

Article 10. Zoning Districts

Section 38-10.1 Establishment of Base Zoning Districts

Base zoning districts are created to provide comprehensive land use regulations throughout Oconee County. There are 14 base zoning districts that provide for a variety of uses that are appropriate to the character of the areas in which they are located in accordance with the Oconee County Comprehensive Plan. All permitted, conditional, and special exceptions are identified in the zoning use matrix. All conditional uses shall meet the guidelines established in Article 5 of this Chapter. Likewise, all special exceptions shall meet the guidelines established in Article 6 of this Chapter. For the purpose of this Chapter, Oconee County is hereby divided into the following base zoning districts. These districts shall comply with all of the general and specific requirements of this Chapter.

CFD	Control Free District	Section 38-10.2
TRD	Traditional Rural District	Section 38-10.3
RRD	Rural Residential District	Section 38-10.4
CD	Conservation District	Section 38-10.5
AD	Agricultural District	Section 38-10.6
RD	Residential District	Section 38-10.7
LRD	Lake Residential District	Section 38-10.8
CCD	Community Commercial District	Section 38-10.9
HCD	Highway Commercial District	Section 38-10.10
ID	Industrial District	Section 38-10.11
ARD	Agricultural Residential District	Section 38-10.12
PRLD	Public and Recreation Lands District	Section 38-10.13
MUD	Mixed Use District	Section 38-10.14
PDD	Planned Development District	Section 38-10.15

Section 38-10.2 Control Free District (CFD)

The usage of parcels within areas designated as “control free” shall not be regulated by this Chapter; however, said usage shall comply with all adopted performance standards, overlay districts, or any other applicable ordinance of Oconee County or chapter of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances. The Control Free District is intended to be the initial zoning district for all parcels within the jurisdiction at the time of initial adoption of zoning in Oconee County, only; any parcel subsequently rezoned to any other district shall not be a part of the Control Free District at any future date.

Section 38-10.3 Traditional Rural District (TRD)

Title: Traditional Rural District

Definition: Parcels located in areas with little or no commercial, industrial, or other significant development; residential development is primarily limited to single-family dwellings. Public infrastructure is limited.

Intent: This district is meant to provide for a continuation of traditional lifestyles in sparsely populated areas with low intensity commercial, industrial, or other development; and to preserve the character of more remote rural areas. Additionally, residents of Traditional Rural areas typically have access to fewer public conveniences than more urban areas, but retain greater freedom in the manner in which they use their land.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1/2 acre (21,780 sf)	2 dwellings per acre	80	35	10	20	
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1/2 acre (21,780 sf)	80	35	10	20		

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.4 Rural Residential District (RRD)

Title: Rural Residential District

Definition: Those areas wanting to protect the rural nature of their community but allow for limited residential growth.

Intent: The intent of this district is to allow for residential development in rural areas that wish to minimize the impact of dense residential development.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	5 acres	1 dwelling per 5 acres	400	35	20	50	65
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Min. Width (ft.)	Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size			Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	5 acres		600	35	20	50	65

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.5 Conservation District (CD)

Title: Conservation District

Definition: Those areas designated for preservation and protection.

Intent: This district is intended to protect and promote the continuation of Oconee County’s natural resources.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	10 acres	1 dwelling per 10 acres	600	35	20	50	65
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Min. Width (ft.)	Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size			Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	10 acres		600	35	20	50	65

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.6 Agriculture District (AD)

Title: Agriculture District

Definition: Those areas in which rural lifestyles have traditionally been and continue to be intertwined with agricultural activity and production which has a significant economic impact to the area and Oconee County.

Intent – Agricultural districts are intended for the protection of farm land in Oconee County while ensuring sufficient residential and commercial development opportunities exist to serve the needs of citizens living in those areas.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1 acre (43,560 sf)	1 dwelling per acre	100	35	10	20	
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1 acre (43,560 sf)	100	35	10	20		

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.7 Residential District (RD)

Title: Residential District

Definition: Those areas where the primary land use is single family residential.

Intent: This district is intended to provide for residential single family development in the county and for those related uses that are normally associated with residential communities. Those uses that may generate negative secondary effects impacting life shall be discouraged.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1/4 acre (10,890 sf) Utilities Available	4 dwellings per acre	80	25	5	10	65
	1/2 acre Utilities not available	2 dwellings per acre	80	25	5	10	65
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1/4 acre or 1/2 acre depending on availability of utilities	80	35	10	30	65	

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.8 Lake Residential District (LRD)

Title: Lake Residential District

Definition: Those areas around the Lakes where the primary land is single family residential with limited multi-family residential use.

Intent: This district is intended to provide for residential single family development around the Lakes and for those related uses that are normally associated with lake residential communities. Those uses that may generate negative secondary effects impacting the quality of life shall be discouraged.

Dimensional Requirements (*)

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1/4 acre (10,890 sf) Utilities Available	4 dwellings per acre	80	25	5	10	65
	1/2 acre Utilities not available	2 dwellings per acre	80	25	5	10	65
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1/4 acre or 1/2 acre depending on availability of utilities	80	35	10	30	65	

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.9 Community Commercial District (CCD)

Title: Community Commercial District

Definition: Those areas well suited to supporting low intensity commercial activity centered around providing service to the adjacent community.

Intent: This district is intended to protect rural areas, while allowing for the development of commercial and business establishments that are low intensity and provide basic goods and services to the surrounding community.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1 acre (43,560 sf)	1 dwelling per acre	100	25	5	10	
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1 acre (43,560 sf)	100	25	5	10		

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.10 Highway Commercial District (HCD)

Title: Highway Commercial District

Definition: Those areas well suited for higher intensity more regional scale commercial activity typically found adjacent to major highways and intersections.

Intent: This district is intended to provide commercial goods and services to a larger service area at a more regional scale. The uses are much more intense than what would be expected in a community commercial district.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1/6 acre (7,260 sf)	6 dwellings per acre	70	25	5	10	
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	¼ acre (10,890 sf)	70	30	5	10		

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.11 Industrial District (ID)

Title: Industrial District

Definition: Those areas suited for light and/or heavy industries.

Intent: The intent of this district is to provide for the industrial and commercial needs of Oconee County while protecting other uses from potential negative impacts associated with such activities.

Dimensional Requirements*

ID District	Minimum District Size		Minimum District Buffer			Max. Height
	10 Acres		50 feet			
Nonresident ial Uses (interior lots)	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	1/2 acre (21,780 sf)	90	30	10	15	

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.12 Agricultural Residential District (ARD)

Title: Agricultural Residential District (ARD)

Definition: Those areas for which it is desirable to protect the residential nature of their agricultural community, but also allow for the continuation of certain uses compatible with country living.

Intent: The intent of this district is to protect existing residential areas in rural communities by limiting high-density development, and high impact agricultural, commercial and industrial uses not compatible with the character of the community. In general, many residents in these areas still participate in farming- related activities, but do so primarily on a part time basis, for either personal enjoyment or supplementing their primary income through gardening, keeping a small number of livestock or poultry, or other agricultural pursuits.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	½ acre	1 dwelling unit per acre	80	35	5	10	65
Nonresidential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height	
	Min. Lot Size	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)	
	1 acre with availability of utilities	80	35	10	30	65	

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirement (Amended 8-17-2010)

Section 38-10.13 Public and/or Recreation Lands District (PRLD)

Title: Public and Recreation Lands District

Definition: Those areas set aside for the promotion, use, and protection of natural resources in the form of (but not limited to) parks, forests, and educational or research facilities; or federal, state, and county owned lands typically maintained for the benefit of the public.

Intent: This district is meant to provide for a continuation and identification of public lands and to allow for those uses typically associated with accomplishing the mission of the agency charged with the care and promotion of the land.

Dimensional Requirements

See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.14 Mixed Use District (MUD)

Title: Mixed Use District

Definition: Those areas in which a mix of uses situated adjacent or nearby imposes no significant negative impacts, with the proximity of the activities associated with the development enhancing the surrounding properties.

Intent: This district is intended to provide for the development of mixed-use projects, as well as the continuation of, or expansion of, areas comprised of a blend of compatible uses.

Dimensional Requirements*

Residential Uses	Density & Lot Size			Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size	Max. Density	Min. Width (ft.)	Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	½ acre	2 units per acre	100	25	5	10	65
Non-residential Uses	Minimum Lot Size		Min. Width (ft.)	Minimum Yard Requirements			Max. Height
	Min. Lot Size			Front Setback (ft.)	Side Setback (ft.)	Rear Setback (ft.)	Structure Height (ft.)
	½ acre		100	25	5	10	65

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Section 38-10.15 Planned Development District (PDD)

Title: Planned Development District

Definition: Those areas suitable for relatively intense mixed-use development that offers significant amounts of open space and designed amenities that enhance the surrounding scenic, natural, and cultural characteristics.

Intent: This district is intended to allow flexibility in development that will result in improved design, character, and quality of new mixed-use developments in order to preserve natural and scenic features of open spaces that might be negatively impacted by more restrictive zoning districts.

Definitions: For the purposes of this district, the following definitions shall apply.

- 1) Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR)- The ratio of impervious surface area to a development’s total area (ISR= Area of Impervious Surface/Total Project Area).
- 2) Open Space- Portions of a project not occupied by private lots, amenities, public road right-of-ways, or other restricted or built-upon areas, that are generally accessible for passive recreational use by the development’s residents, tenants, patrons and guests. Open space shall not include lawns, landscaping, and other areas considered accessory to a specific amenity or structure, but may include required buffer areas.

Uses:

Permitted Uses

A listing of uses permitted within a particular planned development district shall be contained in a plan adopted as part of the regulations applying to that district only. Uses may be of similar residential or commercial character, or may consist of a mix of residential, commercial, or other appropriate uses. Uses shall be restricted to those listed in the adopted plan.

Dimensional Requirements*

Project Area, Density & Open Space			Minimum Yard Requirements and Lot Size		Max. Height
Min. Project Area	Max. Density	Min. Open Space	Front, Side and Rear Setbacks	Min. Lot Size	Structure Height (ft.)
5 acres	Set in approved plan	15% of Site Project Area	Set in approved plan	Set in approved plan	65

*See Article 9 for general provisions and exceptions to Dimensional Requirements.

Additional Requirements:

- 1) With the exception of the draft ordinance of amendments necessary to amend these zoning regulations to approve the planned development, all draft plans, agreements, or other materials related to the establishment of a Planned Development District shall be the responsibility of the developer.
- 2) All such plans shall be stamped and signed by an appropriate design professional licensed by the State of South Carolina.
- 3) Proposed planned developments shall meet standards established for non-residential parking, buffering/screening, and lighting established in Appendix A of Chapter 38 (Zoning) of the Oconee County Code of ordinances , as amended.
- 4) All commercial signage in proposed planned developments shall be designed and located so as to avoid any negative impacts on neighboring uses both inside and outside the development. All road signage shall meet the standards established in the latest edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- 5) All variations from adopted County regulations shall be specifically and clearly stated in the approved plan. Any regulation, standard or requirement not varied in an approved plan shall be strictly applied.
- 6) Proposed planned developments shall consist of a use mix of no less than 5% commercial, and 20% residential.
- 7) All historic and/or culturally significant structures and sensitive natural areas within the boundaries of the proposed planned development shall be identified on plans, and protected, preserved and maintained by methods endorsed by appropriate state and federal agencies. A maintenance plan for each such significant or sensitive feature shall be included as part of an approved planned development plan.
- 8) To the extent possible, all proposed planned developments shall be designed to provide for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, with 'bicycle lanes' included on roads designed to accommodate more than 400 Average Daily Trips (ADT's). An all-weather trail or sidewalk designed to safely accommodate both pedestrian and bicycle traffic may be approved in lieu of this requirement.
- 9) Stormwater control measures shall be designed and maintained so as to adequately ensure post-construction runoff generated from planned development meets minimum requirements as defined by state regulations. Low Impact Development (LID) measures utilizing controls such as natural infiltration and vegetative conveyance systems, as well as storm water wetlands, bioretention areas, and vegetative filter strips are encouraged to be utilized to the extent possible.