



# BECOMING A CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Savannah is a city of long history. Designed in 1733, Savannah is one of the oldest planned cities in the United States, the historic resources give the area its unique character, create a sense of place, and contribute significantly to the high quality of life residents enjoy.*

*Savannah is committed to preserving its rich history and one-way historic preservation can be achieved is through the designation of local historic districts. The information below outlines the steps on how to become a Local Historic District.*

## WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

The purpose and intent of the Conservation Overlay District is to preserve the character of Savannah's older and historic neighborhoods which lack the protection of a local historic district overlay. It establishes a public process and standards to evaluate demolition of contributing buildings in order to ensure historic buildings are preserved and the character of the district is maintained.

Savannah's Conservation Districts include (see map on next or reverse page):

- Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent District
- Ardmore District
- Daffin Park-Parkside District
- Historic Carver Village-Flatman Village District

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

The process to become a Conservation District is outlined below.

### 1. Pre-Application Conference and Determination of Eligibility.

The applicant (neighborhood association other association that represents a majority of the property owners) must schedule a meeting with the MPC Executive Director and Preservation Director to discuss the requested Conservation District designation and determine the district's eligibility.

### 2. Initiation of Application.

If the district is determined eligible, the neighborhood association will submit a text/map amendment application and \$600 filing fee to the City of Savannah to add the district to the Conservation District Overlay within the Zoning Ordinance.

### 3. MPC Staff Makes a Recommendation to the Planning Commission Board.

The MPC staff reviews the application received and presents a recommendation to the Planning Commission Board for approval or denial based on whether the text/map amendments proposed meet all the standards. The recommendation will be

presented to the Commission for review on a designated predetermined MPC public meeting date. If staff recommends approval, the Commission may motion for approval or denial of the text/map amendments which the Commission will then vote upon. If the motion is approved the next step is a recommendation to City Council.

### 4. The Planning Commission Makes a Recommendation to City Council.

The Planning Commission Board makes a recommendation to be sent forward to City Council. The City Council meetings are held twice a month every other Thursday at 2 or 6:30PM. The request for approval of the text/map amendments is heard at two public hearings (a first and second reading) to allow for citizens to make public comment and to have a say in what is happening within the community. After the second public hearing and the second reading, City Council may motion for approval or denial then the motion will be voted upon.

### 5. City Council Will Adopt the Conservation District.

If City Council sees fit that the text/map amendments meet all the criteria and the motion for approval is passed, the result is the creation of a new Conservation District within the City of Savannah.

### 6. What Next?

Once the new Conservation District is formed, any demolition proposed within the district will be required to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Metropolitan Planning Commission which is the Preservation Department for the district's Historic Preservation Commission.

**Questions? Please contact the Historic Preservation Department of the MPC:**

912-651-1440

OR

[historic@thempc.org](mailto:historic@thempc.org)



# CITY OF SAVANNAH

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAP

