

SECTION 2.9 - HISTORIC PRESERVATION INCENTIVE ZONING

2.9.5 Incentives available to historic properties following designation.

Following designation by the City Council and subject to compliance with the regulations and provisions set forth in this Section 2.9 and any other applicable City, State or federal ordinances, statutes, laws, or regulations, owners of historic properties may utilize or are otherwise eligible for the following zoning incentives, construction code exemptions and other benefits, as applicable:

- A. Zoning and Development Incentives. The following zoning incentives and benefits are available to historic properties, as applicable:
 1. Permitted Residential Uses in C-1 and C-2 Districts. 'For-Sale' Dwelling is a permitted principal use for historic properties located within the C-1 and C-2 zoning districts.
 2. Permitted Mixed-Use.
 - a. Historic properties with non-residential principal use: May utilize up to 40% of the heated interior square footage of the principal building for a residential ('For-Sale' dwelling) use. The use of the residence is restricted to the property owner or tenant of the non-residential portion of the building.
 - b. Historic properties with residential principal use located in Downtown Alpharetta: May utilize up to 40% of the heated interior square footage of the principal building for a non-residential use, as listed below, provided no more than two (2) total employees and/or independent contractors, who do not also reside at the property, shall be allowed to work in the premises in connection with such non-residential use at any one time. No more than one (1) patron per 250 sq. ft. of gross floor area may patronize the non-residential space at any one time. Except as previously provided, the use of non-residential portion of the building is restricted to the property owner or tenant of the residence. Non-residential uses are limited to the following permitted uses:
 - i. Art gallery;
 - ii. Barber shop, with no more than two (2) chairs;
 - iii. Beauty shop, with no more than two (2) chairs;
 - iv. Bed and Breakfast;
 - v. Book store;
 - vi. Florist;
 - vii. Medical office, no surgery; and
 - viii. Professional office.
 3. Open Space and Amenity Space.
 - a. General. The area of a historic property incorporated into a development as a community amenity may be applied to and included as part of the minimum area required to be set aside as open space pursuant to regulations and requirements governing the CUP District, Conservation Subdivisions, and the Downtown Overlay District.
 - b. Permitted Uses. In addition to the uses allowed for an open space pursuant to the underlying zoning regulations or conditions of zoning, provided such use is not otherwise prohibited by this Section 2.9, the property may be used as a community amenity or amenity space for use by the occupants, licensees or guests of the development.

- c. Lot and Development Requirements. The minimum lot size of a historic property eligible for use as an amenity/open space shall be 4,500 square feet. The area of the historic property shall be designated on any required site plans and/or development plans, and shall be subdivided and platted as an individual lot of record on the final plat. To the greatest extent practicable, the layout of the development shall be designed in a manner that allows the historic property to serve as a focal point of the surrounding neighborhood and the community. Other development improvements should be planned and designed in a manner that provides maximum visibility of the historic property from public right-of-way exterior to the development or subdivision. The use of the historic property shall be restricted in perpetuity, or for such other term of years as required by the City, through the use of an approved legal instrument, as further set forth herein.
 - d. Additional Requirements - Permanent Protection of Historic Property. An applicant or owner seeking to utilize a historic property as an open space or amenity space shall be required to comply with the additional requirements regarding the ownership, preservation and maintenance of the historic property, including the execution and recording of an instrument providing for the permanent protection of the historic property, set forth in Paragraph F below.
 4. Setback Reduction.
 - a. Side setbacks required per the underlying zoning regulations may be reduced by up to 50%.
 - b. Rear setbacks required per the underlying zoning regulations may be reduced by up to 25%.
 5. Parking reduction. Parking for office and commercial uses may be reduced up to 50%. Historic properties within Downtown Alpharetta shall not be required to contribute to the Parking Fund as a result of parking reduction.
- B. Building, Construction and Property Maintenance Code Exemptions. Designated historic properties may be exempt from certain building, construction and property maintenance code regulations.
1. Building and Construction Code Exemptions. The following types of exemptions from building and construction code requirements and other regulations are available to certain historic properties based on the provisions of the subject code, as determined by the building official:
 - a. Exemptions from the International Energy Conservation Code;
 - b. Exemptions from and compliance alternatives to certain requirements of the International Building Code (~~2012 Edition~~)(See Article II of Chapter 8 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia) regarding the construction, repair, alteration, addition, restoration and movement of buildings or structures, and change of occupancy, provided the subject condition does not constitute a distinct life safety hazard;
 - c. Exemptions from certain flood hazard area requirements;
 - d. Exemptions from the International Fire Code (~~2012 Edition~~)(See Article II of Chapter 8 of the Code of the City of Alpharetta, Georgia); and
 - e. Exemptions from (or compliance alternatives to) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and other related code regulations providing standards for accessibility.
 2. International Property Maintenance Code Exemptions. Compliance with requirements of the International Property Maintenance Code may not be mandatory for historic properties when such buildings or structures are determined to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety, and welfare by the code official.

- C. State and Federal Tax Incentive Programs. Several state and federal tax incentive programs are available to owners who rehabilitate historic properties listed, or certified as eligible for listing, in the Georgia Register of Historic Places or National Register of Historic Places, as applicable, including the State Preferential Property Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Historic Property, the State Income Tax Credit for Rehabilitated Historic Property, and the Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit (RITC). The HPC provides additional information regarding such programs. The provisions set forth in this Paragraph are provided for information purposes only and do not constitute any representation, commitment or assurance by the City regarding a property owner's qualification for such tax incentive programs or the continuation of such programs.
- D. Economic Incentives—Facade Grants. Subject to the City Council's adoption of an ordinance(s) providing for the appropriation of funding for the subject grant program and annual appropriations thereafter, historic properties are eligible to receive facade grants for the purpose of funding improvements for the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties. In addition to meeting any and all other requirements of the City facade grant program for historic properties, as approved by the City Council, an owner of a historic property receiving facade grant funds shall be required to convey to the City a facade easement complying with the applicable requirements set forth in Paragraph F below. Further, any and all proposed improvements constituting a material change in the appearance of the historic property shall require the prior approval of a certificate of appropriateness by the HPC. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof to the contrary, nothing set forth in this Paragraph shall be deemed to create or confer any vested rights to such grant funds or create any obligation of the City to grant or otherwise appropriate funds for the aforementioned purposes. The City's award of facade grant funds in accordance with any facade grant program is subject to funding availability and, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 36-30-3, any facade grant program may be terminated immediately and absolutely if the City determines that adequate funds are not appropriated or funds are de-appropriated such that the City cannot sufficiently fund the subject grant program, which determination is at the City's sole discretion and shall be conclusive.
- E. Other Available Benefits and Incentives. The following additional benefits and incentives are available to historic properties:
1. Free Design Assistance from the HPC. The HPC provides pre-application technical and design assistance regarding proposed preservation, restoration and/or rehabilitation work and its conformance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines to owners of historic properties applying for a building permit or seeking to rezone historic property to the TDR-HC Overlay District.
 2. Bronze Historic Property Plaque. The City will install a bronze plaque on or within the public right-of-way adjacent to each property designated as historic by the City Council.
- F. Requirements to Provide for Permanent Protection of Historic Property — Open/Amenity Spaces and Facade Grants.
1. Applicability. In order to provide for the permanent protection of historic properties utilizing certain incentives and benefits, the following historic properties shall comply with the addition regulations set forth in this Paragraph, as applicable:
 - a. Historic properties used as open space or amenity space; and
 - b. Historic properties receiving facade grants.
 2. Responsible Party for Preservation and Maintenance of Open/Amenity Space. The fee simple owner of the historic property used as an open or amenity space shall be responsible for preserving and maintaining the historic property. The options for ownership and responsibility for preservation and maintenance of the historic property shall be as follows:
 - a. The owner of the lots or parcels of the subject development if under common ownership may be the owner of the historic property.

permanent protection, which shall be placed on the historic property at the time of issuance of a land disturbance permit, shall be one of the following:

- (i) Conservation Easement. A permanent conservation easement, in accordance with The Georgia Uniform Conservation Easement Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-10-1, et seq., in favor of either a:
 - (a) Land trust or historic preservation oriented non-profit organization with legal authority to accept such easements. The organization shall be bona fide and in perpetual existence and the conveyance instruments shall contain an appropriate provision for retransfer in the event the organization becomes unable to carry out its functions; or
 - (b) Governmental entity with an interest in pursuing goals compatible with the purposes of this ordinance. If the entity accepting the easement is not the City, then a third-party right of enforcement favoring the City shall be included in the easement; or
 - (ii) Permanent Restrictive Covenant. A permanent restrictive covenant for conservation purposes in favor of a governmental entity with an interest in pursuing goals compatible with the purposes of this Section; or
 - (iii) Other. Subject to the approval of the City, an equivalent legal tool that provides permanent protection.
- b. The legal instrument for permanent protection shall:
- (i) Describe the features of the historic property that should be permanently protected;
 - (ii) Provide the duration of the covenants set forth therein, which shall run with the land for such minimum term of years as required by the City;
 - (iii) Clearly identify the boundaries of the historic property by survey and a metes and bounds legal description;
 - (iv) Clearly list the restrictions applicable to the historic property, which shall include such restrictions regarding the use, building and development of the property, as necessary, to comply with and carry out the obligations set forth in this Section and the historic preservation plan, as well as any further restrictions the applicant chooses to place on the use of the historic property not in conflict herewith;
 - (v) Provide for inspections of such property by the owner, the holder of the easement, and the City;
 - (vi) Provide for maintenance of such property in accordance with the requirements of the historic preservation plan and this Section;
 - (vii) Be shown on a certified survey and duly recorded with the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court prior to the issuance of a land disturbance permit;
 - (viii) Provide for amendments only with the express written permission of the property owner(s), the holder of the easement, and the City. Amendments to the legal instrument for permanent protection shall be filed with the Director and shall be recorded with the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court; and
 - (ix) Be subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney's office and include such additional terms and provisions as deemed necessary to protect the City's interest.

- c. Additional Requirements for Conservation Easements. In addition to the foregoing requirements, the conservation easement(s) shall:
- (i) Comply with the requirements set forth in The Georgia Uniform Conservation Easement Act, O.C.G.A. 44-10-1 et seq.;
 - (ii) List the parties, that is, the owner(s) of such property, the holder of the easement, and, if required by the City, a person with a third-party right of enforcement;
 - (iii) Provide a third-party right of enforcement favoring the City if the City is not the grantee/holder of the easement; and
 - (iv) Specify how the easement may be transferred, as in the case of dissolution of the property owners' association or non-profit organization.