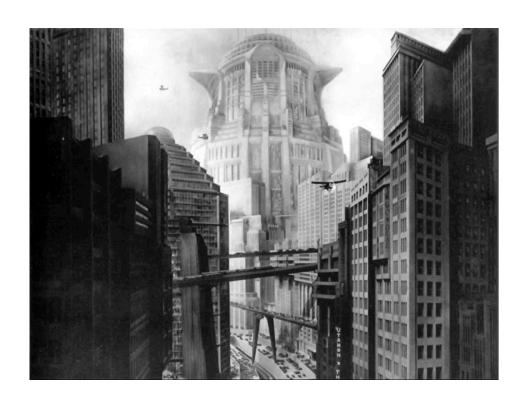
A nuisance may be **merely a right thing in the wrong place**, like a pig in the parlor instead of the barnyard. If the validity of the legislative classification for zoning purposes be fairly debatable, the legislative judgment must be allowed to control.



If it be a proper exercise of the police power to relegate industrial establishments to localities separated from residential sections, it is not easy to find a sufficient reason for denying the power because the effect of its exercise is to divert an industrial flow from the course which it would follow, to the injury of the residential public, if left alone, to another course where such injury will be obviated. It is not meant by this, however, to exclude the possibility of cases where the general public interest would so far outweigh the interest of the municipality that the municipality would not be allowed to stand in the way.



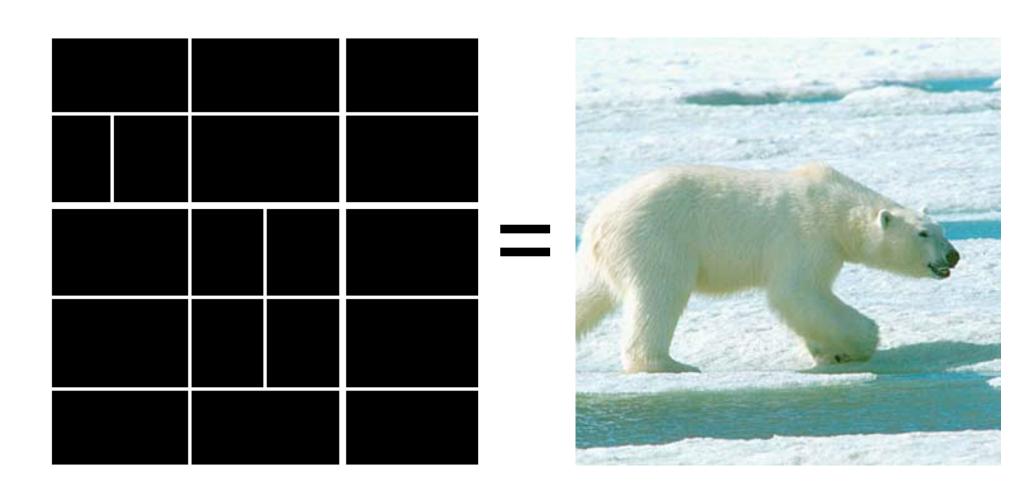
And in this there is no inconsistency, for, while the meaning of <u>constitutional</u> <u>guaranties</u> never varies, the scope of their application must expand or contract to meet the new and different conditions which are constantly coming within the field of their operation. In a changing world it is impossible that it should be otherwise.

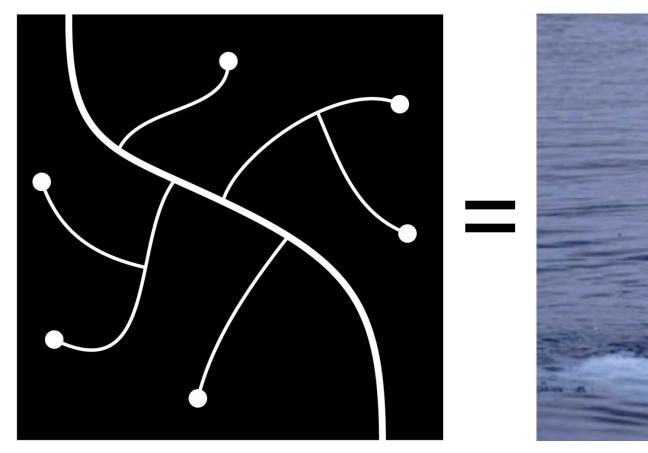


It is said that the village of Euclid is a mere suburb of the city of Cleveland; that the industrial development of that city has now reached and in some degree extended into the village, and in the obvious course of things will soon absorb the entire area for industrial enterprises; that the effect of the ordinance is to divert this natural development elsewhere, with the consequent loss of increased values to the owners of the lands within the village borders. But the village, though physically a suburb of Cleveland, is politically a separate municipality, with powers of its own and authority to govern itself as it sees fit, within the limits of the organic law of its creation and the state and federal Constitutions. Its governing authorities, presumably representing a majority of its inhabitants and voicing their will, have determined, not that industrial development shall cease at its boundaries, but that the course of such development shall proceed within definitely fixed lines

It is not meant by this, however, to exclude the possibility of cases where the general public interest would so far outweigh the interest of the municipality that the municipality would not be allowed to stand in the way.









### RMLUI ENABLING ACT

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

HERBERT HOOVER, SECRETARY

## A STANDARD CITY PLANNING ENABLING ACT

BY

#### THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CITY PLANNING AND ZONING

#### APPOINTED BY SECRETARY HOOVER

	CHARLES B. BALL	Secretary-Treasurer, City Planning Division, American Society of Civil Engineers.
0	EDWARD M. BASSETT	Counsel, Zoning Committee of New York.
	ALFRED BETTMAN	American City Planning Institute and National Conference on City Planning.
	IRVING B. HIETT	Ex-President, National Association of Real Estate Boards.
	JDiIN IHLDER	Manager, Civic Development Department of the Chamber of Commorea of the United States.
	MORRIS KNOWLES	From the Chamber of Commerce of the United States: Chairman, City Planning Division, Amer- ican Society of Civil Engineers.
	J. HORACE McFARLAND	Ex-President, The American Civic Association.
	FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED	Ex-President, The American Society of Landscape Architects; Ex-President, American City Plan- ning Institute.
	LAWRENCE VEH.LER	Secretary and Director, The National Housing Association.

JAMES SPEAR TAYLDR, Secretary

JOHN M. GRIES

Chief, Division of Building and Housing, Bureau of Standards Department of Commerca



#### PRICE 15 CENTS

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1928

Section 1 Grant of Power– For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, or the general welfare of the community, the legislative body of cities and incorporated villages is hereby empowered to regulate and restrict the height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes.

1"health": It is to be noted that the word used is "health," not "public health," for the latter narrows the application. There are some things that relate to the health only of the people living in a given dwelling, such, for instance, as the size of yards, and have only a remote relation to public health. If the term "public health" were used, the act might be set aside in a given case where it would be possible to show that the particular provision in which legal action was being taken did not concern Itself with the public health but only with health,

<sup>3</sup>"public welfare"; The main pillars on which the police power rests are these four, viz, health, safety, morals, and general welfare. It is wise, therefore, to limit the purposes of this enactment to these four. There may be danger in adding others, as "prosperity," "comfort," "convenience," "order," "growth of the city," etc., and nothing is to be gained thereby.

#### **Constitutional Guarantees**

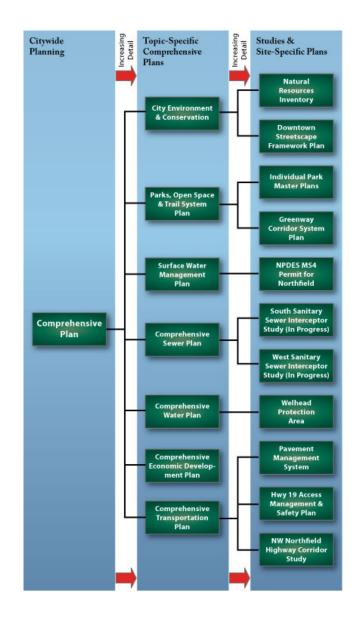
Section 6 General Powers and Duties<sup>31</sup> – It shall be the function and duty of the commission to make and adopt a master plan<sup>32</sup> for the physical development<sup>33</sup> of the municipality, including any areas outside of its boundaries<sup>34</sup> which, in the commission's judgment bear relation to the planning of such a municipality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "a master plan": By this expression is meant a comprehensive scheme of development of the general fundamentals of a municipal plan. An express definition has not been thought desirable or necessary. What is implied in it is best expressed by the provisions of this section which illustrate the subject matter that a master plan should consider.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "physical development": The word "physical" is used so as to make it plain that the planning commission should limit its activities to those problems of city life which are to be worked out through influencing the physical development of the territory.

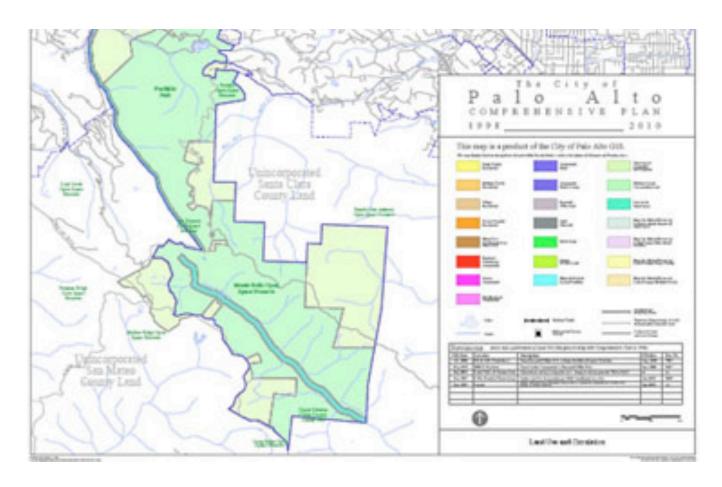
Section 3 Purposes in View – Such regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan<sup>22</sup> and designed to lessen congestion in the streets; to secure safety from fire, panic, and other dangers; to promote health and the general welfare; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks, and other public requirements.

<sup>22</sup>"with a comprehensive plan": This will prevent haphazard or piecemeal zoning. No zoning should be done without such a comprehensive study.



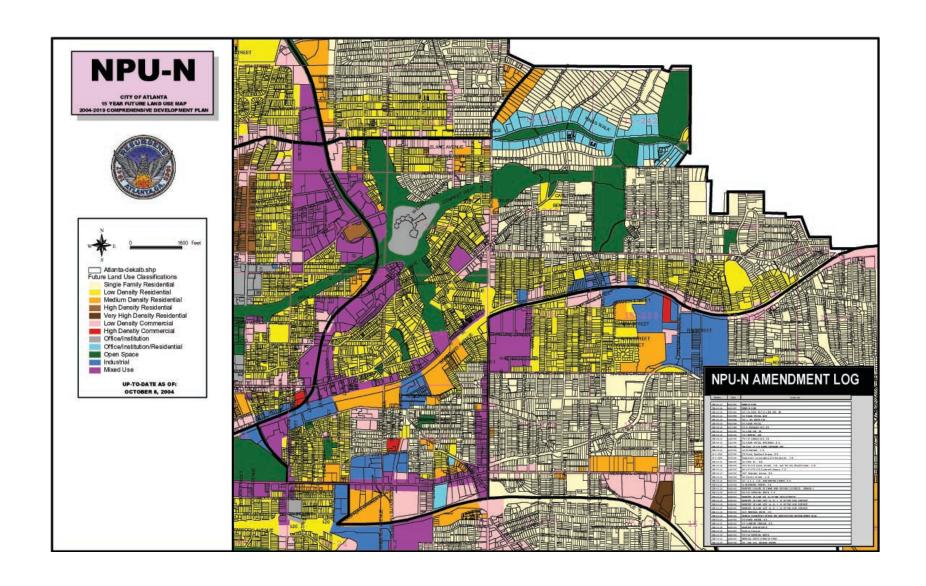
AN ACT To provide for city and regional planning; the creation, organization, and powers of planning commissions; the regulation of subdivision of land and the acquisition of right to keep planned streets free from buildings; and providing penalties for violation of this act.





Such plan, with the accompanying maps, plats, charts, and descriptive matter shall show the commission's recommendations for the development of said territory, including, among other things," the general location, character, and extent" of streets, viaducts, subways, ridges, waterways, water fronts, boulevards, parkways, playgrounds, squares, parks, aviation fields, and other public ways, grounds and open spaces, the general location of public buildings and other public property, and the general location and extent of public utilities and terminals, whether publicly or privately owned or operated," for water, light, sanitation, transportation, communication, power, and other purposes; also the removal, relocation, widening, narrowing, vacating, abandonment, change of use or extension of any of the foregoing ways, grounds, open spaces, buildings, property, utilities, or terminals; as well as a zoning plan<sup>35</sup> for the control of the height, area, bulk, location, and use of buildings and premises.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "zoning plan": Where no zoning plan has been made and no zoning commission exists, the preparation of a zoning plan should be undertaken by the city planning commission, as zoning is simply one phase of city planning.



## RMLUI THE ORDINANCE

Section 20. Building Set-Back Lines.

In addition to section 19 the following streets are hereby declared to provide for the

ultimate street widths as shown opposite same. The purpose of this section being in giving present notice of the city's intention to so widen such streets at some future date.

Any improvements made which form an encroachment on such building lines shall be removed at the owner's expense:

Cascade Avenue from Gordon Street to Beecher Street: 35 feet each side of center line.

Courtland Street from Edgewood Avenue to Forrest Avenue: 40 feet each side of center line.

Courtland Street from Forrest Avenue to Linden Avenue: 35 feet west side of center line.

Courtland Street from Forrest Avenue to Linden Avenue: 45 feet east side of center line.



(2) STREETS:

A way for vehicular traffic, whether designated as a street, highway, throughway, road, avenue, boulevard, lane, place or however otherwise designated:

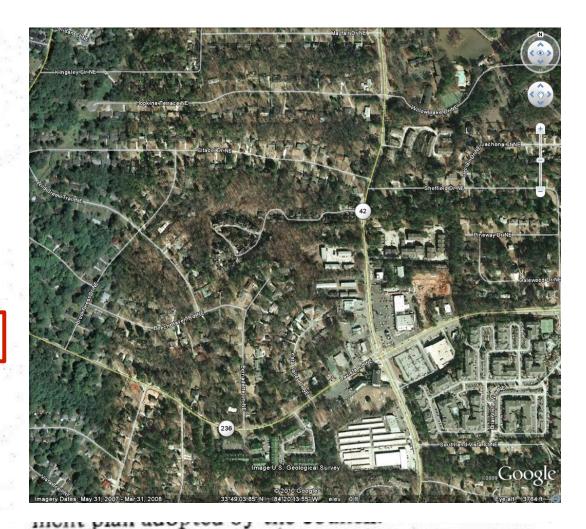
a.Major streets and highways are those which are used primarily for fast or heavy traffic.

- b. Collector streets are those which carry traffic from local or neighborhood streets to the major system of major streets and highways, including the principal entrance streets of a residential development and streets for circulation within such a development.
- c. Local streets are those which are used primarily for access to the abutting properties.
- d. Marginal access streets are local streets which are parallel to and adjacent to major streets and highways, and which provide access to abutting properties and protection from through traffic.
- e. Service drives are used primarily for vehicular service access to the back or the side of properties otherwise abutting on a street.



#### Section 15-4001 Streets.

- (a) Conformation with major thoroughfare plan. The arrangement, character, extent, width, grade and location of all streets shall conform to the major thoroughfare plan for the city and shall be considered in relation to existing and planned streets, to topographical conditions, to public convenience and safety, and in their appropriate relation to the proposed uses of the land to be served by such streets.
- (b) Standard where major thoroughfare plan inapplicable. Where such is not shown in the major thoroughfare plan for the city, the arrangement of streets in a subdivision shall either:
- (1) Provide for the continuation or appropriate projection of existing principal streets in surrounding areas; or
- (2) Conform to the comprehensive development plan adopted by the council.
- (c) Local streets. Local streets shall be so laid out that their use by through traffic will be discouraged.
- (d) Access streets, other protection. subdivision abuts or contains an existing or proposed major street, the bureau of planning may require marginal access streets, double frontage with screen planting contained in a nonaccess reservation along the rear property line, deep lot with rear service drives, or such other treatment as may be necessary for adequate protection of residential properties and to afford separation of through and local traffic.



(c) Local streets. Local streets shall be so laid out that their use by through traffic will be discouraged. shall be as nearly at right angles as practicable.

(i) Street right-of-way widths. Street right-of-way widths shall be as shown in the major thoroughfare plan for the city, and where not shown therein shall be not less than as follows:

Street type													Right-of-way (in feet)				
Major	· ci	ia]	in	d	us		ia	1,			•	•				•	90 to 114 ft.
multiple family . Local-residential.																	

- (j) Half-streets. Dedication of half-streets will not be permitted. Where a dedicated or platted half-street exists adjacent to a tract being subdivided the other half will be dedicated unless declared unnecessary by the council.
- (k) Dead-end streets. The length of permanent dead-end streets shall be governed by topography, size of tract, the surrounding area, accessibility to other streets and other physical factors. There shall be provided a turnaround, at the closed end, with a minimum radius for residential property of 60 feet and for commercial and industrial property of not less than 75 feet to the centerline
  - (l) Alleys. Alleys shall not be permitted.



# Section 15-4003 Blocks.

- (a) Length, width and shapes of blocks. The lengths, widths and shapes of blocks shall be determined with due regard to:
- (1) Provision of adequate building sites suitable to the special needs of the type of use contemplated.
- (2) Zoning requirements as to lot sizes and dimensions.
- (3) Needs for convenient access, circulation, control and safety of street traffic.
- (4) Limitations and opportunities of topography.
- (b) Easements. Easements, not less than 10 feet wide, may be required where deemed essential to provide pedestrian circulation or access to schools, playgrounds, shopping centers, transportation, and other community facilities.
- (c) Trees. When feasible, all trees of major growth in the subdivision will be preserved. All trees shall be at a minimum distance from the center line of a street as indicated below:

Type of street							Minimum distance from street center line in feet														
Major																			5	5	- 80
Collector																			4	0	- 45
Local																					. 35

Cross Reference: Trees and shrubbery generally. Section 10-6001 et seq.

Classification	Example	Description	Design Speed
Arterial		Provides the highest level of service at the greatest speed for the longest uninterrupted distance, with some degree of access control.	30-60 mph
Collector		Provides a less highly developed level of service at a lower speed for shorter distances by collecting traffic from local roads and connecting them with arterials.	30 mph or higher
Local		Consists of all roads not defined as arterials or collectors; primarily provides access to land with little or no through- movement.	20-30 mph

Figure 7-3: Urban Roadway Defintiions Under the Functional Classification System (Adapted from AASHTO, 2001)

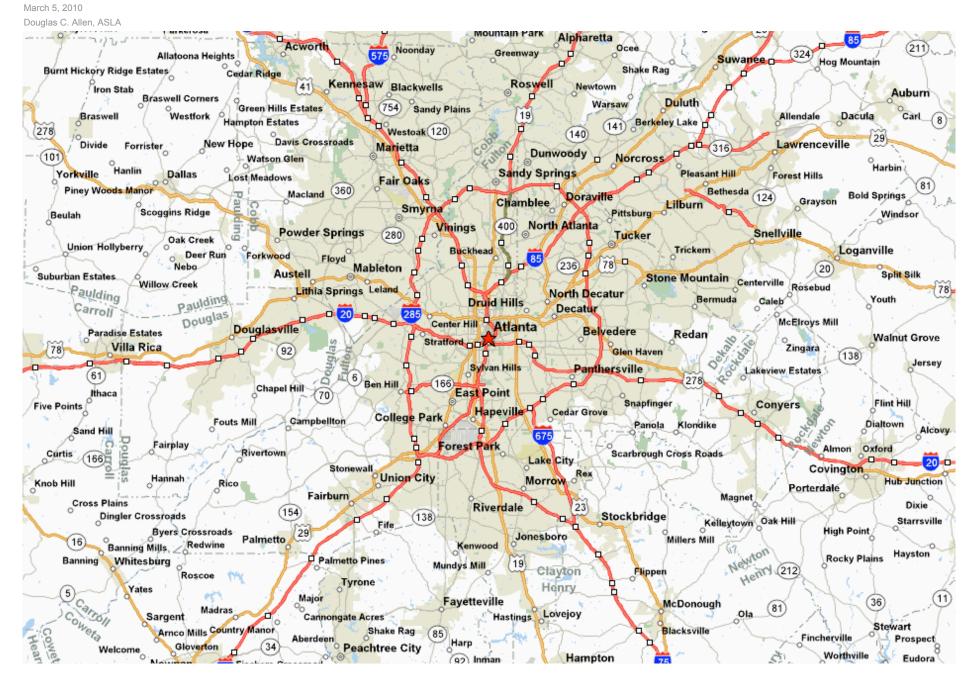
# RMLUI

### SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM

March 5, 2010

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA





### SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM

March 5, 2010

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA



A: Virginia Highland Neighborhood, Atlanta, GA

Average Block size: 5.45 acres



B: Windward, Alpharetta, GA

Average Block size: 74.39 acres

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RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

# Question

1. Do current zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations contribute to this condition.

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

# Question

- 1. Do current zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations contribute to this condition.
  - 1. Subdivision regulations regulate the configuration of
    - Blocks
    - Streets
    - Public Space

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

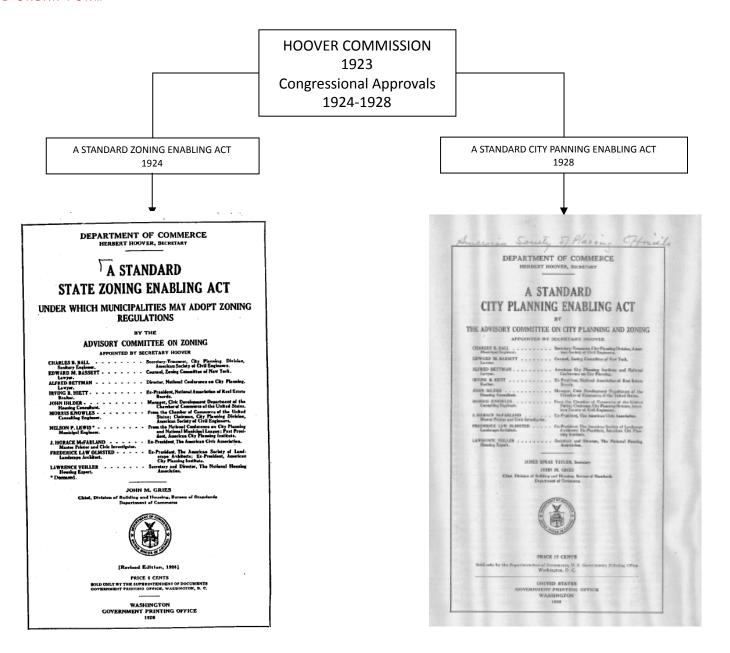
# Question

- 1. Do current zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations contribute to this condition.
  - 1. Subdivision regulations control the configuration of
    - Blocks
    - Streets
    - Public Space
  - 2. Zoning ordinances regulate the use of private property.

### SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM

March 5, 2010

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA



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palities.4

SEC. 13. SCOPE OF CONTROL OF SUBDIVISIONS.—Whenever a planning commission shall have adopted a major street plan 66 of the territory within its subdivision jurisdiction or part thereof, and shall have filed a certified copy of such plan in the office of the county recorder of the county in which such territory or part is located, then no plat of a subdivision of land within such territory or part shall be filed or recorded 67 until it shall have been approved by such planning commission and such approval entered in writing on the plat by the chairman or secretary of the commission.

SEC. 14. Subdivision Regulations.—Before exercising the powers <sup>68</sup> referred to in section 13, the planning commission shall adopt regulations <sup>69</sup> governing the subdivision of land within its

\*\*municipalities": In using the text of this section care should be taken to keep in mind the definition of "municipality" and "municipal" which may have been adopted for section 1 of the act. For instance, if, under the definition set forth in section 1, there is no nonmunicipal territory in the State, then, of course, changes will need to be made in section 12 to correspond with this situation. In each State care should be exercised that the phraseology of section 12, taken in connection with that adopted for section 1, will carry out the legislative intention regarding the scope of subdivision control by each planning commission.

"major street plan": The planning commission is empowered to exercise its control of subdivisions only after it shall have developed at least a major street plan of the territory to be controlled. Until that phase of its plan has been reached, platting should continue under the existing form of control or lack of control, for the imposition of requirements which might turn out to have little or no relation to the ultimate principles of control would be unfair to the subdivider's plan. This limitation, of course, does not involve the necessity of the commission having completed all the other features of the comprehensive plan, but merely that a main thoroughfare plan shall have been adopted.

"" "filed or recorded": In each State using this act it would be well to mention here the office at which the plat is required to be recorded. The word "filed" or the word "recorded," or both, should be used, according to the individual practice of the different States

"Before exercising the powers": Before acquiring jurisdiction over plats the

A STANDARD CITY PLANNING ENABLING ACT

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jurisdiction. Such regulations may provide for the proper arrangement of streets <sup>70</sup> in relation to other existing or planned streets and to the master plan, for adequate and convenient open spaces for traffic, utilities, access of fire-fighting apparatus, recreation, light and air, and for the avoidance of congestion of population, including minimum width and area of lots.<sup>71</sup>

Such regulations may include provisions as to the extent to which streets and other ways shall be graded and improved and to which water and sewer and other utility mains, piping, or other facilities shall be installed as a condition precedent to the approval of the plat.<sup>72</sup> The regulations or practice of the commission may provide

"arrangement of streets": To insure that streets or rights of way, whether dedicated as public streets or not, shall fit into each other and the ultimate street plan of the city and coordinate with that plan is one of the primary purposes of giving control of land subdivision to planning commissions. The regulations which the commission is empowered to adopt with regard to platting should be primarily concerned with this end. The commission should, however, not be limited to this purpose of street coordination and should be empowered to take into account the supply of adequate open spaces for traffic, for utilities, for access of fire-fighting apparatus, for recreation, for light and sir, for healthful population density, and for other public benefits.

"width and area of lots": One of the fundamental purposes of platting regulations, in addition to insuring a proper street plan, is also to insure that property shall not be subdivided into narrow lots which will bring in their train a host of evils, notably congestion of population, as well as an unsatisfactory type of housing development. Most platting regulations in force in the different States, therefore, include provisions as to the width, area, and arrangement of building lots, generally setting a minimum width below which lots can not be plotted.

Planning commissions should have the power to cooperate and agree with the subdivider upon restrictions as to height, area, and even use of buildings, so long as these do not authorize violation of the zoning ordinance. In other words, the planning commission and the subdivider may cooperate to bring about development of the territory of the subdivision in accordance with high standards of health and convenience. The commission is peculiarly well fitted for this, because it is, in most places, the maker of the original zone plan and passes upon all changes in that plan and, consequently, is well qualified to mutually adjust the standards.

# How to define a block

Fulton County, Georgia: Block - A parcel of land or lots entirely surrounded by public or private streets, other than alleys.

*City and County of Denver, Colorado*: Block – An area of land within a subdivision containing lots, tracts, and parcels which is usually bounded by streets and /or the boundaries of the subdivision.

**Aurora, Colorado**: Block means a parcel of land within a platted subdivision bounded on all sides by streets or avenues, other physical boundaries such as a body of water, or the exterior boundary of a platted subdivision.

**Tempe, Arizona**: Block means a piece or parcel of land or group of lots entirely surrounded by public rights-of-way, streams, railroads or parks, or a combination thereof.

**San Antonio, Texas:** Block face. The properties abutting one (1) side of a street and lying between the two (2) nearest intersecting or intercepting streets, or nearest intersecting or intercepting street and/or railroad right-of-way, unsubdivided land, water course or city boundary.

**Borough of Somerset, Pennsylvania:** Block – a tract of land or a lot or group of lots, bounded by streets, public parks or parkways, railroad rights-of-way, watercourse or body of water, subdivided land, or a boundary line or lines of the Borough.

In general: A block is defined by perimeter streets on all sides, closing on an interior figure. Regulations generally concern the length of a segment of the block. For comparison purposes, block size can be measured in the area contained within its perimeter in acres.

How to measure a block: A block is the smallest area that is surrounded by streets.

# How to measure:

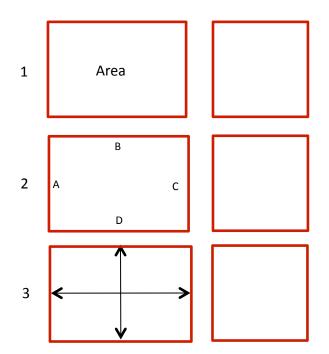
1. Area: Square feet, meters, hectares, or acres.

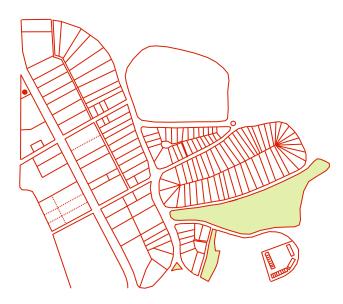
2. Perimeter: Total length of the perimeter in feet, miles, meters, or

kilometers. (A + B + C + D)

3. Length: Seldom used, but important: the dimension of the short side (depth) often determines the long and

depth term usability of the block





Irregular blocks resist measure by length and depth

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

Observation: Since 1928, Block sizes have increased by a factor of 3.2 from the average block size prior to 1928.

	Pre 1928 Block Size				Post 1928 Block Size		
		avg.	max			avg	max
		acres	acres			acres	acres
1	Atlanta,	3.70	8.26	1	Atlanta,	22.87	44.49
2	Boston, MA	3.09	4.13	2	Boston, MA	9.45	14.46
3	Baltimore, Md	3.29	5.78	3	Baltimore, Md	14.93	22.72
4	Charleston, S.C.	4.12	6.07	4	Charleston, S.C.	16.89	25.25
5	Chicago, Illinois	3.51	4.96	5	Chicago, Illinois	14.74	19.10
6	Los Angeles, CA	4.41	7.89	6	Los Angeles, CA	8.01	16.08
7	New York, N.Y. (Manhattan)	2.60	3.67	7	New York, N.Y. (Manhattan)	7.72	13.31
8	Omaha, Nebraska	4.34	8.26	8	Omaha, Nebraska	8.27	13.42
9	Portland, Oregon	1.92	3.72	9	Portland, Oregon	2.69	4.24
10	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	3.07	6.33	10	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	5.03	5.88
	Average	3.41	5.91			11.06	17.90
	Median	3.40	5.93			8.86	15.27
	Std. Dev	0.79	1.80			6.14	11.42

Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

Observation 2: the standard deviation of average block size in the following selected cities has increased from .79 to 6.14 from pre-1928 subdivision to post -1928 subdivision.

	Pre 1928 Block Size					Post 1928 Block Size		
		avg.	max				avg	max
		acres	acres				acres	acres
1	Atlanta, GA	3.70	8.26	1	1	Atlanta, GA	22.87	44.49
2	Boston, MA	3.09	4.13	2	2	Boston, MA	9.45	14.46
3	Baltimore, Md	3.29	5.78	3	3	Baltimore, Md	14.93	22.72
4	Charleston, S.C.	4.12	6.07	4	4	Charleston, S.C.	16.89	25.25
5	Chicago, Illinois	3.51	4.96	5	5	Chicago, Illinois	14.74	19.10
6	Los Angeles, CA	4.41	7.89	6	6	Los Angeles, CA	8.01	16.08
7	New York, N.Y. (Manhattan)	2.60	3.67	7	7	New York, N.Y. (Manhattan)	7.72	13.31
8	Omaha, Nebraska	4.34	8.26	8	3	Omaha, Nebraska	8.27	13.42
9	Portland, Oregon	1.92	3.72	9	9	Portland, Oregon	2.69	4.24
10	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	3.07	6.33	1	.0	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	5.03	5.88
	Average	3.41	5.91				11.06	17.90
	Median	3.40	5.93				8.86	15.27
	Std. Dev	0.79	1.80				6.14	11.42

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Alpharetta is a city in north Fulton County, Georgia, United States. It is one of the most affluent communities in the state of Georgia. Median Household income in 2008 was \$184,207,

According to a 2008 estimate, Alpharetta's population is 49,903.

One of the more distant, large suburbs in metro Atlanta, Alpharetta now features several mid-rise buildings, which are home to many high-tech companies including Hewlett-Packard, UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Radiant Systems, Lucent, Nortel, IBM, Sun Microsystems, AT&T, Siemens, McKesson Corporation, Verizon, Verizon Wireless, Alltel, E-Trade, General Electric, and LexisNexis, and Forbes online rated it as the number 1 "reloville" in the United States<sup>[3]</sup>.



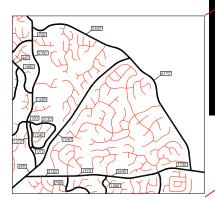
March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

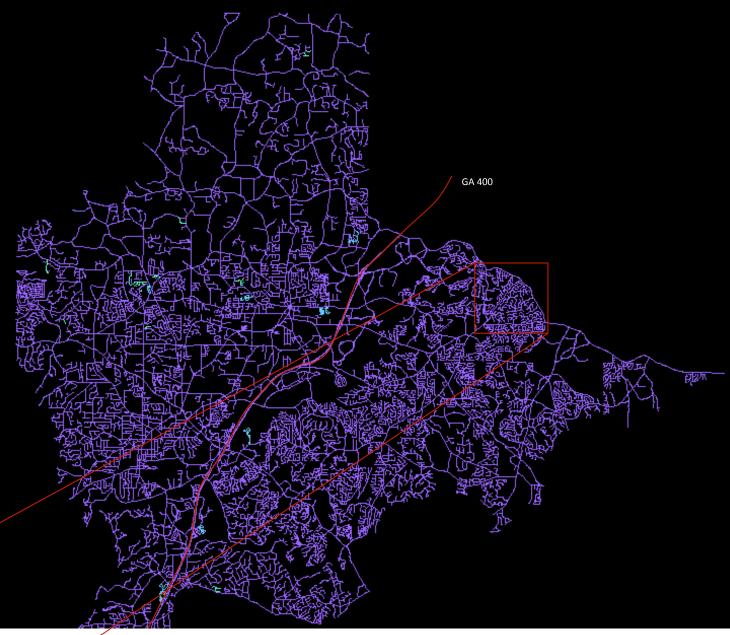
The Windward master plan includes a variety of residential neighborhoods, a commercial business center, plus important community elements including an elementary school and excellent recreational facilities.

Windward is made up of distinct neighborhoods offering an attractive mix of home styles and price ranges. The residential communities take full advantage of the spectacular 195 acre private Lake Windward. Adjacent to the lake is the private membership Windward Lake Club with 20 tennis courts, an Olympic sized pool, marina, tennis center and a new aqua leisure facility complete with exciting water slide and zero entry pool. Residents also enjoy the Windward sports park with areas for picnics, basketball, football, softball and soccer. Centered within Windward is the renowned Golf Club of Georgia, the private 36-hole golf course.

Windward Community Web Site

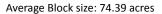
http://www.windwardcommunity.org/ outside\_home.asp





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Average Block size: 5.45 acres

# Comparative Block Sizes:

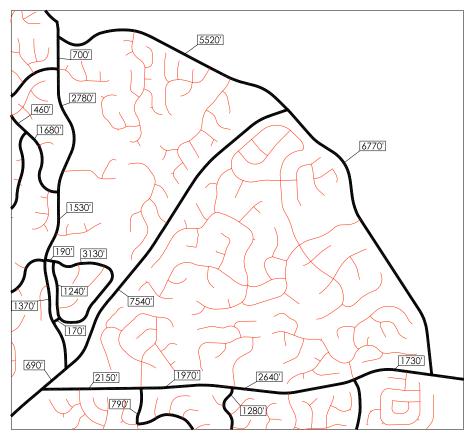
Fairlie-Poplar: 00.92 acres

Midtown: 7.59 acres

Ansley Park: 9.08 acres

**Fulton County** 

Allowable: 74.39 acres



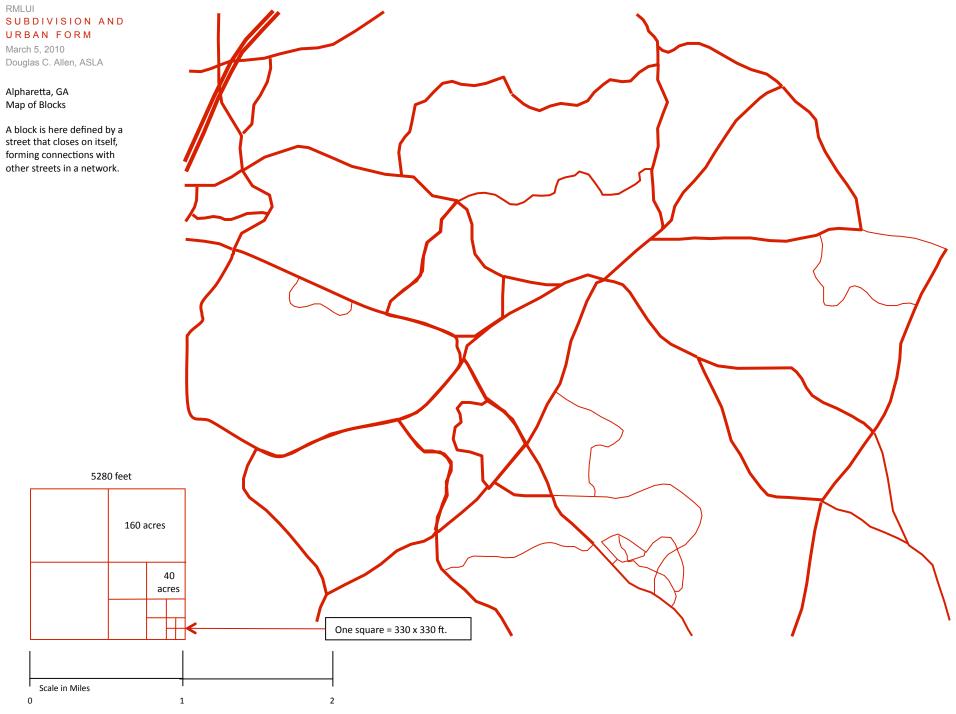
An extreme example, the planned suburb of Windward has a single block, as defined by Fulton County Subdivision Regulations of 531.11 acres

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Map of North Fulton County, GA. Red Lines are blocks as defined by Fulton County Subdivision Regulations



street that closes on itself, forming connections with



**RMLUI** 

# SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

Alpharetta, GA Map of Blocks

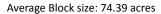
0

A block is here defined by a street that closes on itself, forming connections with



March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA







Average Block size: 5.45 acres

# Comparative Block Sizes in Atlanta:

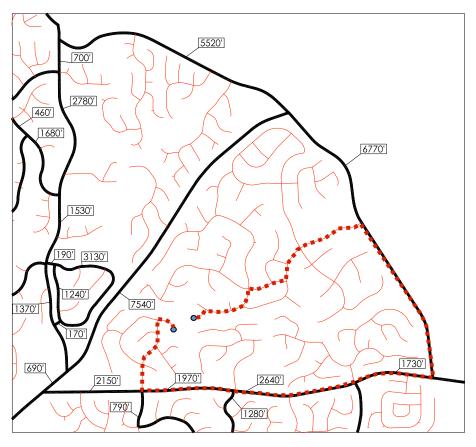
Fairlie-Poplar: 00.92 acres

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Ansley Park: 9.08 acres

**Fulton County** 

Allowable: 74.39 acres



An extreme example, the planned suburb of Windward has a single block, as defined by Fulton County Subdivision Regulations of 531.11 acres. To get to my neighbor's house I must drive 2.36 miles

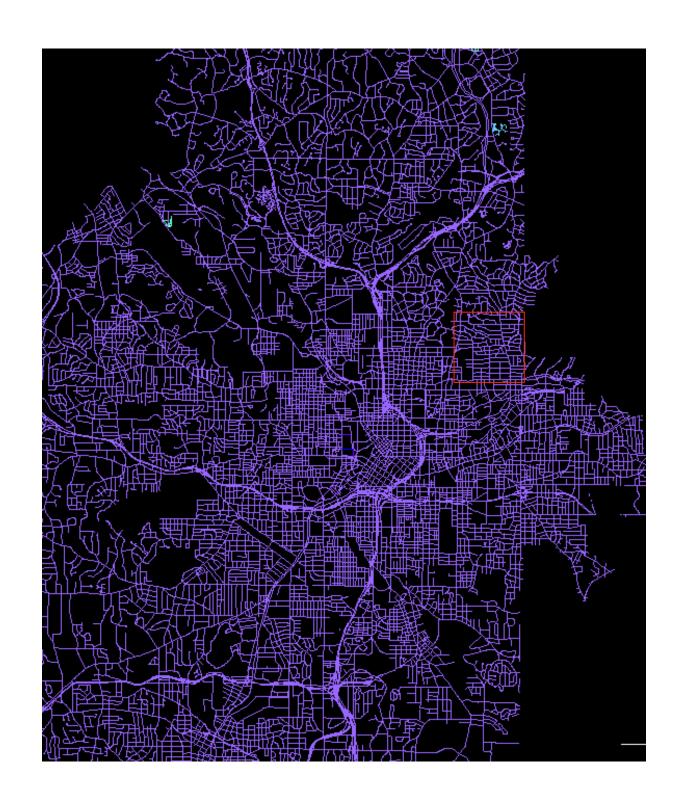
RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

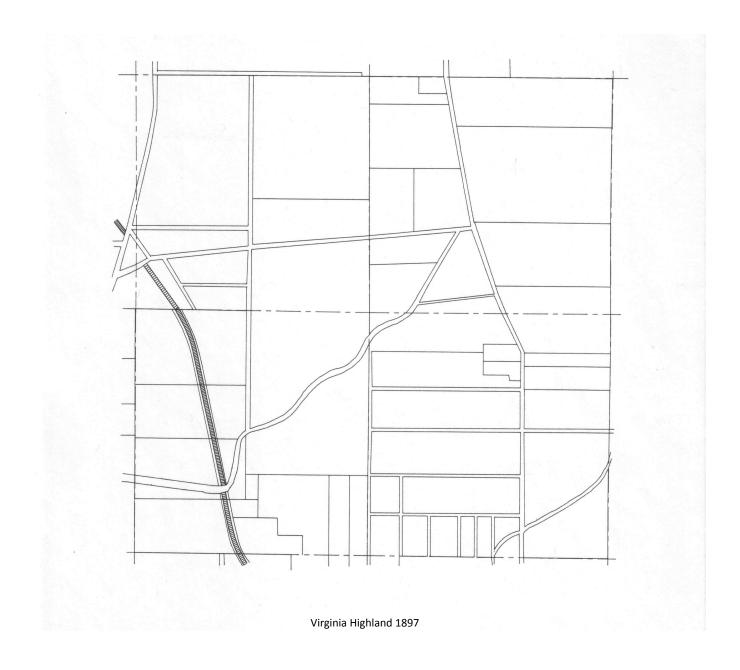
Case Study: Comparison to Pre-1928 Subdivision of Virginia-Highland Neighborhood, Atlanta, GA.

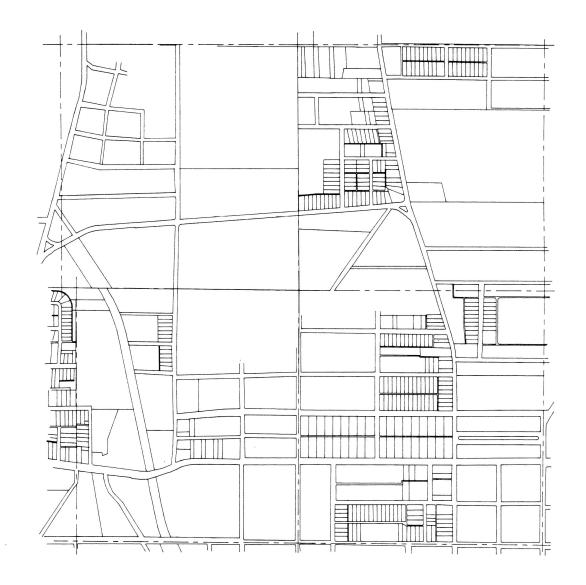
March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Case Study: Virginia – Highland

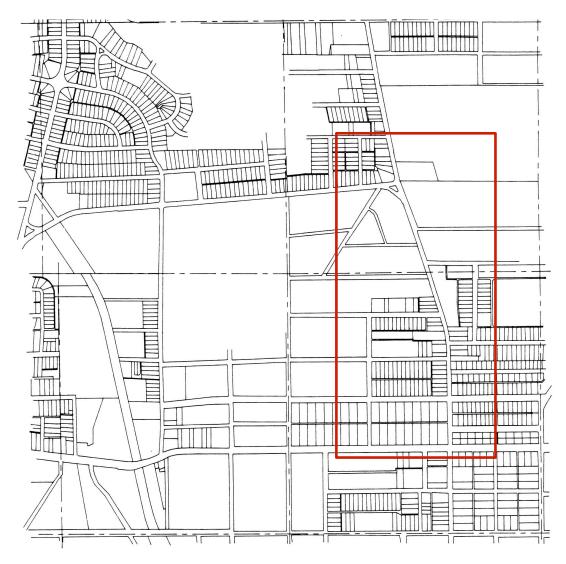
Subdivision prior to zoning







Virginia Highland 1911



Virginia Highland 1917



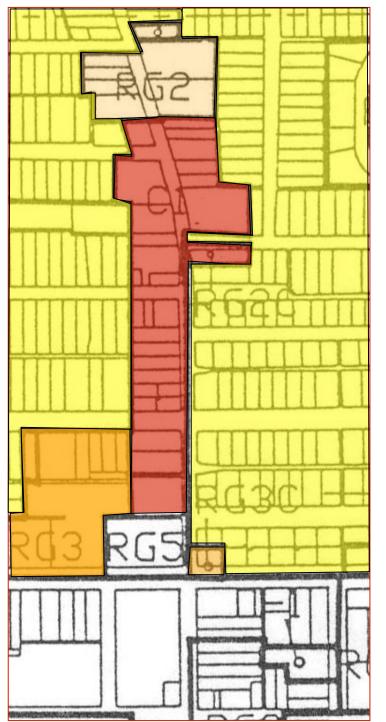
Virginia Highland 1949

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

# Virginia Highland Zoning



- Single Family Residential Two Family Residential Community Business R-3
- R-5 C-1
- I-1 Light industial
- R-4 Single Family Residential
- Residential General R-G
- C-2 Community Service



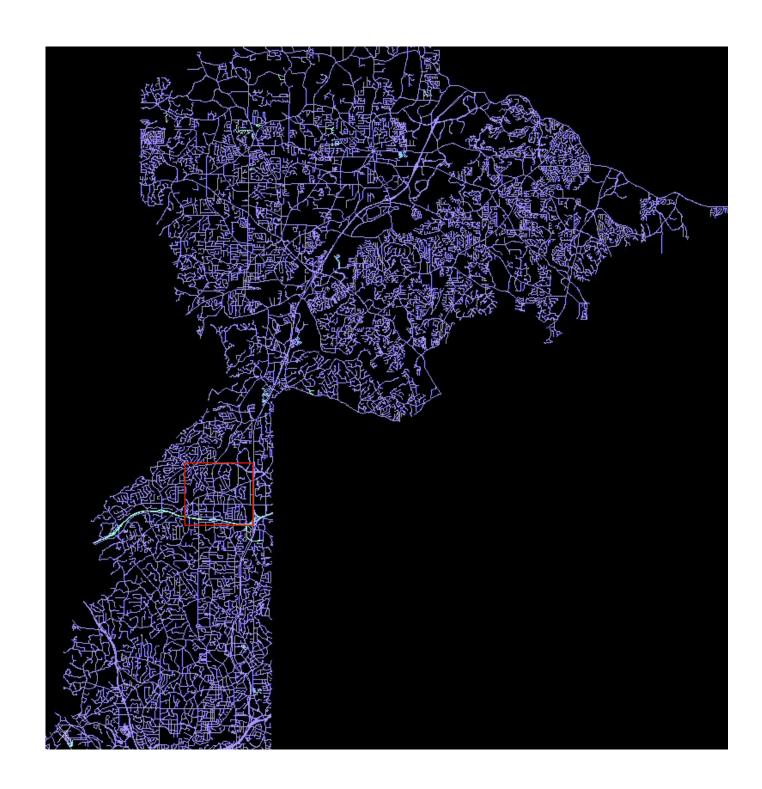


**RMLUI** SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA Case Study: Comparison to Post 1928 Subdivision of Dunwoody, GA.

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

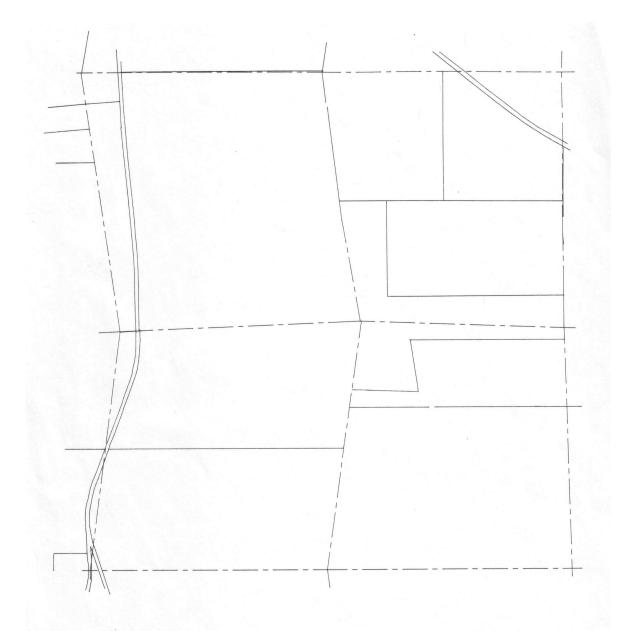
Zoning Prior to Subdivision



March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

Zoning Prior to Subdivision



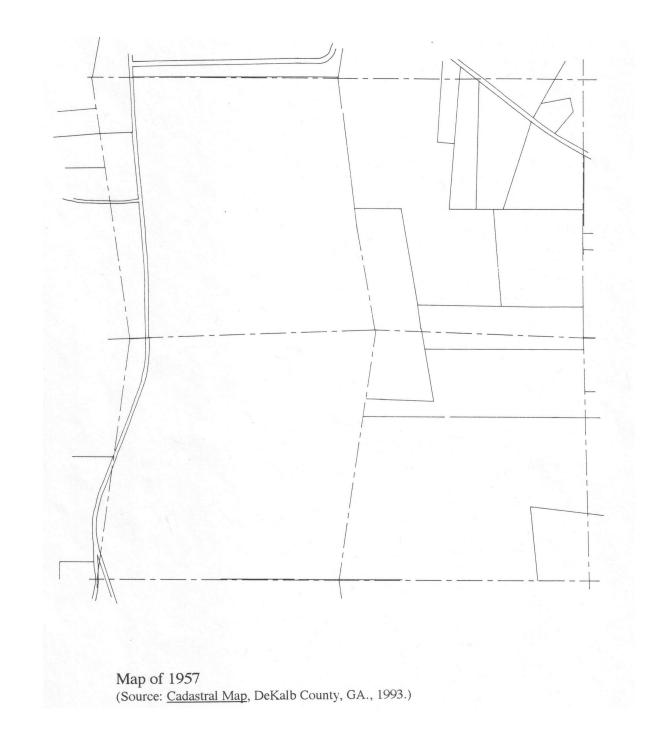
Map of 1935

(Source: Cadastral Map, DeKalb County, GA., 1935.)

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> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

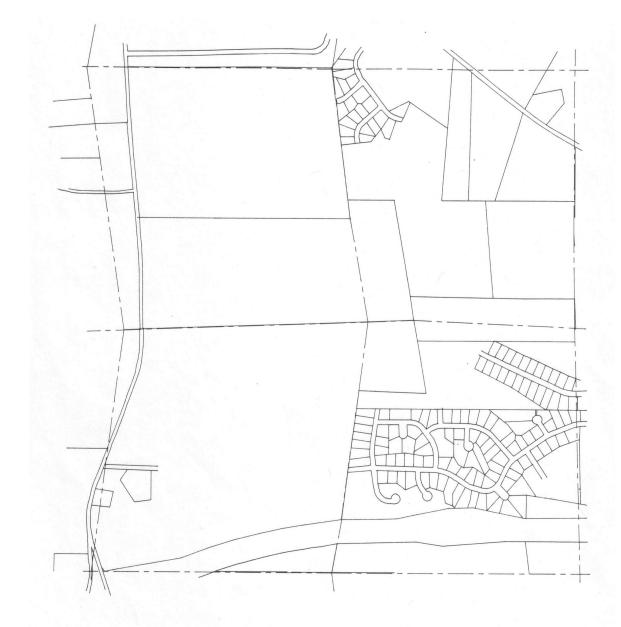
Zoning Prior to Subdivision



March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

Zoning Prior to Subdivision



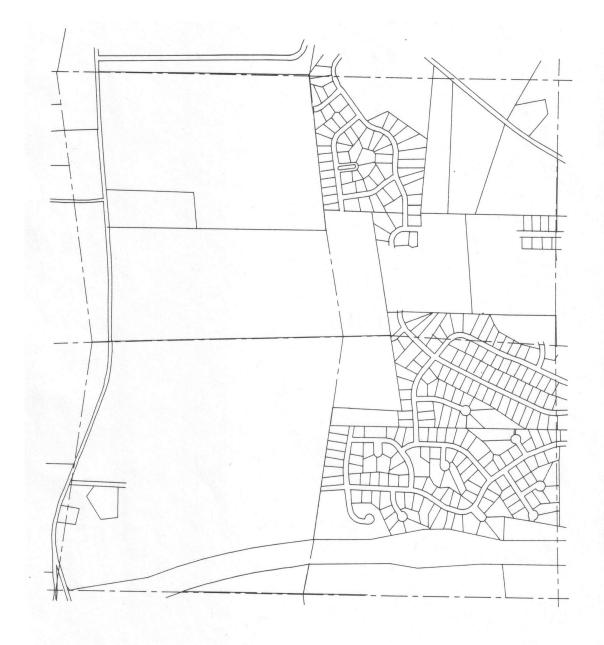
Map of 1962

(Source: Cadastral Map, DeKalb County, GA., 1962.)

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> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

Zoning Prior to Subdivision

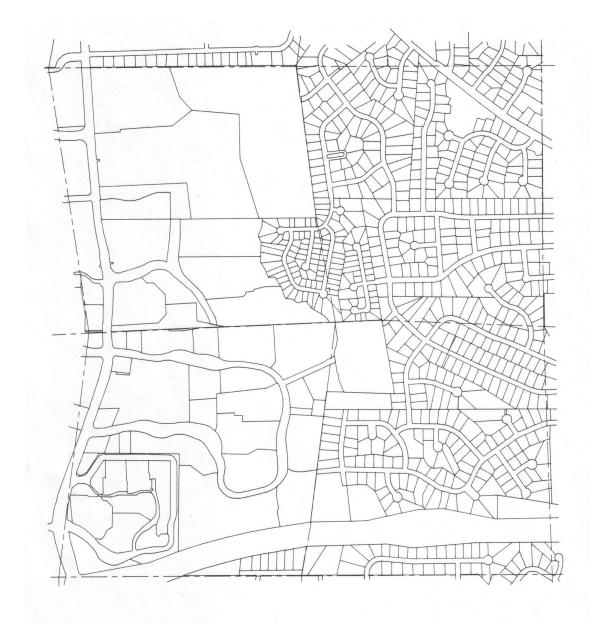


Map of 1964 (Source: <u>Cadastral Map</u>, DeKalb County, GA., 1964.)

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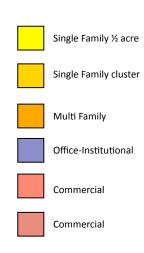
> Case Study: Ashford-Dunwoody

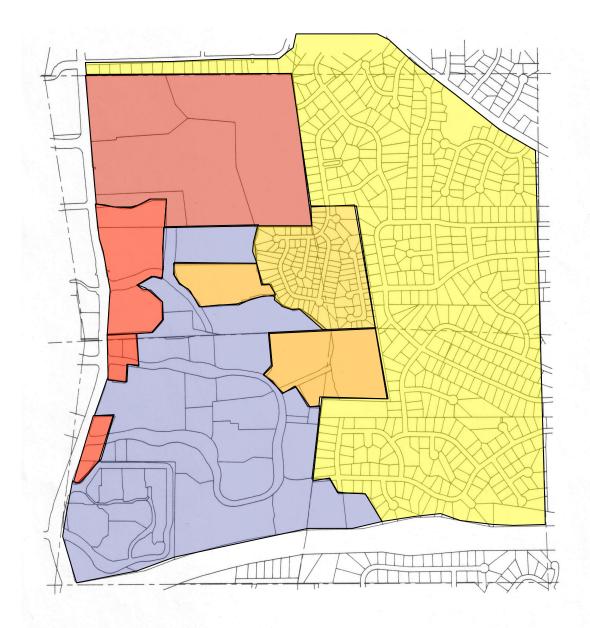
Zoning Prior to Subdivision



March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

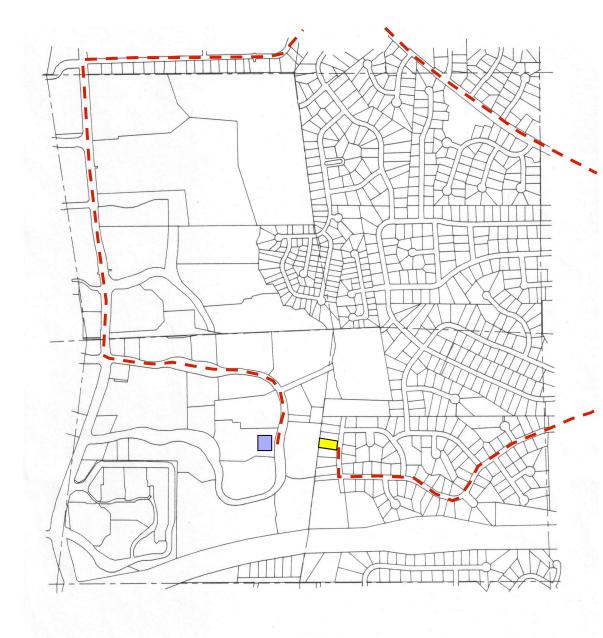
ZONING





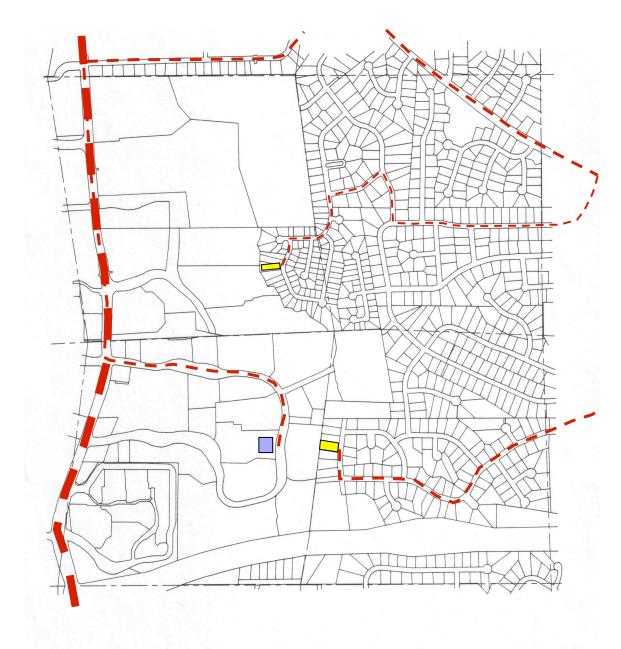
March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> Travel Route from Home to Office



March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ASLA

> **Travel Route from** Home to Office



RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ALSA

Axiom: Subdivision is prior to use.

Observation 1: Streets configured prior to the advent of subdivision regulations tend to form blocks within a range of 2.62 to 4.20 acres (337 by 427 feet per side)

RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ALSA

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RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ALSA

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Observation 3: Streets configured after the advent of subdivision regulations tend to form blocks with a range of 4.92 to 17.20 acres (463 by 866 feet per side)

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Observation 4: Streets configured after the advent of subdivision regulations tend to form blocks with high variability of block sizes, standard deviation = 6.14 acres in the sample.

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Observation 4: Streets configured after the advent of subdivision regulations tend to form blocks with high variability of block sizes, standard deviation = 6.14 acres in the sample.

Observation 5: When zoning precedes subdivision, cities have a higher degree of dependency upon the automobile and a lower degree of connectivity and pedestrian movement.

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ALSA

Epilogue

March 5, 2010 Douglas C. Allen, ALSA

#### Constitutional Order (Political in Nature)

The Constitutional Order brings a collective structure into being. It is Political in nature. It organizes society, separates us from one another and joins us in a collective structure. It is prior to individual building. Every city has a Constitutional Order.

**Boundaries**: The Boundary is the fundamental tectonic unit of the City. It separates and joins discrete identities into a collective whole.

**Streets:** Streets are the primary structural unit of the City. They allow us to communicate and to move about. They constitute the order within the collective whole. Streets are complex "institutions" with great social, political, and economic depth. Giving them over to single functions depletes them of their historical role.

**Public Places:** Places where the public gathers, outside of their appropriation by the economic order (Oikos) where one is aware of their identity as a citizen.

(An ambiguity has arisen where the market (private) has appropriated the forms of public spaces as surrogates for true public space. The giant plaza in front of the office building and the shopping mall are two common examples: the first driven by zoning incentives and a desire to be polite, the second as an ersatz street. These are social spaces and they have their relative value, but are not part of the political frame.)

**Monuments**: Though representational in nature, the monument and the memorial belong to the political realm not to the economic realm. The purpose of the monument or the public building is to forge a bond between the past and the future, Monuments never look to the past, but to the future as they are intended to last, if not forever, for a very long time.

In the United States today, the first three of these are controlled by Subdivision Regulations

#### Representational Order (Economic in Nature)

The representational order animates the constitutional frame and gives it meaning. The representational order is economic in nature. The Representational Order changes more rapidly over time than the Constitutional Order. It is fluid and subject to variations in exchange value. Its shape and nature, however, respond to the presence of the Political or constitutional frame. It consists of:

Houses (all types, including farms and Industrial production)

Markets (Commercial, Office, and (private) Institutional)

The vast majority of architectural production falls within this category. Individual acts of building over time animate, to a large or small degree, the political framework.

In the United States today, these are controlled by zoning ordinances.

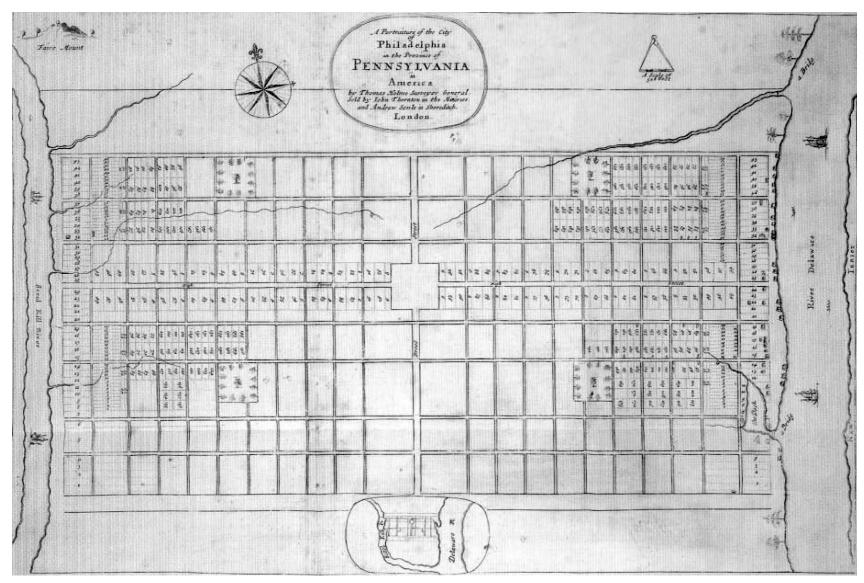
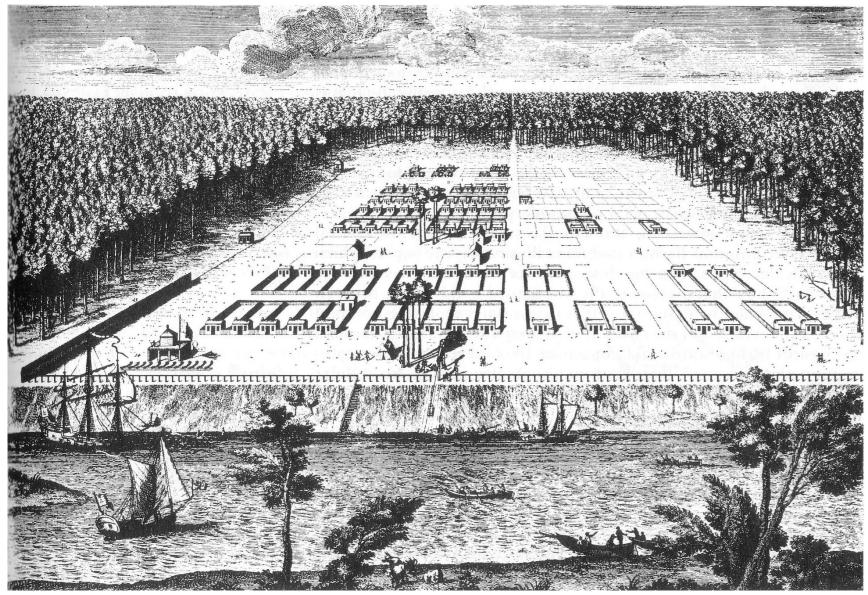
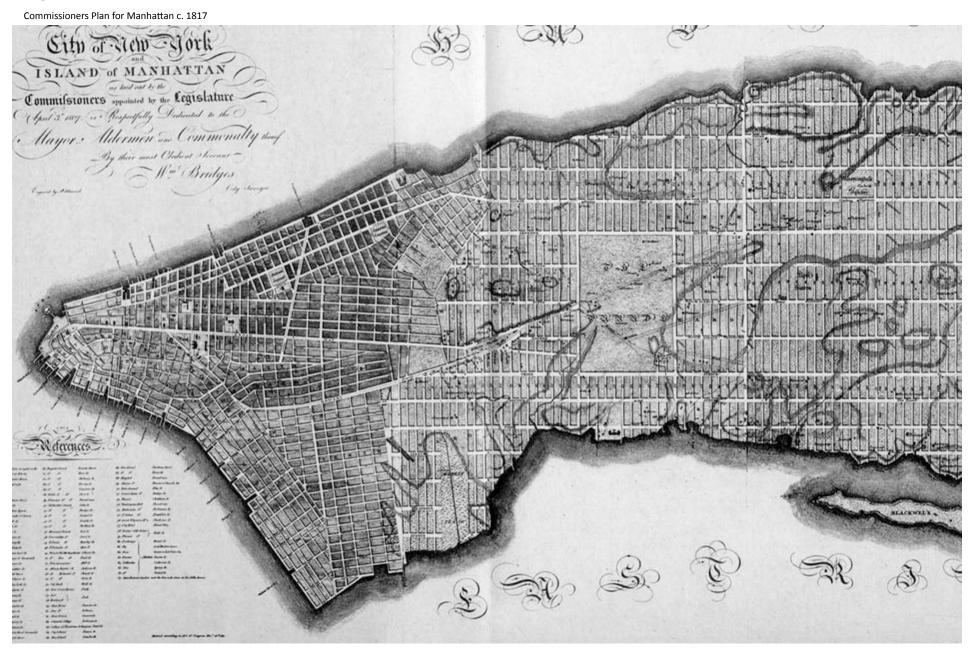


Figure 11: Plan for Philadelphia. William Penn and Thomas Holme, 1685. Although no copy of the original plan survives, it was re-drawn from instructions sent to Holme from Penn in 1683. "The city (is to) consist of a large Front Street to each river and a High Street from front to front (river to river) of one-hundred feet broad (width) and a Broad Street in the middle of the city from side to side of a like breadth. In the center of the city is a square of ten acres; at each angle are to be houses for public affairs, as a meeting house, and several other (unspecified) buildings for Public Concerns." Description by Captain Thomas Holme, 1683.

RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM



Savannah, Georgia, 1734. engraving by Thomas Gordon, showing the development of the first two wards along what will later become Bull Street. The decision to repeat the ward as a unit proved beneficial to the long term growth of the city. Before abandoning the ward system in 1856, twenty-eight wards were constructed.



RMLUI SUBDIVISION AND URBAN FORM

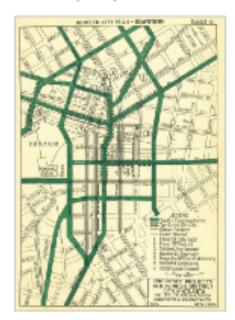


## RMLUI TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION





Peachtree Street just north of Five Points in 1907 (left); Five Points in 1928 (right). Prior to World War II, streetcars were an important means of transportation, though in the 1920s the rapid growth in private automobile ownership put increasing demand on city streets. SOURCE: Atlanta History Center, Georgia State University Library Photo Collection



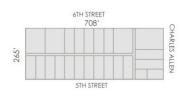


Because of this growth in automobile use, Atlanta began considering vehicle mobility solutions early on. The proposal for a system of viaducts (left) to cross the main downtown rail corridor was made primarily for reasons of relieving traffic congestion. The 1946 Lochner Plan first proposed the development of an expressway system to respond to this traffic demand (right), some of which Atlanta began building in the 1950s. SOURCES: Beeler Plan, Lochner Plan, MPC Expressways and Bypasses Study."

## RMLUI MASTER STREET FRAMEWORK PLAN

#### ATLANTA TYPICAL BLOCKS

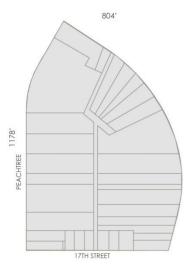




SAVANNAH TYPICAL BLOCK







#### NEW YORK TYPICAL BLOCK

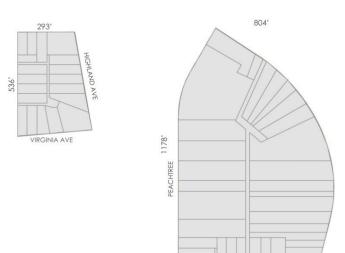






# ATLANTA TYPICAL BLOCKS 6TH STREET 708' 708' STH STREET NEW YORK TYPICAL BLOCK SAVANNAH TYPICAL BLOCK 600' 300'

200,



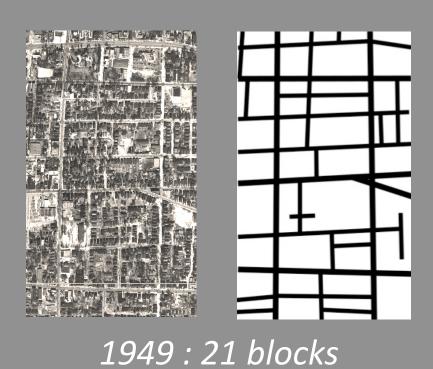
17TH STREET

\_\_3600 feet

INTERNATIONAL 400'



#### **STREET FRAMEWORK**



2008 : 3 blocks

#### **BLOCKS: SUBDIVIDING FIRST**



SITE PARCEL PLAN

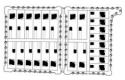




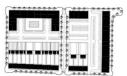


ACRES = 7.9 BLOCK TWO LOW DENSITY PLAN

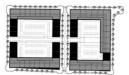




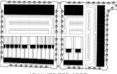
3 UNITS PER ACRE



33.2 UNITS PER ACRE



153.4 UNITS PER ACRE



40 UNITS PER ACRE

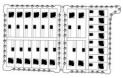




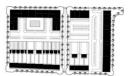


ACRES = 7.9 BLOCK TWO MEDIUM DENSITY PLAN

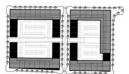




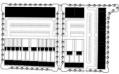
3 UNITS PER ACRE



33.2 UNITS PER ACRE



153.4 UNITS PER ACRE



40 UNITS PER ACRE

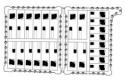






BLOCK TWO HIGH DENSITY PLAN

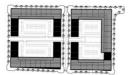




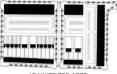
3 UNITS PER ACRE



33.2 UNITS PER ACRE



153.4 UNITS PER ACRE



**40 UNITS PER ACRE** 

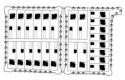




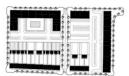


ACRES = 7.9 BLOCK TWO PROBABLE DENSITY PLAN

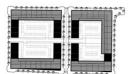




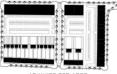
3 UNITS PER ACRE



33.2 UNITS PER ACRE



153.4 UNITS PER ACRE

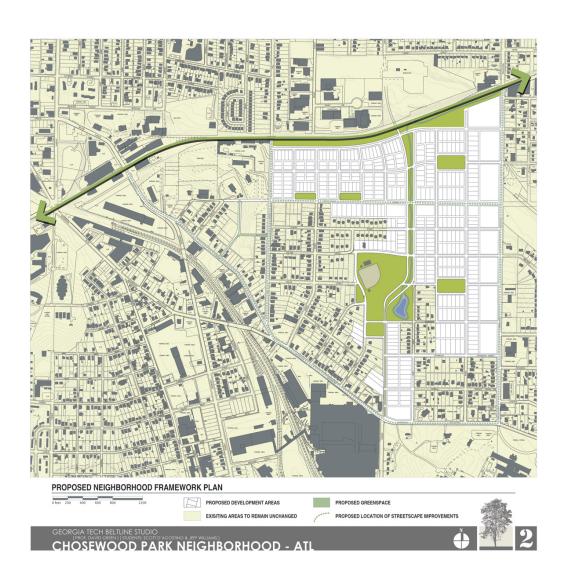


40 UNITS PER ACRE



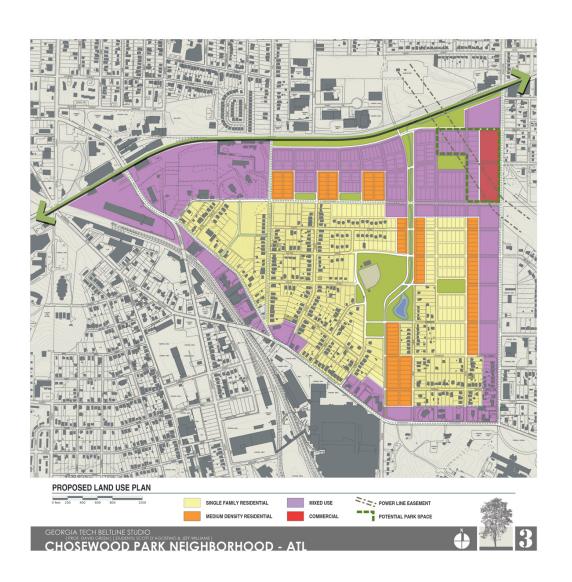


#### **CASE STUDY**



THE LAND IS
SUBDIVIDED
BEFORE THE USES
ARE KNOWN

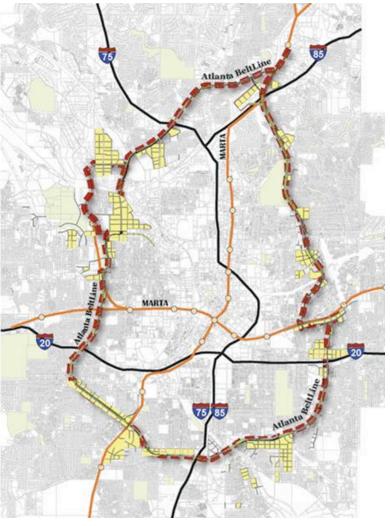
#### **CASE STUDY**



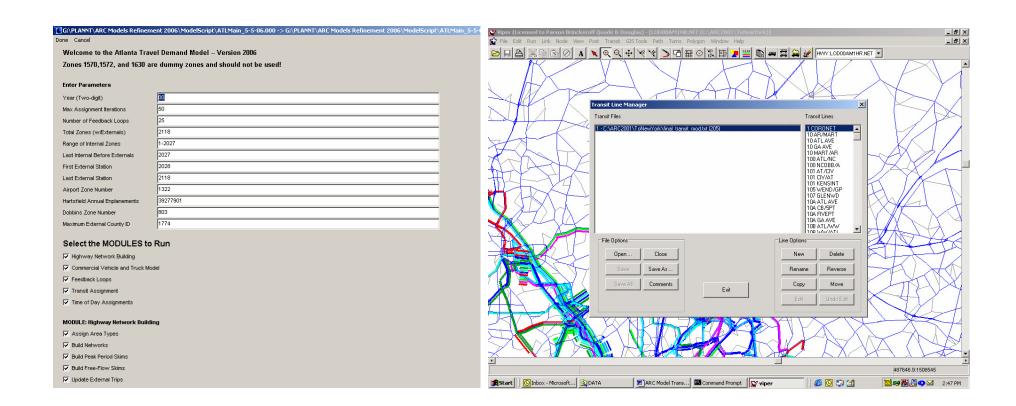
USES ARE
PROPOSED THAT
FIT WITHIN THE
CURRENT
CONITIONS

#### THE BELTLINE STREET FRAMEWORK PLAN

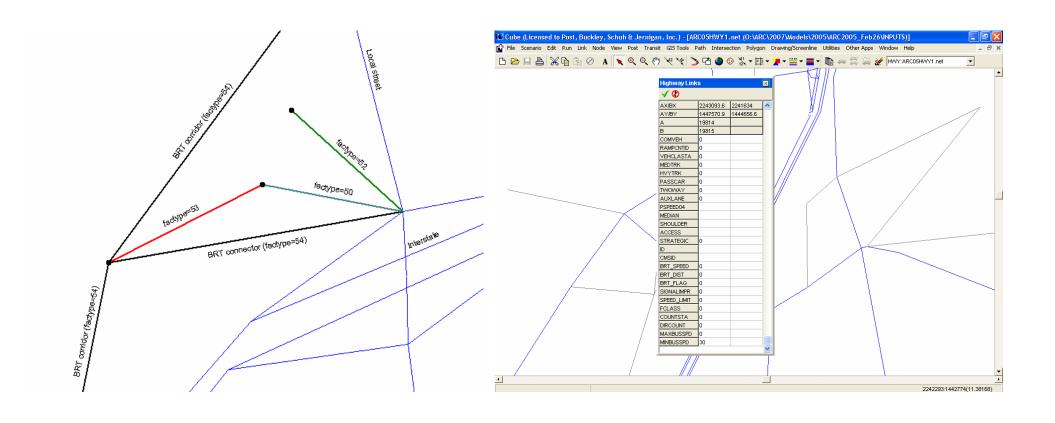




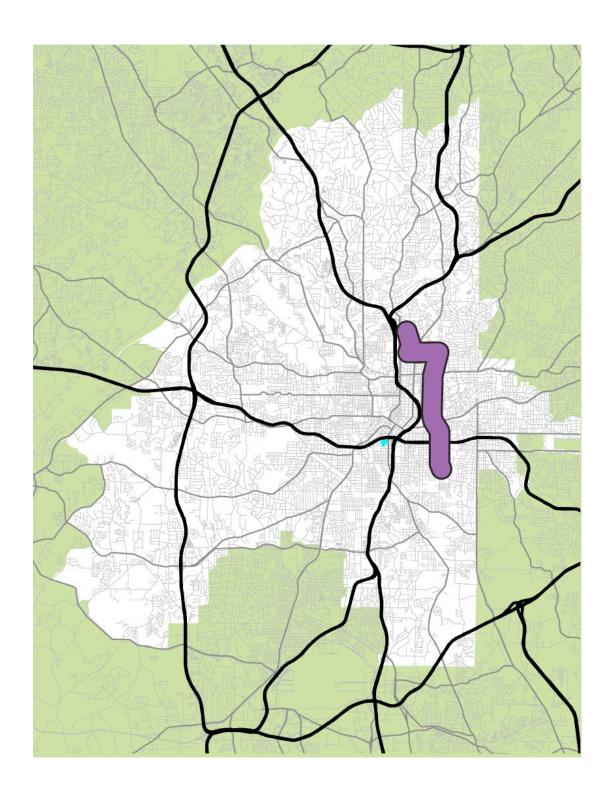
#### RMLUI CONNECT ATLANTA



#### **CONVENTIONAL MODELING**



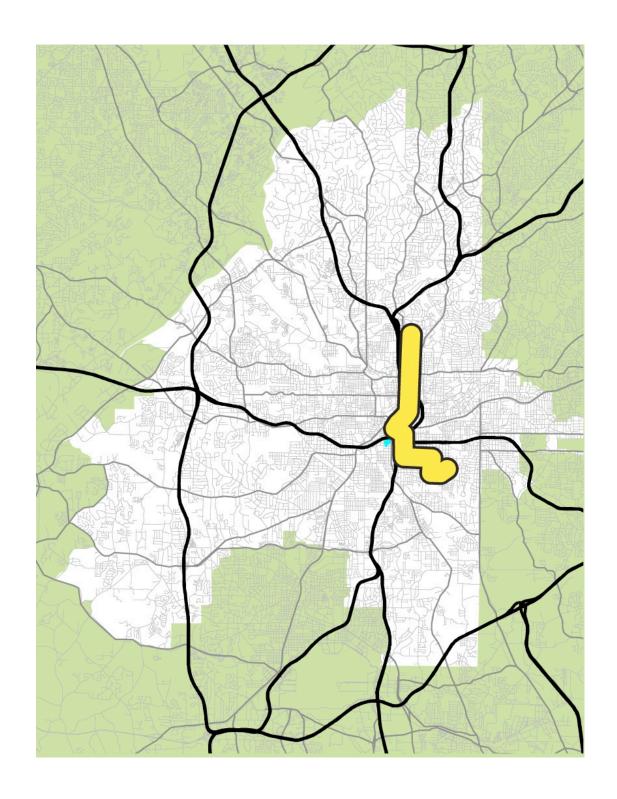
#### **CONVENTIONAL MODELING**



## **Grant Park to High Museum: Vehicle**

Travel Time: 19 minutes

Surface streets



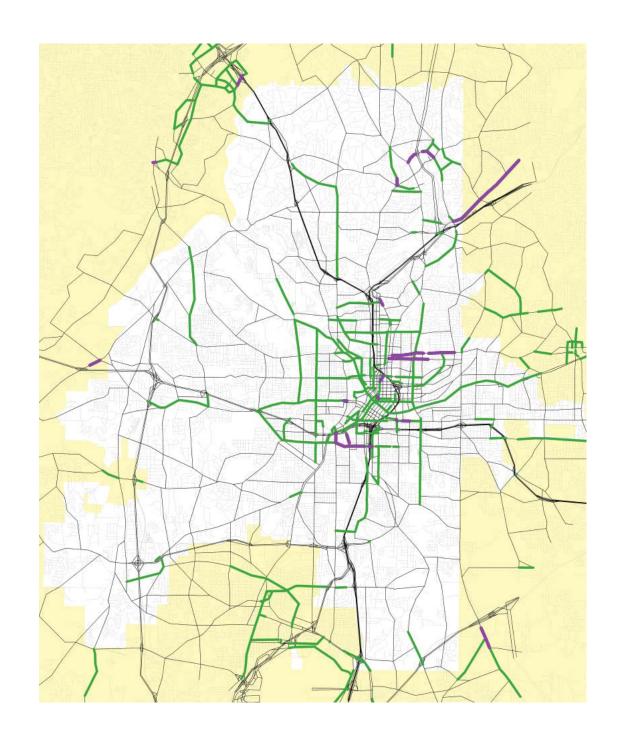
## **Grant Park to High Museum: Transit**

Travel Time: 40 minutes

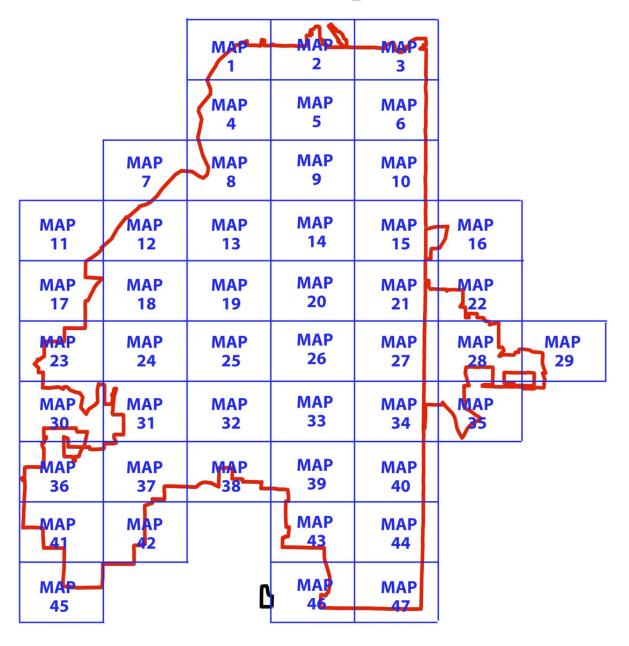
Potentially one transfer needed, different bus options

Map 9: Streets with Volumes below Capacity (per ARC Regional Travel Demand Model/2005)

4-Lane Roadway
Segments with ADT
below 25,000
6-lane Roadway
Segments with ADT
below 35,000

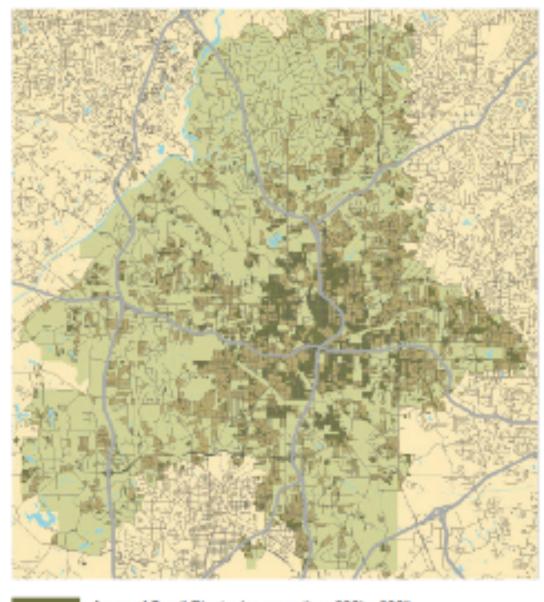


#### **Connect Atlanta Map Book**



#### **Summary 16: Block Size**

This map illustrates the distribution of Atlanta's land area into different block sizes and gives a general assessment of walkability. See the summary on the next page for a more detailed explanation of the map



Areas of Small Blocks (no more than 500' x 500')

Areas of Large Blocks (between 500' and 1000' per block face

Areas of 'Superblocks' (more than 1000' x 1000')



The following page illustrates how a concept such as this provides opportunities for a new form of land development that maximizes the potential of frequent transit service, and a location near the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

#### **Key Projects for this Concept**

EX-005: Interstate 285 and Langford Parkway Interchange Reconfiguration. This is a large project and requires coordination of efforts with the Georgia Department of Transportation, but is an essential component to enhanced local access from the south to the Greenbriar Mall area. The project would replace the current northbound Interstate 285 exit ramp to Langford Parkway with a ramp that converts to a local street, allowing local access to the Greenbriar Mall area and at-grade access to Campbellton Road. North of Campbellton this access would resume as a freeway on-ramp to northbound Interstate 285.

RB-006: See project description in Concept 4.1.

NS-042: Extension of Star Mist Drive



#### 4.9 Howell Mill and Chattahoochee Corridors

Goal: Continue to promote redevelopment and connect development to potential future transit corridor

This area of Atlanta was undergoing redevelopment activity at the time of the Connect Atlanta planning process. Additional transportation connections here are tied largely to the introduction of premium transit along Marietta Boulevard and potentially Chattahoochee Road. Huff Road, a key east-west connection from the redeveloping area of Howell Mill Road to Marietta Street, is proposed to be widened to three lanes to allow a two-way left turn lane for driveway access. This will be especially important as new residential development is introduced in this corridor.

Bicycle connections are also proposed through this area, with a core connection along Howell Mill Road. Additional secondary routes on Chattahoochee Road and Collier Road connect to this core route and to proposed transit on Marietta Street.

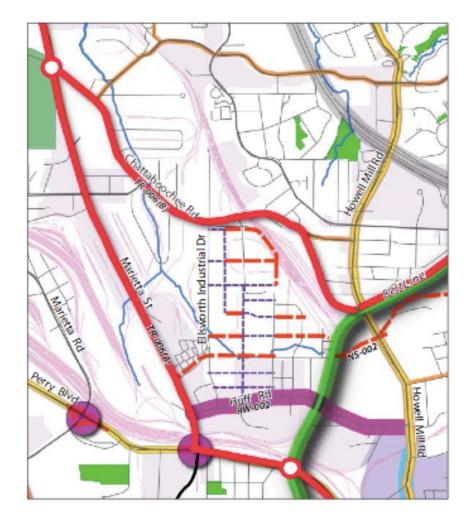
Generally, development that continues to occur between Marietta and Howell Mill should contribute to street network, allowing added population to reach the bicycle and transit corridors.

#### **Key Projects for this Concept**

RW-002: Huff Road widening to add left turn lanes as needed.

TR-006: Marietta Boulevard Transit. Two alternatives of a transit corridor from Northwest Atlanta pass through this area, one connecting to downtown via Marietta Street, the other connecting to Buckhead via the Chattahoochee Road and the BeltLine.

NS-002: Deering-Trabert Extension. This project extends from Howell Mill Road across the BeltLine to provide alternative east-west connections from new development around Ellsworth Industrial.



Map 33

- New Street (Public Project)

---- New Street (Development-Added)

Core Bicycle Connection (existing in dashed lines)

Secondary Bicycle Connection (existing in dashed lines)

Transit

Expressway Access

500 1,000

Scale: 1 Inch Equals 1000 Feet

· · · Traffic Calming

BOOKERST

One-Way Conversion

Complete Street

Road Widening

BURCHILL ST

Vehicle Sightlines/Pedestrian Safety

Intersection Realignment

Intersection Improvements (General) Road Diet

1 Intersection Capacity

Transit Station

Roundabout

Add Signal

Remove Signal

#### STREET DESIGN

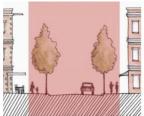
#### 2.5 STREET DESIGN: COMMERCIAL COLLECTOR



Design Element	Typical
Design/Target Speed	25 mph
Number of Travel Lanes (per direction)	1
Travel Lane Dimensions	11'
Center Turn Lane Dimensions	11'
Right Turn Lanes	Allowed for heavy turning movements or heavy truck traffic
Medians	optional, when left turns not needed
Median Openings	cross streets only
Block Length	maximum 500'. Access to driveways limited by two curb cuts per block.
Bicycle Lanes	optional, necessary when part of a regional plan (5' when used)
On-Street Parking	7' parallel (includes gutter pan width), 15' to be provided if back-in angled used
Curb	6" with 1.5' gutter pan
Sidewalk	12' to 15' sidewalk with a minimum 8' walk zone
Mid-block crossings	permitted only in front of civic facilities
Intersection Control	signals, stops, or roundabouts
Preferred Building Placement	edge of right-of-way
Lighting	pedestrian and vehicle/street required

#### REGULATING THE NEW AMERICAN LANDSCAPE









#### 01. Master Plan

Delineates the boundary between the public and private realm. The public realm is everything that the community holds collectively. It is a long term strategy for development that allows for flexibility over time.

#### 02. Standards - Public Works

Standards that clearly define the condition of public streets and alleys by defining the width of the right of way and components within them.

#### 03. Standards - Building

Standards that regulate the building envelope and its relationship to the public realm by identifying façade and material standards that tie the buildings together through similar design elements while allowing for design flexibility

#### **04. Development Controls**

Regulate the height and density allowed within the private realm. The regulations are based on the contextual limitations of the surrounding area while allowing for appropriate and necessary redevelopment to occur.

The size, shape, orientation, legal process of the subdivision

## How we divide up our land is more important than what we do with it.

Zoning, use changes, bulk limitations

(because this allows USES to change over time)

