



PL(Z) 25-17

City of Greensboro Planning Department Zoning Staff Report

City Council Hearing Date: April 15, 2025

GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICANT	City of Greensboro
HEARING TYPE	Annexation and Original Zoning Request
REQUEST	County AG (Agricultural) to City R-3 (Residential Single Family – 3)
CONDITIONS	N/A
LOCATION	A portion of Blackberry Road Right-of-way
PARCEL ID NUMBER(S)	N/A
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION	The notification area for this public hearing was 750 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). 88 notices were mailed to those property owners in the mailing area.
TRACT SIZE	0.8 acres
TOPOGRAPHY	Flat
VEGETATION	None

SITE DATA

Existing Use	Blackberry Road
Adjacent Zoning	Adjacent Land Uses
N County AG (Agricultural)	Blackberry Road
E City R-3 (Residential Single-family – 3)	Single-family dwellings and common elements
S City R-3 (Residential Single-family – 3)	Blackberry Road
W County AG (Agricultural)	Single-family dwellings

Zoning History

Case #	Effective Date	Request Summary
N/A	N/A	The subject property is not currently located in the City's jurisdiction.

ZONING DISTRICT STANDARDS

District Summary *

Zoning District	Existing	Requested
Designation:	(County AG)	(City R-3)
Max. Density:	1 unit per acre	3 dwelling units per acre
Typical Uses	Primarily intended to provide locations for agricultural operations, farm residences, and farm tenant housing on large tracts of land. It also accommodates scattered non-farm residences on large tracts of land.	Primarily intended to accommodate low-to-moderate single-family detached residential developments. The overall gross density in R-3 will typically be 3 units per acre or less

**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 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 Polecat Creek Watersupply Watershed WS-III, Polecat Creek sub-basin Watershed

Floodplains N/A

Streams N/A

Other: Site must meet current Watershed requirements, Water Quality and Water Quantity control must be addressed for the entire site. Maximum BUA for High Density Development is 50% with sewer, Low Density is 24% with sewer. Water Quality must treat the first 1” of rainfall. Water Quantity Control must reduce the 1yr, 2yr & 10yr 24hr storms to pre-development levels. All new BUA must be treated by a State approved water quality device. State/Corps permits are required for any stream or wetland disturbance or crossing.

Utilities (Availability)

An 8” waterline and 6” forcemain are in the right a way. Private developer shall ensure all extensions to the property and on site water and sewer meet the City of Greensboro and NCDEQ’s Standards.

Airport Overlay District & Noise Cone

n/a

Landscaping & Tree Conservation Requirements

There are no Landscaping or Tree Conservation requirements for single-family residential uses.

Transportation

Street Classification: Blackberry Road – Collector Street.
 Wild Wolf Drive – Local Street.
 Old Randleman Road – Major Thoroughfare.

Site Access: N/A.

Traffic Counts: N/A.

Trip Generation: N/A.

Sidewalks: N/A

Transit in Vicinity: No.

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 **City CD-R-3 (Conditional District - Residential Single-family – 3)** zoning district would allow land uses that are compatible with the general character of the area.

GSO2040 Comprehensive Plan Policies

The **GSO2040** Future Land Use Map designates this location as **Residential**. The requested **City CD-R-3 (Conditional District - Residential Single-family – 3)** zoning district would allow uses that are generally consistent with those currently on the property and described in the **Residential** future land use designation. The **GSO2040** Future Built Form Map designates this location as **Exurban**. The subject property is located in **Growth Tier 2** of the Growth Tiers Map.

GSO2040 Written Policies:

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

GSO2040 Map Policies:

Future Land Use Map

Future Land Uses: The future land uses from that plan are described below.

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

Place Types: Areas that have a consistency of character, identity or purpose and that are most often bounded by corridors, natural features, or parks that create transition or separation from other neighborhoods that may not share the same characteristics.

Exurban Includes areas outside of Greensboro city limits, but within Growth Tiers 2 and 3. These areas are generally undeveloped or are developed in a form that reflects a rural context. When such sites designated as Exurban are annexed into the City of Greensboro, they are considered to be re-designated to one of the other Place Types, as appropriate, to reflect an urban context.

Growth Tiers Map

Growth Tiers: areas outside Greensboro’s city limits but inside the area in which the City can legally annex property and extend water and sewer services; this is called the Water Sewer Service Area (WSSA). Three tiers are delineated based on the cost to extend City services to the area, primarily water and sewer, solid waste collection, and Police and Fire protection, as well as long-term maintenance of City facilities. In Growth Tier 1, due to the nearby presence of existing City infrastructure, the City is able to extend services currently, if an annexation is requested; Tiers 2 and 3 will require significant City investment to serve.

Growth Tier 2: This is the area where growth, annexation, and the extension of public facilities is anticipated in 6 to 12 years, and where premature, fragmented, leapfrog, or inefficient development shall be discouraged by the City and County. Annexations will be discouraged until the full complement of City services can be efficiently provided, which is currently projected beyond the 6-year horizon.

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.

Other Plans

N/A

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Community Outreach

Applicant is strongly encouraged to discuss this proposed original zoning and development with the surrounding community.

Staff Annexation Analysis

The subject property is currently located in the County. On September 1, 2020 the Planning and Zoning Commission assumed responsibility for reviewing annexation petitions and making a recommendation to City Council regarding annexation requests. Upon submittal of a valid annexation petition, Planning staff forwards annexation requests to City services providers. These service providers include Water Resources (water and sewer), Fire Marshal’s Office, Police Department, and Solid Waste (trash and recycling services). Each service provider stated that infrastructure is in place to provide City services to this location. The Technical Review Committee recommended approval of this annexation request at its March 7, 2025 meeting. The subject property is located within the Tier 2 Growth Area on the Growth Strategy map in the Comprehensive Plan.

Staff Original Zoning Analysis

The subject property is approximately 0.8 acres and is a portion of the right of way for Blackberry Road. North of the subject property contains road right-of-way, zoned County AG. East of the request contains single-family dwellings and common elements, zoned City R-3. South of the subject property contains road right-of-way, zoned City R-3. West of the subject property contains single-family dwellings, zoned County AG.

The proposed original zoning request supports both the Comprehensive Plan’s Creating Great Places goal to expand Greensboro’s citywide network of unique neighborhoods offering residents of all walks of life a variety of quality housing choices.

The Comprehensive Plan’s Future Land Use Map designates this property as Residential. The Residential designation includes both single-and multi-family residential uses. Other uses should generally be in the scale of a Neighborhood or a Community 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 Exurban. The Exurban designation includes areas outside of Greensboro city limits, but within Growth Tiers 2 and 3. These areas are generally undeveloped or are developed in a form that reflects a rural context. When such sites designated as Exurban are annexed into the City of Greensboro, they are considered to be re-designated to one of the other Place Types, as appropriate, to reflect an urban context.

If this original zoning request is approved, the Future Built Form designation for the subject site is considered to be amended to Urban General in order to ensure an appropriate fit between future land use designation and zoning. 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.

- 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

The proposed R-3 zoning district is primarily intended to accommodate low-density single-family detached residential development of up to 3 dwelling units per acre. The uses permitted in the proposed zoning district are compatible with existing uses located on adjacent tracts.

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 annexation and original zoning request to the **City R-3 (Residential Single-family – 3)** zoning district.