



**PLZ-21-07**

**City of Greensboro Planning Department  
Zoning Staff Report and Plan Amendment Evaluation**

**City Council Hearing Date: March 16, 2021**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	Will Stevens for Mariana and Erik Johnson
<b>HEARING TYPE</b>	Rezoning Request
<b>REQUEST</b>	R-3 (Residential Single-family - 3) to CD-C-L (Conditional District - Commercial - Low)
<b>CONDITIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All uses permitted in the Commercial-Low zoning district except: Any Eating and Drinking Establishments, Any use with Drive-Thru Service, Cemeteries, Junked Motor Vehicles (accessory use), and Satellite Dishes/TV and Radio Antennae Towers (accessory structures).</li><li>2. Where permitted, an opaque fence no less than six feet in height shall be installed and maintained along property lines adjacent to single-family residential uses.</li><li>3. Total building area shall not exceed 12,500 square feet. Each individual building shall be not exceed 7,300 square feet.</li><li>4. Maximum building height shall be limited to twenty (20) feet.</li><li>5. At least 90% of exterior façade shall be brick and/or storefront metal material with glass. All buildings shall have a flat roof.</li></ol>
<b>LOCATION</b>	4123 and 4125 Lawndale Drive
<b>PARCEL ID NUMBER(S)</b>	7856461435 and 7856461633
<b>PUBLIC NOTIFICATION</b>	The notification area for this public hearing was 600 feet (Chapter 30-4-1.4 of the Land Development Ordinance requires notification of the owner of that parcel of land and the owners of all parcels of land adjoining and contiguous to that parcel of land as shown on the County tax listing). <b>58</b> notices were mailed to those property owners in the mailing area.
<b>TRACT SIZE</b>	1.37 Acres
<b>TOPOGRAPHY</b>	Sloping

**VEGETATION**

Wooded

**SITE DATA**

<b>Existing Use</b>		Single-family dwelling and undeveloped land
<b>Adjacent Zoning</b>		<b>Adjacent Land Uses</b>
N	PNR (Parkland and Natural Resource Areas)	Greensboro Science Center
E	PUD (Planned Unit Development) and R-3 (Residential Single Family - 3)	Multi-family and Single-family Dwellings
S	R-3 (Residential Single Family - 3)	Single-family dwellings
W	PNR (Parkland and Natural Resource Areas)	Country Park

**Zoning History**

Case #	Date	Request Summary
N/A	N/A	The subject property is currently zoned R-3 (Residential Single Family - 3). This has been the zoning on the property since the adoption of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) in July 2010. Prior to the adoption of the LDO, the property was zoned RS-12 (Residential Single Family).

**ZONING DISTRICT STANDARDS****District Summary \***

Zoning District	Existing	Requested
Designation:	<b>(R-3)</b>	<b>(CD-C-L)</b>
Max. Density:	3 dwelling units/acre	8 dwelling units/acre
Typical Uses	Typical uses in the R-3 district include single family residential dwellings of up to 3 units per acre.	All uses permitted in the Commercial-Low zoning district except: Any Eating and Drinking Establishments, Any use with Drive-Thru Service, Cemeteries, Junked Motor Vehicles (accessory use), and Satellite Dishes/TV and Radio Antennae Towers (accessory structures).

*\*These regulations may not reflect all requirements for all situations; see the City of Greensboro Land Development Ordinance for all applicable regulations for site requirements for this zoning district.*

**SPECIAL INFORMATION****Overlay District Ordinance/Historic Preservation**

The subject site is not located within an overlay zoning district.

The subject site is not:

- Located in a City of Greensboro Historic District or Heritage Community
- Designated as a Guilford County Landmark Property
- Recognized as a State of North Carolina Historic Site
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Located in a National Register Historic District

**Environmental/Soils**

Water Supply Watershed      Site drains to Greensboro Watersupply Watershed WS-III – Lake Jeanette sub-basin

Floodplains      N/A

Streams      Blue Line stream is onsite. Any non-Blue Line stream features onsite must be identified. Blue Line and non-Blue Line streams require a 50ft stream buffer measured from top of bank on each side. Refer to the City's LDO Chapter 30-12-3.9 for stream buffer requirements.

Other:      Site must address current watershed requirements, Water Quality and Water Quantity Control for Phase 2 must be addressed for the entire site. Maximum High Density development with sewer is 70% and Low Density is 25%. All BUA must be treated by a State approved water quality BMP/SCM. Site is within the PTI 5 statute mile radius. Any proposed water quality device BMP/SCM that holds a normal pool elevation is not allowed unless supporting engineering documentation is provided that clearly explains why a water quality device that holds a normal pool elevation needs to be utilized.

**Utilities (Availability)**

Water and sewer are available on Lawndale Dr

**Airport Overlay District & Noise Cone**

n/a

**Landscaping & Tree Conservation Requirements****Landscaping:****Street Yards:**

Street planting yards must be installed abutting public street rights-of-way. The required street planting yard must have a minimum width of 10 feet (as measured from the outside edge of the right-of-way or the back of the sidewalk, whichever is further from the street centerline) and include at least 2 canopy trees and 17 shrubs per 100 linear feet of required street planting yard, not including allowed driveways.

**Buffer Yards:**

Adjacent to single family residential uses: Type B buffer yard, with an average width of 25', a minimum width of 20', and a planting rate of 3 canopy trees, 5 understory trees, and 25 shrubs per 100 l.f.

Adjacent to Cultural and Community facilities: 5' wide Vehicular Use Area buffer yard (see below).

**Parking Lots:**

When a parking lot or other vehicular use area abuts a vacant site or a site with the same land use classification as the subject site, a planting yard with a minimum width of 5 feet must be provided between the parking lot/vehicular use area and the abutting (interior) property line. This required planting area must be landscaped with at least 2 understory trees and 18 evergreen shrubs per 100 linear feet  
Trees for required parking spaces: 1 canopy tree per 12 spaces, in islands or medians within the parking lot.

**Tree Conservation:**

For 1.37 acres, 5% of parcel size to be dedicated in critical root zone for Tree Conservation.

**Transportation**

Street Classification: Lawndale Drive – Major Thoroughfare.  
Benton Lane – Local Street.

Site Access: All access(s) must be designed and constructed to the City of Greensboro standards.

Traffic Counts: Lawndale Drive AADT = 16,000 (NCDOT, 2019).

Trip Generation: N/A.

Sidewalks: Sidewalks are a requirement of the Development Ordinance. 5' sidewalk with a 5' grass strip is required along both sides of thoroughfares. 5' sidewalk with a 3' grass strip is required along one side (at a minimum, collectors may require sidewalk on both sides) of all other street types. Sidewalk does exist along the frontage of this property.

Transit in Vicinity: Yes. GTA Route 17 (Lawndale Drive) is adjacent to subject site, along Lawndale Drive.

Traffic Impact Study: No TIS required per TIS Ordinance.  
(TIS)

Street Connectivity: N/A.

Other: N/A.

**IMPACT/POLICY ANALYSIS****Land Use Compatibility**

The proposed **CD-C-L (Conditional District – Commercial – Low)** zoning district, as conditioned, would allow land uses that are compatible with the general character of the area.

**GSO 2040 Comprehensive Plan Policies**

The GSO 2040 Future Land Use Map designates this location as **Residential**. The requested **CD-C-L (Conditional District – Commercial – Low)** zoning district, as conditioned, would allow uses that are generally of greater intensity than those currently in the location. The site does back up to a Regional Activity Center in Battleground Park, though this section of Lawndale Drive is not listed as a Commercial Corridor. The GSO 2040 Future Built Form Map designates this location as **Urban General**.

**GSO 2040 Written Policies**

**Filling In Our Framework** - How we arrange our land uses for where we live, work, attend school, shop and enjoy our free time can create a more vibrant and livable Greensboro.

**Goal A** - Greensboro is recognized and admired for its attractive, walkable and compact mixed-use activity centers where people live, work and enjoy life.

**Strategy 1** - Encourage higher density, mixed-use, walkable infill development.

**Strategy 2** – Ensure mixed use projects both strengthen and add value to the Community.

**Goal C** – People choose to live in Greensboro because every neighborhood is safe and has convenient access to first-rate schools, services, shopping, parks, and community facilities.

**Strategy 1** – Employ a problem prevention model to identify causes and solutions to neighborhood problems.

**Creating Great Places** - Creating interesting and attractive places and vibrant public spaces in neighborhoods, across Greensboro, in downtown and with our historic resources.

**Goal A** - Greensboro's citywide network of unique neighborhoods offer residents of all walks of life a variety of quality housing choices.

**Strategy 1** - Protect and enhance the unique character of every neighborhood.

**Strategy 2** - Meet housing needs and desires with a sufficient and diverse supply of housing products, prices and locations.

**Becoming Car Optional** - Expand quality transportation options beyond cars and maintain an efficient transportation system that allows people and goods to travel throughout Greensboro.

**Goal A** - Greensboro has unrivaled pedestrian, biking, transit and road networks that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient transportation options.

**Strategy 2** - Encourage new development that is compatible with the intended use of the adjacent roadway.

**Goal B** - Everyone loves our interconnected green spaces, which provide recreation and transportation opportunities, promote active living, and protect our natural environment.

**Strategy 1** - Expand the greenway network to connect all parts of the city as a key element of the transportation system.

**Prioritizing Sustainability** - Greensboro has a strong leadership role in environmental stewardship, social equity, and a resilient economy.

**Goal A** - Greensboro advances environmental stewardship, taking care of our natural resources and the natural systems that support all living things.

**Strategy 1** - Promote resilient, efficient and environmentally beneficial patterns of land use.

**Goal B** - Greensboro embraces social equity, ensuring all residents benefit from fair and just treatment in the distribution of public services and have a voice in governance.

**Strategy 2** – Work to ensure that all Greensboro residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in public decision-making processes.

**Strategy 3** – Promote a just, ethical, and respectful community.

**Goal C** - Greensboro builds economic resilience, expanding the local economy's ability to withstand and adjust to disruptions and changes at the regional, national and global scales.

**Strategy 3** – Enhance economic resiliency through strong partnerships and a deep reserve of social capital.

**Building Community Connections** - Greensboro is unique and memorable based on our quality of life, culture, arts and places and the ties that bind us together as a community.

**Goal B** – Greensboro's cultural identity – our museums, libraries, arts communities, festivals and events - is a source of pride and shared experience.

**Strategy 1** – Strengthen sustainable support for arts and culture that creates an environment for artists and cultural organizations to flourish.

**Goal E** - Everyone does their part to maintain stable, attractive, and healthy places to live and raise families.

**Strategy 1** - Build upon successful community initiatives to improve housing conditions while encouraging community involvement and participation.

**Growing Economic Competitiveness** - Greensboro will build a prosperous, resilient economy that creates equitable opportunities to succeed.

**Goal C** – Investment in cutting edge communications technology enhances the quality of life for all residents and helps businesses thrive.

**Strategy 1** – Encourage fiber-ready infrastructure to reduce the need for costly future upfits, increase property values and promote economic growth.

**Goal E** – Greensboro promotes homegrown businesses, supports entrepreneurship, cultivates industry leaders, and welcomes major corporations and institutions.

**Strategy 2** – Provide entrepreneurs at all stages of the business life cycle with connections to education, financing, and other resources and assets that support their growth.

## **GSO 2040 Map Policies**

### **Future Land Use Map**

**Residential:** Includes both single-and multi-family residential. Other uses should generally be in the scale of a Neighborhood- or a District- Scaled Activity Center as described in the Future Built Form Map, in a form that is appropriate to the character of the area. Many residential areas include commercial corridors, and future development along these corridors should be oriented to the corridor to avoid negative impacts to adjacent residences.

### **Future Built Form Map**

**Urban General:** Should reflect these characteristics:

1. Setbacks, building orientation, building materials, height, and scale of residential buildings are considered within the existing neighborhood context.

2. New housing helps increase the range of choice, supply, and adds additional appropriately-scaled density with: Missing Middle housing; mid-rise multi-family; and high-rise multi-family in Activity Centers and along Mixed-Use Corridors.
3. Transitions between neighborhoods and different land uses provide continuity in scale, density, intensity with adjacent uses.
4. Cut-through traffic is minimized.
5. New freestanding or expanded business areas are created within or adjoining an existing Activity Center or as part of creating a new Activity Center.
6. Exterior building materials are durable, sustainable, and contribute positively to the character of the public realm.
7. The size and impact of surface parking lots is minimized through landscaping, screening, narrow curb-cuts, and use of glare-free, no-spill lighting.
8. New sidewalks contribute to the completion of a sidewalk network.

**Neighborhood and District Scale Activity Centers** should reflect these characteristics:

1. Development (site and buildings) is properly scaled to the needs of residents in the appropriate market area. The scale and types of activities accommodated match the service area. A District Scale Activity Center is physically larger, serves a wider market area, and has a greater breadth of businesses, services, and activities than a Neighborhood Activity Center, and draws vehicular traffic from a larger area, requiring more space for parking, loading, and greater spacing between vehicular access driveways.
2. Development adjacent to residential neighborhoods, parks, or other low intensity uses gives consideration to light, traffic, noise, and other potential impacts of the development.
3. Buildings and uses are easy to access on foot or by bike. These Centers include safe paths, bike racks, benches and other amenities for non-motorized travelers.
4. These Centers coordinate adjacent site designs and public improvements to provide comfortable sidewalk space for pedestrian movement, curb “bump-out” extensions, street trees/lighting/furniture, sidewalk cafés, and an active pedestrian-friendly environment.

## **CONFORMITY WITH OTHER PLANS**

### **City Plans**

#### ***Sustainability Action Plan***

##### **Element 1) Transportation and Land Use:**

**Policy 1)** Encourage increased density, a mix of land uses and more integrated links between transportation and land use through changes to Greensboro’s Comprehensive Plan, Development Ordinance and other related plans.

##### **Element 2) Green Jobs and Buildings:**

**Policy 3)** Develop a coordinated City program to provide technical support, energy audits and education and outreach to increase energy efficiency and conservation in commercial and residential buildings.

**Policy 4)** Use a combination of code changes, incentives, partnerships and education to promote green building in Greensboro.

**Policy 6)** Promote more efficient use of water through education, partnerships and pilot projects.

##### **Element 3) Waste Reduction and Recycling:**

**Policy 7)** Employ a combination of expanded recycling infrastructure, regulations and incentives to increase Greensboro’s solid waste diversion and recycling rates.

**Element 6) Education and Outreach:**

**Policy 11)** Provide technical support, awards and recognition to individuals and organizations furthering Greensboro's energy and sustainability efforts.

**Other Plans**

N/A

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION****Community Outreach**

Applicant is strongly encouraged to discuss this proposed rezoning and development with owners of surrounding properties.

**Staff Analysis**

The subject property is approximately 1.37 acres and currently contains a single-family dwelling and undeveloped land. North and east of the subject property contain the Greensboro Science Center and Country Park, zoned PNR. East of the subject property contains multi-family dwellings and single-family dwellings, zoned PUD and R-3. South of the subject property contains single-family dwellings, zoned R-3.

The proposed rezoning request supports the Comprehensive Plan's Economic Competitiveness goal to build a prosperous, resilient economy that creates equitable opportunities to succeed and the Filling in Our Framework goal to arrange land uses for a more vibrant and livable Greensboro.

The GSO 2040 Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map designates this property as Residential. The Residential designation includes both single-and multi-family residential. Other uses should generally be in the scale of a Neighborhood- or a District- Scaled Activity Center as described in the Future Built Form Map, in a form that is appropriate to the character of the area. Many residential areas include commercial corridors, and future development along these corridors should be oriented to the corridor to avoid negative impacts to adjacent residences.

The Comprehensive Plan's Future Built Form Map currently designates this property as Urban General. Applicable characteristics of the Urban General classification include, but are not limited the following:

1. Setbacks, building orientation, building materials, height, and scale of residential buildings are considered within the existing neighborhood context.
3. Transitions between neighborhoods and different land uses provide continuity in scale, density, intensity with adjacent uses.
5. New freestanding or expanded business areas are created within or adjoining an existing Activity Center or as part of creating a new Activity Center.
6. Exterior building materials are durable, sustainable, and contribute positively to the character of the public realm.
7. The size and impact of surface parking lots is minimized through landscaping, screening, narrow curb-cuts, and use of glare-free, no-spill lighting.

The proposed CD-C-L zoning district permits all uses in the C-L zoning district except: Any Eating and Drinking Establishments, Any use with Drive-Thru Service, Cemeteries, Junked



Motor Vehicles (accessory use), and Satellite Dishes/TV and Radio Antennae Towers (accessory structures). The requested CD-C-L allows limited commercial, office, and service uses along a major thoroughfare, while including provisions to limit impacts on adjacent residential uses. Care should be taken with respect to building orientation, building materials, building height, and visual buffers to ensure an appropriate transition to the lower density residential uses on adjacent properties.

This request is consistent with the intent and purpose of the zoning code, the Comprehensive Plan (**GSO2040**) and is generally compatible with the existing development and trend in the surrounding area.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends **approval** of the requested **CD-C-L (Conditional District – Commercial - Low)** zoning district.