# **THOUGHTS ON**

# CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIES FOR INCREMENTAL INFILL

### WHO IS KRONBERG WALL?











We believe walkable areas with existing infrastructure are the easiest targets for quick and cost-effective antidotes to **SPRAWL**.

We believe walkable areas with existing infrastructure are the easiest targets for quick and cost-effective antidotes to **HOUSING SHORTAGES**.

We believe walkable areas with existing infrastructure are the easiest targets for quick and cost-effective antidotes to LACK OF AFFORDABILITY.

We believe walkable areas with existing infrastructure are the easiest targets for quick and cost-effective antidotes to LACK OF DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS.

We believe walkable areas with existing infrastructure are the easiest targets for quick and cost-effective antidotes to LACK OF RESILIENCY.

# CHALLENGES TO INCREMENTAL INFILL DEVELOPMENT

## THE COMMON ROADBLOCKS



1.

# **OUTDATED CODES AND ORDINANCES**

Current zoning and land-use regulations create significant barriers for these small developments.

2. REQUIRING EACH DEVELOPMENT TO COVER PUBLIC GOODS

Requiring smaller developments to individually fulfill regulations such as open space, parking, street improvements, and stormwater is prohibitively expensive and disincentivizes density.

3. LONG-STANDING PERCEIVED SCARCITY

Communities are often fearful of proposing increased density due to perceived scarcity of resources such as road capacity and good schools.

# UNDERSTANDING INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS

# "WHY" RECOGNIZE THE HISTORY OF ZONING + THE IMPLICATIONS



# **EQUITY MATTERS.**

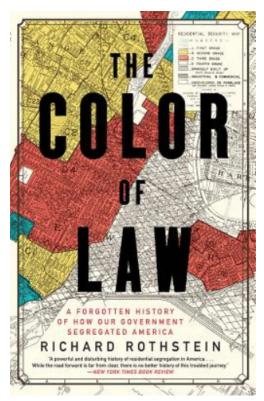
We need to talk honestly about the impact of suburban and singlefamily-only zoning on affordability, accessibility, and long-term viability of our communities.

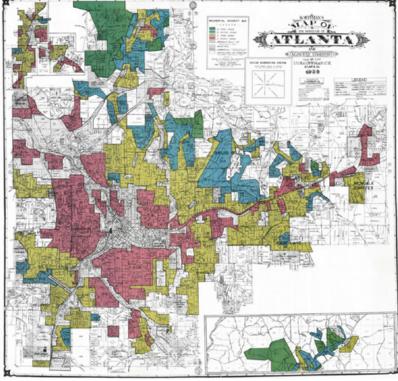
# SINGLE FAMILY-ONLY ZONING IS EXCLUSIONARY



SINGLE FAMILY-ONLY ZONING IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS VIRTUOUS AND HEALTHY, **BUT** IT ALSO...

- PREVENTS DIVERSE HOUSING CHOICES
- CREATES UNNECESSARY SCARCITIES
- REDUCES WALKABILITY AND PROMOTES CAR TRIPS





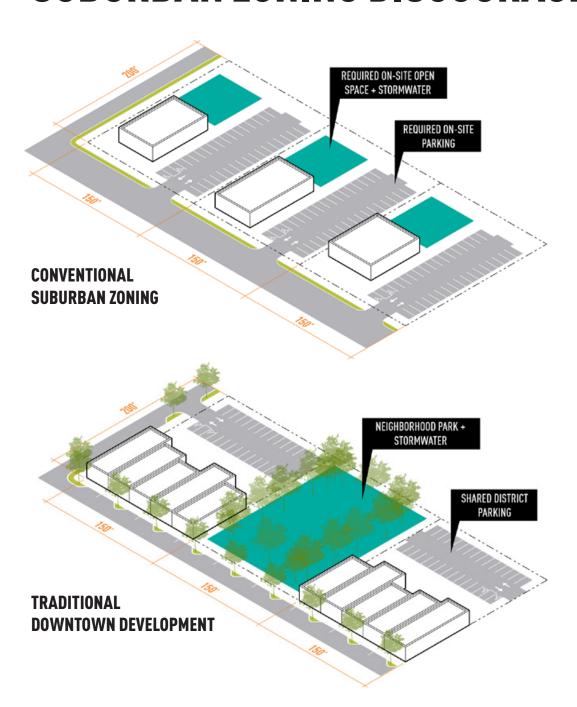
At it's very core, single family zoning is racist, classist, and exclusionary. It was used from the 1950s until now in concert with redlining to separate classes and races of people. Limiting mixes of uses and requiring large minimum lot sizes are just a few ways this is still used.

THE COLOR OF LAW RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

1938 CITY OF ATLANTA RACIAL ZONING MAP HOME OWNER LOAN CORPORATION

## SUBURBAN ZONING DISCOURAGES ACCESSIBILITY





# INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE + DEVELOPMENT COSTS





### DECREASED AFFORDABILITY, ACCESS, + DIVERSITY

By requiring each development to meet it's own parking, stormwater, and open space requirements, development necessarily results in large lots with seas of parking and retention. This sprawling development erodes walkability, increases infrastructure costs to the city, and reduces valuable property tax dollars per acre—overall this results in communities that are **not economically viable**.

# WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE ECOSYSTEMS



#### **NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITIES**

TREME, NEW ORLEANS



**ECOSYSTEMS** ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING AND ADAPTING.

OUR RULES NEED TO ALLOW FOR THIS **NATURAL EVOLUTION** FOR NEIGHBORHOODS.

Neighborhoods are subject to a range of dynamic forces, particularly unsettled/transitioning ones. Understanding and engaging in a range of areas is important, including housing, wellness, education and crime prevention.

## PEOPLE HABITATS ARE COMPLEX SYSTEMS



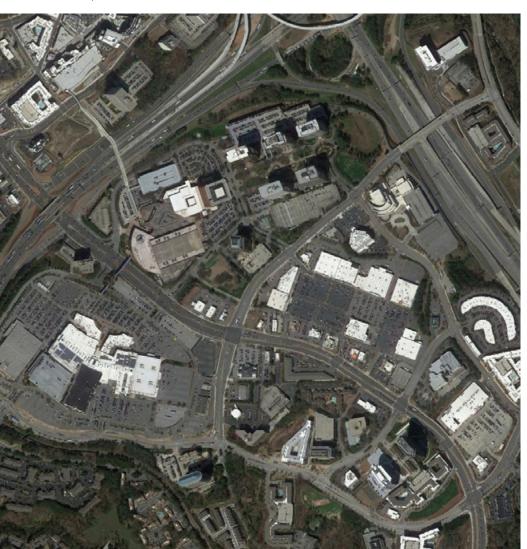


# **INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**



#### **SUBURBAN EUCLIDEAN ZONING**

LINEAR, RIGID RULES



# **HISTORIC, INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT**DYNAMIC SYSTEM RESPONSES WITH LIMITED GUIDELINES



1000 FT

1000 FT

# "WHAT" IDENTIFY POLICIES THAT SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED



# SCALE MATTERS.

If the mass and scale of the development is equal to singlefamily, then proposals will be more acceptable to communities good design and small lots ensure neighborhood compatibility.

# **GOOD PROJECTS ARE HINDERED BY BAD ZONING**





**SINGLE FAMILY** 

**4-6 PLEX** 

**DUPLEX + DADU**AKA "TRI-PLEX"

You can **double your density** without changing neighborhood character. Duplexes and Triplexes can look just like single-family, with AADUs and DADUs tucked out of site behind—yet these uses are largely illegal in single-family zoning districts.

# "WHERE" STRATEGIC LOCATIONS FOR POLICY CHANGE



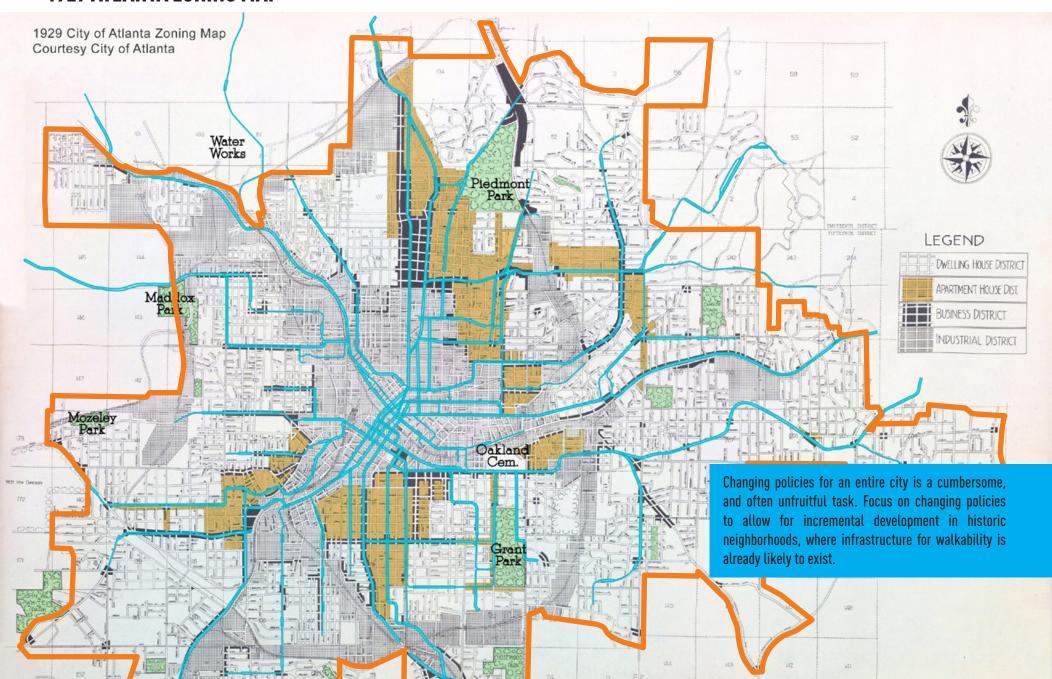
# **ACCESS MATTERS.**

We need to focus on increasing our housing choice and housing diversity in areas where access to daily needs does not require a car.

# 1929 MATTERS: THE ORIGINAL TOD



#### 1929 ATLANTA ZONING MAP

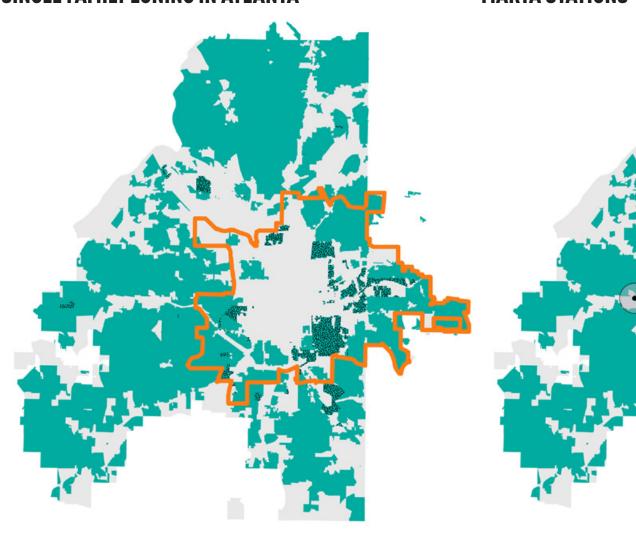


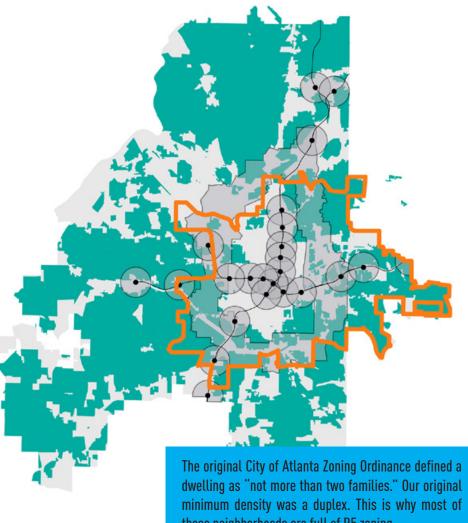
# **CONTEXT MATTERS: MOBILITY IN ATLANTA**



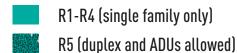
#### **SINGLE FAMILY ZONING IN ATLANTA**

#### **MARTA STATIONS + BELTLINE OVERLAY ZONE**





these neighborhoods are full of R5 zoning.





Transit Walk Shed (1/2 mile)



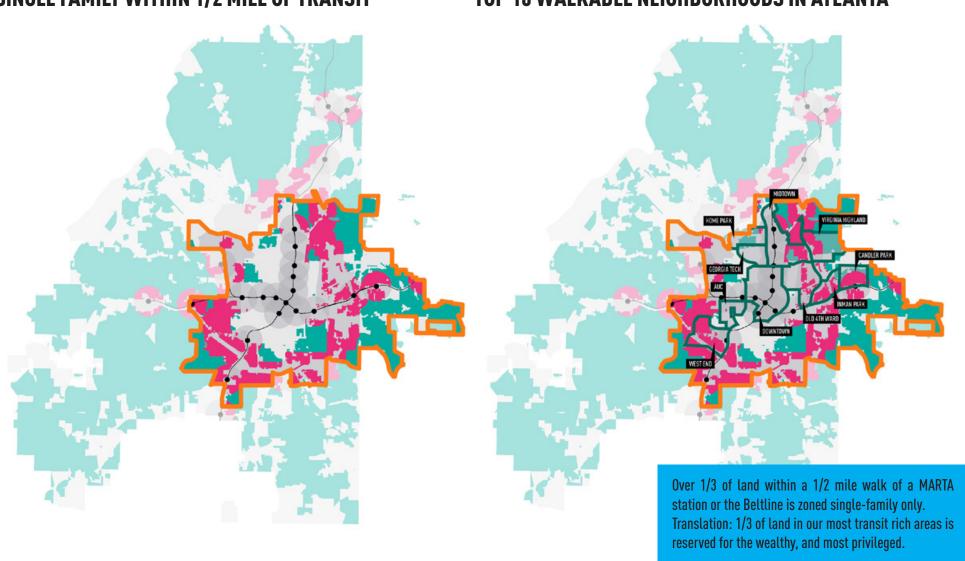
1929 City of Atlanta boundary

# **CONTEXT MATTERS: MOBILITY IN ATLANTA**



#### **SINGLE FAMILY WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF TRANSIT**

#### **TOP 10 WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS IN ATLANTA**









Single Family Zoning within Transit Walk Shed

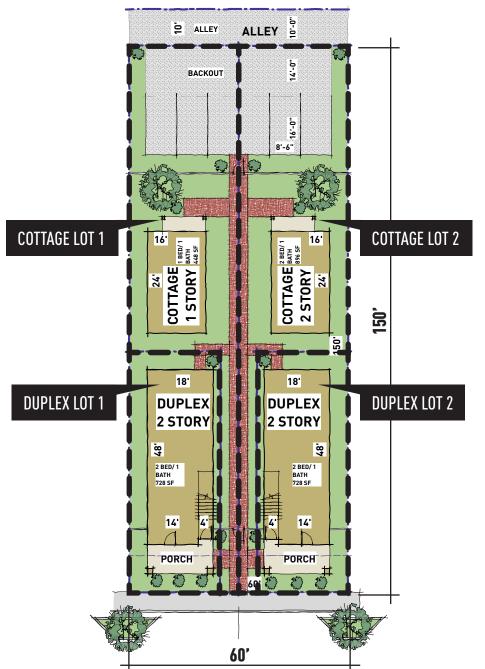
# STRATEGIC POLICIES TO REDUCE INCREMENTAL INFILL BARRIERS



# FOCUS ON RED TAPE BARRIERS: PERMITTING + CODES

# **LOT SIZES MATTER**







ALLOW EXEMPTIONS FROM MINIMUM LOT SIZE IF ADDITIONAL HOUSING UNITS ARE BEING PROVIDED.

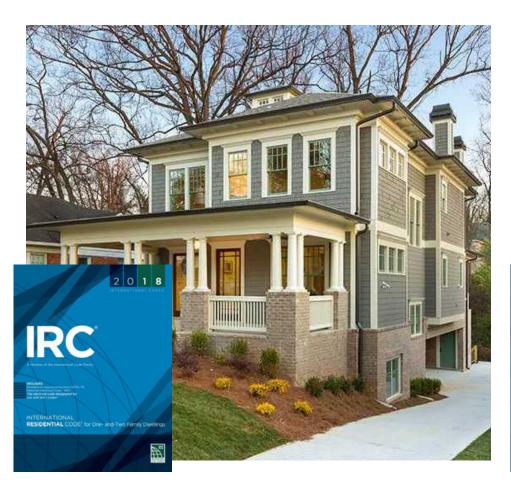
Fee simple lots are the easiest to finance, and therefore cost less to build, sell, and buy. Allowing smaller lots provides flexibility for more diverse for-sale housing that can provide affordability.

# THRESHOLDS MATTER: IRC V. IBC



DUPLEX + DADU = IRC = NO SPRINKLERS

TRIPLEX = MULTIFAMILY = IBC = SPRINKLERS



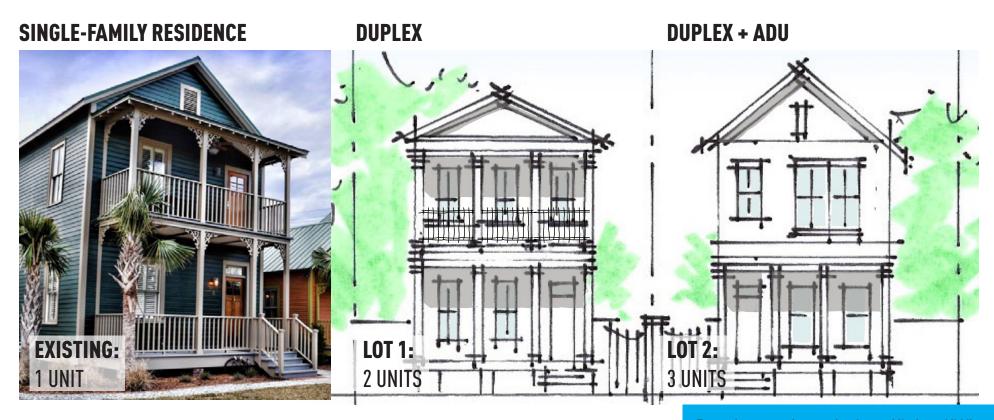


City of Atlanta has very different permit and physical improvement requirements based on size and complexity of your project.

# **PERMITTING MATTERS**



- SITE PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS
- BUILDING PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

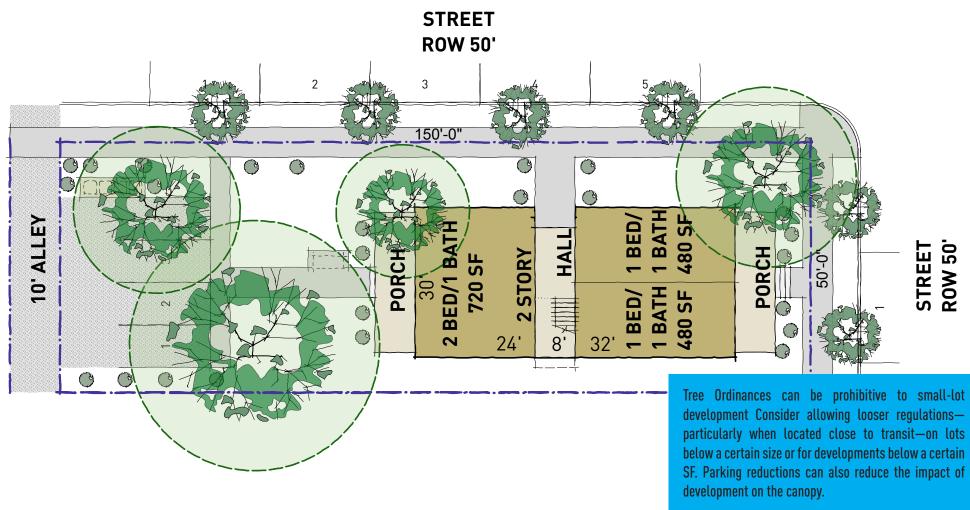


To reduce regulatory barriers, Missing Middle developments less than 4,000 SF should require same permit and review process as a single-family house. This includes building department and site review, stormwater requirements, and impact fees.

## TREE ORDINANCES MATTER



ATLANTA'S TREE ORDINANCE IS A POWERFUL TOOL TO SLOW OR STOP DEVELOPMENT. A BALANCED APPROACH IS NEEDED FOR SMALL LOTS NEAR TRANSIT.



TREE IMPACT SITE PLAN

**EXAMPLE PROJECT** 

# **SINGLE FAMILY SERVICE DISTRICT**



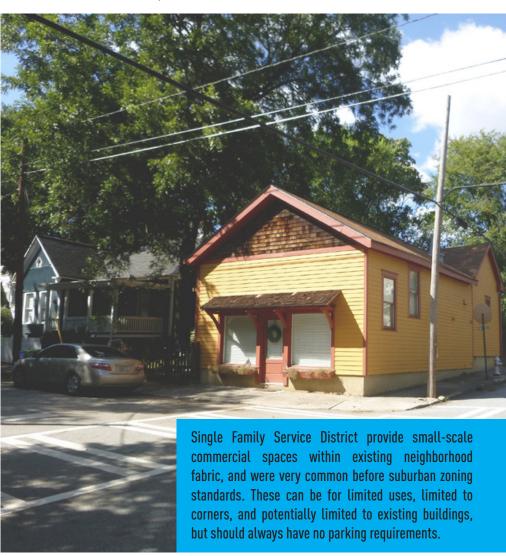
#### **NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL**

**KRONBERG WALL OFFICE** 



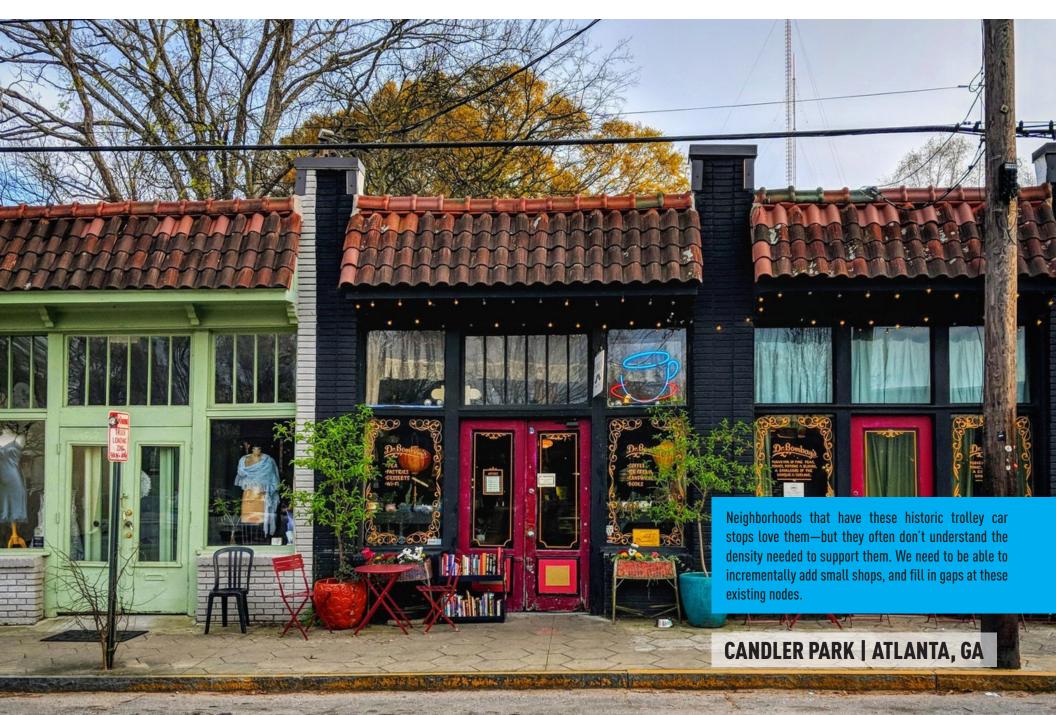
#### **LIVE-WORK**

CABBAGETOWN | ATLANTA, GA



# TROLLEY STOP COMMERCIAL =

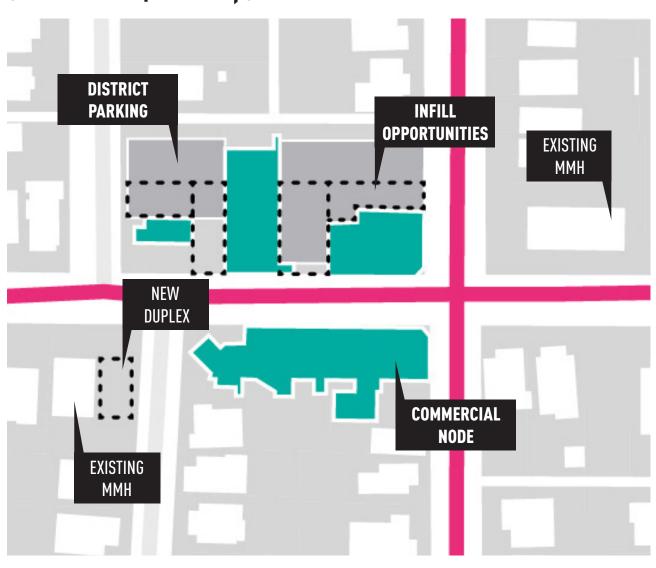




## TROLLEY STOP NODES REQUIRE LESS PARKING



#### **CANDLER PARK | ATLANTA, GA**



# CHALLENGES TO INFILL COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS
- RESIDENTIAL BUFFERS
- PARKING REQUIREMENTS
- SINGLE-FAMILY ONLY ZONING

We need 15-20 housing units/acre within walking distance of commercial nodes to effectively support commercial development. Single family zoning currently regulates around 4-4.5 units/acre—meaning you can't provide the necessary level of residential density to support this type of development without changing regulation to support missing middle housing.



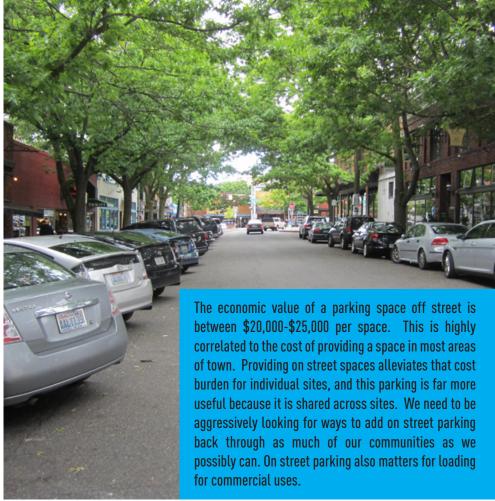
# FOCUS ON PUBLIC SOLUTIONS FOR PRIVATE GOODS: NEIGHBORHOODS AS ECOSYSTEMS

## **ON-STREET PARKING MATTERS**



- AGGRESSIVELY LOOK TO CAPTURE ON-STREET PARKING WHENEVER POSSIBLE
- IFC V. NACTO





ON-STREET PARKING

ATHENS, GA

**ON-STREET PARKING VARIATIONS** 

SEATTLE, WA

#### **BIKE LANES + SIDEWALKS MATTER**



- AGGRESSIVELY LOOK TO ADD BIKE LANES WHENEVER POSSIBLE
- IFC V. NACTO



#### PROPOSED ROAD CONFIGURATION

NORWICH STREET | BRUNSWICK, GA



#### **EXISTING ROAD CONFIGURATION**

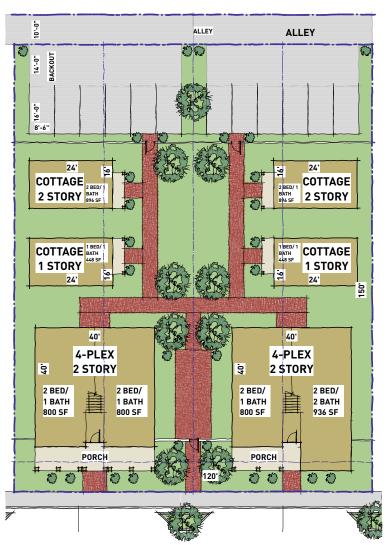
NORWICH STREET | BRUNSWICK, GA

#### **ALLEYS MATTER**



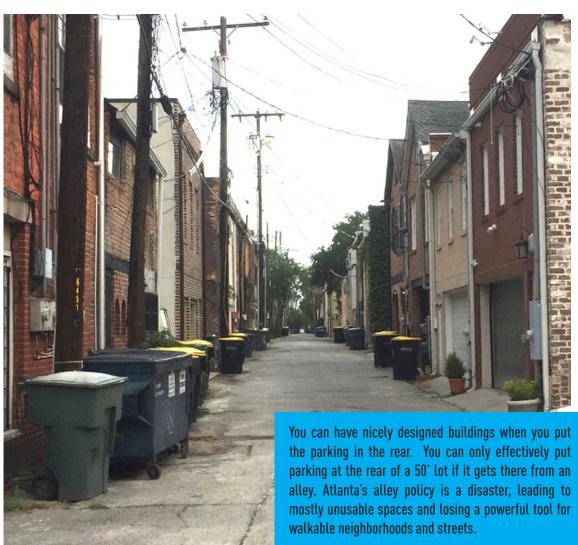
#### **ALLEY PARKING SITE PLAN**

MISSING MIDDLE ONLY PARKS WELL WITH ALLEYS



#### **ALLEY IN SAVANNAH**

USED FOR PARKING ACCESS, TRASH, AND UTILITIES



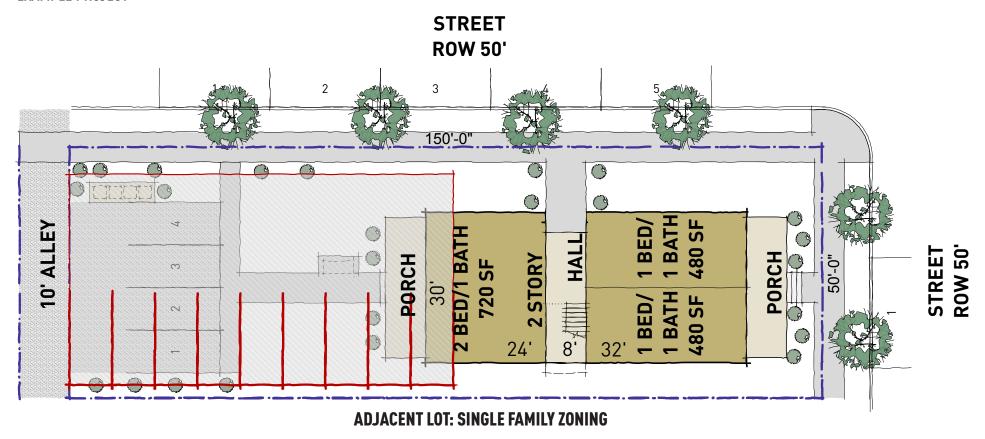
50' x 150' lots

#### MODIFY PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSING MIDDLE



#### **REQUIRED PARKING SITE PLAN**

**EXAMPLE PROJECT** 



LOT SIZE: 50' X 150'

ON-SITE PARKING REQ'D: 6 UNITS @ 1.4 SPACES / UNIT = 9 REQ'D SPACES

Requiring traditional parking requirements for missing middle housing makes infill development impossible without a variance. To effectively build middle housing, alley access and on-street parking are essential.

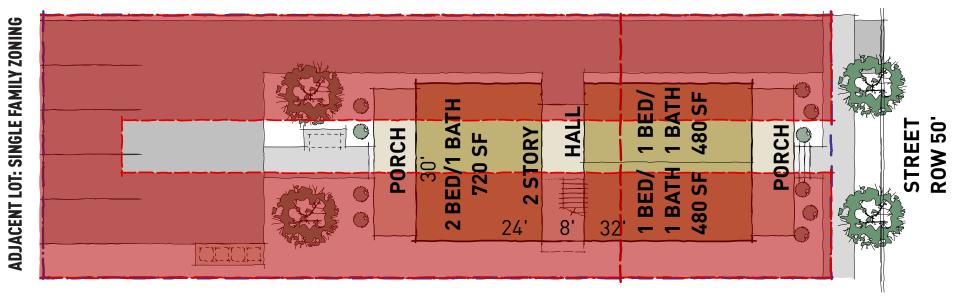
#### REMOVE BUFFER REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSING MIDDLE



#### TRADITIONAL BUFFER SITE PLAN

**EXAMPLE PROJECT** 

#### **ADJACENT LOT: SINGLE FAMILY ZONING**



**ADJACENT LOT: SINGLE FAMILY ZONING** 

LOT SIZE: 50' X 150'

TRANSITIONAL BUFFER REQ'D: 20'-0"

Requiring traditional buffers between multi-family and single family properties makes infill development impossible without a variance. One of the primary advantages to middle housing is its ability to retain the character of the neighborhood, reducing—if not eliminating—the need for buffers.

#### **COLLECTIVE OPEN SPACE SOLUTIONS MATTER**



#### **OPEN SPACE SITE PLAN**

STREET ROW 50.

STREET ROW 50.

**NLA:** 7500 SF **GLA:** 13,500 SF

**FOOTPRINT:** 1,815 SF **PARKING:** 1,020 SF

**FAR (GLA):** 0.27

**UOSR:** 6,480 SF

**UOSP:** 6,330 SF (GLA)

\* Note: Min. 150 SF of upper floor balcony

required for conformance.

Our zoning currently expects each site to be selfsufficient for everything from parking, storm water, and also open space. The open space required on a per site basis is hard to meet, and of lower quality than can be provided in open space like parks. Much like collective storm water, allowing an open space exemption for sites within a certain distance of parks or the Beltline is rational and important.

#### **COLLECTIVE STORMWATER SOLUTIONS MATTER**



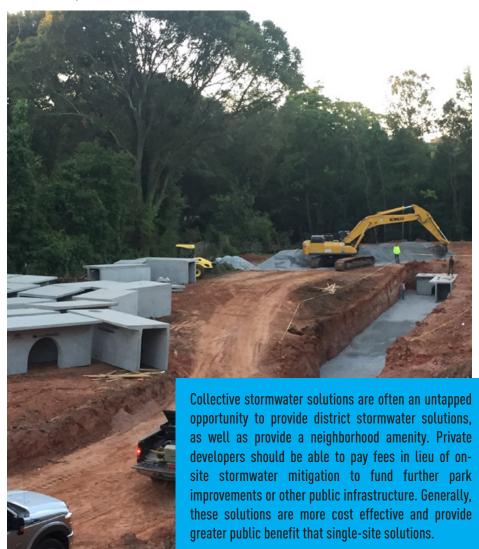
#### **COLLECTIVE STORMWATER APPROACH**

OLD FOURTH WARD PARK, ATLANTA



#### INDIVIDUAL STORMWATER APPROACH, PER CITY REQS

EDGEWOOD, ATLANTA



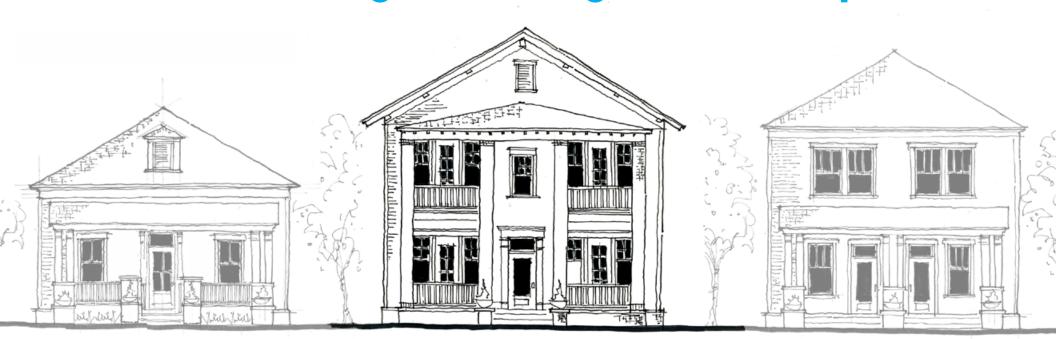
## 3.

# FOCUS ON CHANGING PERCEPTIONS: WORKING WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS + CITY LEADERSHIP



#### **DESIGN MATTERS.**

## Good design allows neighborhoods to maintain single-family character while offering housing choice options.



SINGLE FAMILY 4-6 PLEX DUPLEX

#### PRE-APPROVED PLANS MATTER



#### ATLANTA ADU CO.

**KRONBERG WALL** 



#### 1 BEDROOM / 1 BATH

440 SF WITH 75 SF PORCH \$107,000 / \$127,000 DESIGN/PERMIT/BUILD

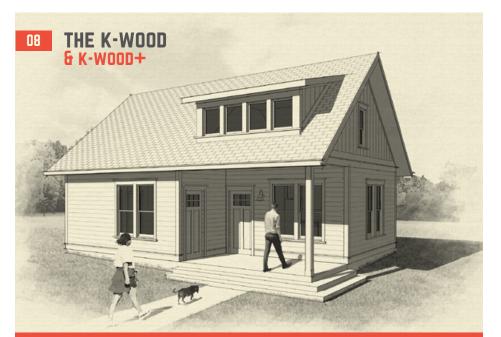
Named after the home of ATL ADU Co, the Reynoldstown is an efficient accessory dwelling unit with a bedroom (with closet), full bathroom, galley kitchen, and living room all in a compact 440 SF footprint. Large windows are placed to deliver as much natural light as possible to the interior and facilitate natural ventilation when weather permits. The R-Town has a lot to offer in a small footprint, which also helps to accomodate challenging lot conditions.



#### NOT INCLUDED CONTINGENCIES:

- Tree removal- Est.\$1,600-\$2,000 per occurrence
- Sanitary Plumbing Lift Station-\$1,410
- Excessive Grading Situations- Est. \$900- \$1,400
- Zoning Variance Assistance- \$1,500
- Demolition of any required Existing Structures- Est. \$3,000-\$8,000

All contingencies will be identified at the end of the Feasibility and Investigation Phase



#### 2 BEDROOM / 2 BATH

644 SF WITH 105 SF PORCH \$143,000 / \$163,000 Design/Permit/Build

Inspired by Atlanta's abundance of American Craftsman bungalows, the K-Wood features two bedrooms, each with separate bathroom and storage space. A kitchen and living room open onto a deep covered porch. Generous windows provide natural light and ventilation through the interior, and the galley kitchen offers plenty of room for prep and appliances. With a footprint only slightly larger than the R-Town and two exterior entry doors, the K-Wood offers an ideal setup for Airbnb rental, aging parents, and/or a long-term rental.



#### **NOT INCLUDED CONTINGENCIES:**

- Tree removal- Est.\$1,600-\$2,000 per occurrence
- Sanitary Plumbing Lift Station-
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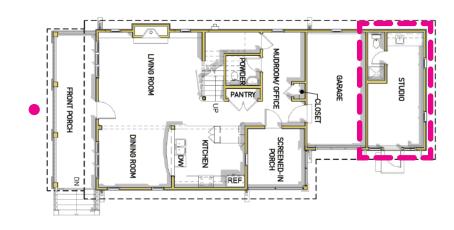
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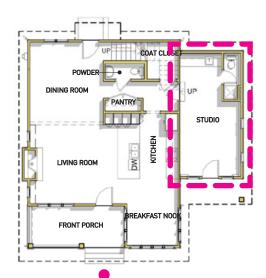
#### **ATTACHED ADU // LAFRANCE WALK**











#### 1929 MATTERS: ALLOWABLE HOUSING TYPES



### USE HISTORIC ZONING AS A TOOL TO EXPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS OF HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS THAT PEOPLE LOVE

#### REMEMBER ATLANTA'S TOP 10 WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS?

All of those, with the exception of Downtown, have lots of single family housing. But, they are not exclusively single family housing—that is what makes them so great, walkable and inclusive.

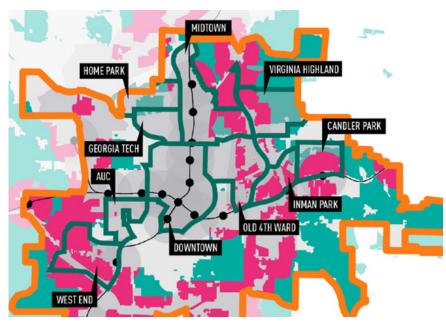
#### **GUESS WHAT?**

All of these neighborhoods were built before zoning went into effect, meaning they all have tons of existing nonconforming MMH.

#### **GUESS WHAT ELSE?**

The original City of Atlanta Zoning Ordinance defined a dwelling as "not more than two families." Our original minimum density was a duplex in all residential areas! This is why most of those neighborhoods are full of R5 zoning.

#### **TOP 10 WAKLABLE NEIGHBORHOODS**



#### 1929 ATLANTA ZONING ORDINANCE

- (k) A "family" is any number of individuals living and cooking together on the premises as a single housekeeping unit.
- (1) A "dwelling" is a building arranged, intended or designed to be occupied by not more than two families living independently of each other and doing their own cooking upon the premises.
- (m) An "apartment house" is a building arranged, intended or designed to be occupied by three or more families living independently of each other and doing their own cooking upon the premises or by three or more individuals or groups of individuals living independently but having a common heating system and a general dining room.



#### PERCEPTION MATTERS.

Normalizing renters as a diverse group of people in every stage of life is important in changing the negative perceptions of non-single-family housing options.

#### **SANAA + OLIVIA: renters + housemates**



"There aren't many places in Atlanta where a young professional can live on her own and still feel at home - enter Missing Middle Housing. My current home is close to work, in a great neighborhood, allows me to walk and take public transport to a number of locations, and offers me the flexibility to live how I want without being burdened by high rent or an inconvenient daily commute."

#### **DUPLEX + ADU**

UNITS: 2 + 1 ADU TENANTS: 5







#### **ELIZABETH:** renter



"I've lived in Ansley Park for 5 years. The first 3 years I lived in a small house that had two basement apartments. For the past 2 years I've lived in a historic apartment building: 3 buildings with 24 units. I chose to live in Ansley so that I could walk to my first job, and I choose to stay because I love the area and can bike commute to my current job. I love having access to Midtown, MARTA and Piedmont Park - I would not be able to afford this neighborhood without these 'nonconforming' places I have lived."



#### **HOME 1: TRIPLEX (BASEMENT APARTMENT)**

UNITS: 3 TENANTS: 3

**OFF-STREET PARKING: 1** 



#### **HOME 2: APARTMENT**

UNITS: 24 TENANTS: 40



#### **CHRISTY:** renter to homeowner



"I lived in a triplex in Midtown for 2 years during and after college. This had great proximity to Piedmont park, walkability to Midtown restaurants and stores, and bikeability to Georgia Tech's campus. I then lived in a different triplex for 2 years after college, as a newlywed. This offered a great location that was walkable to Westside restaurants and close to MARTA, while also having a small yard for our dog. The rent was much more affordable than in a typical, large apartment complex, allowing us to save up to buy a small home in the same neighborhood, just around the block."



#### **HOME 1: TRIPLEX**

UNITS: 3 TENANTS: 6

OFF-STREET PARKING: 4



UNITS: 3 TENANTS: 6





#### **ERIC B: renter**



"I've lived in 'non-conforming' apartments ever since I moved to Atlanta. My first apartment was a basement unit of a duplex in what was once a single-family home. For the last 2 years, I've lived in the upper unit of a duplex in a 100+ year-old former single-family home in Inman Park. I don't have a car, so it is important to me to be close to MARTA and within walking distance of the office, grocery stores, parks, and restaurants. These non-conforming apartments are the only way I can afford to life in close proximity to all of those amenities. A 15-minute walk to MARTA and a 20-minute ride to the airport can get me just about anywhere in the world, without getting in a car!"



#### **DUPLEX**

UNITS: 2 TENANTS: 3

OFF-STREET PARKING: 2

#### **DUPLEX**

UNITS: 2 TENANTS: 3





#### **XIAOYUN:** homeowner + landlord



"I own a single family house located near downtown Kirkwood. This a rental property with four tenants. It is a popular area with high demand and high real estate value. It's a great property for long term investment for myself, and provides affordable housing options for people who can't afford to rent a whole house themselves. My tenants are phD students."



#### **SINGLE-FAMILY RENTAL**

UNITS: 1 TENANTS: 4



#### ERIC K: homeowner + developer + landlord



"I bought this historic home and the large property it sat on almost 20 years ago. For a while, my family and I occupied the top floor of the home and the KWA office occupied the main floor. My family has grown and we have built an ADU on our property, and I am in the process of developing the remainder of the property as a pocket neighborhood: 10 single family homes, 4 duplexes (8 units), 3 rental quadplexes (12 units) and 9 ADUs - all on 2 acres."



#### **HOME 1: APTS - TO OFFICE - TO SINGLE FAMILY**

UNITS: 1 + 1 ADU TENANTS: 4

**OFF-STREET PARKING: 3** 



#### **POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD (SAME PROPERTY)**

UNITS: 30 + 9 ADU TENANTS: TBD

**OFF-STREET PARKING: 1/UNIT** 



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION



#### IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS.

Find stealth codes that propose incremental changes to regulatory barriers in specific, strategic areas these should be presented as supporting Comprehensive Plan recommendations that the community already approved.

#### **POLICY AMENDMENT EXAMPLES**



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOBILITY-RICH NEIGHBORHOODS**

- Modify parking requirements
- Allow AADUs + DADUs in single family zoning categories
- Work with you city's permitting office to formulate pre-approved housing plans
- Allow existing houses to be converted into duplexes in single family zoning categories
- Modify lot subdivision requirements to allow for smaller lots, flag lots, and lots with no frontage with easements to provide more diverse for-sale housing options
- $\bullet$  Treat missing middle housing (under +/-4,000 SF) as the same permit process as single family
- Create a <u>Single Family Service District</u> category compatible with Single Family use (corner stores, coffee shops, etc)
- Revise the concept of <u>buffers</u> in urban zoning categories
- Eliminate the <u>open space chart</u>
- Allow small multifamily/commercial <u>new</u> construction to only do Water Quality (lot impact less than 5000 SF, 60% lot coverage max)

#### **POLICY AMENDMENT EXAMPLES**



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOBILITY-RICH NEIGHBORHOODS**

- Allow on-street parking to count toward required parking, and aggressively add where dimensionally possible between existing curbs
- Revise city-wide <u>alley policies</u> to allow individual owners to improve access without all neighbor's permission (other than tree root impact)
- Create limited <u>Form Based Codes</u> for single family neighborhoods (require porches, limit garage doors facing streets, etc)
- Revise <u>Tree Protection Ordinance</u> to be context sensitive (take proximity to transit into account, for example)
- Create a <u>Department of Transportation</u> to oversee implementation of transit, on-street parking and protected bike lanes throughout the City (NACTO v. IFC)
- Allow new developments to adhere to historically appropriate setbacks instead of setbacks prescribed by existing zoning
- DEFINE MOBILITY VERY LOOSELY TO INCLUDE BIKING AND WALKING: PROXIMITY TO BIKE LANES OR SIDEWALKS WITH STREET TREES SHOULD QUALIFY AS MOBILITY-RICH

#### PARKING POLICY AMENDMENT EXAMPLES



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Keep grandfathered parking rights, allow transfer to new uses | NOLA
- Permit Time-of-Day sharing with percent demand studies as an acceptable standard | ATL
- Permit on-street parking to be counted towards totals | Chattanooga
- Eliminate parking requirements in proximity to transit | Tacoma + Miami
- Credit bicycle parking (3 bike spaces = 1 auto space) | **Dallas**
- Eliminate requirements for buildings built before a certain date | ATL 1965
- Eliminate requirements for buildings under a certain size (5,000-10,000 SF) | Miami
- Allow municipal lots to count for spaces
- Permit In-Lieu-Of Fee Options
- Provide reduction / credit for providing rideshare loading spot | KWA
- Reduce minimum parking space size to 8'x16' (100% compact) | KWA
- Reduce minimum parallel space length to 18' | KWA



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