

Quick Reference Guide to Athens-Clarke County Ordinances

Disclaimer: This document is offered as an aid to understanding the requirements of the Athens-Clarke County ordinances that apply to Huntington Park. It is not meant to replace or change any meanings in the ordinances. And it is not intended to substitute for the advice of county staff. The Huntington Park Community Association is not liable for any errors or omissions in its content or for any loss or damage that may result from its use. For more precise legal requirements, please see *Excerpts from the Athens-Clarke County Ordinances* on the neighborhood website or visit the county code of ordinances website: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=12400>. It is strongly recommended that you contact the Building Permits and Inspections Department (706-613-3520), the Athens-Clarke County Planning Department (706-613-3515), or other appropriate county department for further details or to report a code violation. Violations of codes may result in a fine.

This document was updated in August, 2012.

Modifications That Require a Building Permit, Zoning Permit, or Special Permit

Modifications requiring a permit include, but are not limited to:

1. Structural changes or additions to the home such as porches, decks, and new rooms
2. Replacement of siding
3. Replacement of multiple windows
4. Outbuildings
5. Fences
6. Electrical, gas, heating, and air conditioning modifications unless specifically exempted
7. Fireplaces and stoves
8. Swimming pools
9. Repairs over \$2500

Modifications That Do Not Require a Permit

Exemptions include, but are not limited to:

1. Shingles and gutters
2. Kitchen counter tops
3. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work, and interior moldings, but not including replacement of interior wall coverings (such as drywall) or exterior wall coverings.
4. Swings and other playground equipment
5. Repair of plumbing leaks and stoppages
6. Repair or replacement of electrical devices of the same type
7. Portable appliances
8. Repairs under \$2500

Prohibited Uses of Property

1. Detached accessory dwellings except for class A or B manufactured homes
2. Boarding or rooming houses
3. Retail sales and service
4. Professional services and offices
5. Vehicle repairs
6. Wholesale sales
7. Wholesale nurseries
8. Kennels

9. Agriculture

Houses

1. Houses can be no higher than 30 feet
2. House numbers must be at least two inches high if posted on a mailbox or four inches high if posted on a house within 50 feet of the street. Increase the size 1 inch for every additional 50 feet.

Fences and Walls

1. A fence in the front yard cannot exceed four feet in height.
2. A fence or wall of any type in any rear or side yard cannot exceed eight feet in height. However, the fence or wall cannot exceed four feet in height if it is within ten feet of any public right-of-way (since a typical right of way in HP is nine-eleven feet wide, this limitation would apply to fences and walls within 19-21 feet of a side street; to view the right-of-way for your lot, check the ACC tax maps at <http://www.qpublic.net/clarke/search.html> and use the aerial view).
3. The framework for newly constructed fences and walls shall face toward the builder's property, except where fences are jointly constructed.

Accessory Structures

1. Excluding swimming pools, no more than three accessory structures per lot are permitted, which may not total more than 25 percent of the total square footage of the house on the lot (see *Excerpts from the Athens-Clarke County Ordinances* for a list of permitted accessory structures).
2. Accessory structures, including outbuildings, satellite dishes and pools, must be set back 50 feet from any street and 3 feet from interior property lines. An accessory structure must be separated from other structures by 10 feet and can be no more than 15 feet high.
3. Accessory structures are not permitted in a front yard, unless erected more than 100 feet from the front street right of way (see #2 in the fences and walls section regarding rights of way).
4. A swimming pool which has a minimum depth of 24 inches must be completely surrounded by a fence or wall not less than four feet in height. All gates or doors opening through the enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device for keeping the gate or door securely closed at all times when not in actual use.

Lawns and Landscaping

1. It is unlawful for any owner of an occupied lot to permit or maintain on such lot any growth of undesirable vegetation.
2. No landscaping, fences, terraces or other natural or artificial features adjacent to any street shall be of a nature impairing visibility from or of approaching vehicular traffic where such visibility is important to safety nor shall such features in any way create potential hazards to pedestrians.
3. At all intersections a sight triangle clear of landscaping, fences, terraces or other natural or artificial features shall be enforced on the property frontage along the roadway.

Leaf and Limb Pickup

1. Brush and limbs shall be placed between curb and sidewalk. Where there is no sidewalk, limbs may be placed on the owner's property near the street. Limbs shall be stacked no closer than 50 feet from an intersection and shall be in a manner not to obstruct the view of traffic. Such debris shall not be placed in the gutter of any roadway at any time. Leaves, limbs, grass or other trimmings shall be placed in an orderly manner so as not to obstruct the free and normal flow of any drainage system or the safe vision or movement of any pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
2. Limbs shall not be over six feet in length or four inches in diameter and shall be completely trimmed.
3. All limbs and leaves shall be separated with limbs placed in one direction, that is, with all cut ends together.

4. Shrubbery clippings, vines, briars and other running plants must be separated from all other leaf and limbs placed near the street for collection.
5. Leaves and grass shall be placed in paper lawn bags or other approved biodegradable containers and placed between curb and sidewalk. Alternate containers must be approved by the director of the solid waste department.
6. Dirt, rocks, grass roots and other plant roots containing soil shall not be collected by Athens-Clarke County.
7. Individuals or companies under contract to collect leaves and limbs shall haul and dispose of all such refuse. (The Athens-Clarke County only collects leaf and limb debris that a property owner has generated, not debris generated by lawn service companies or tree surgeons)
8. Such debris as leaves, limbs or other trimmings shall not be placed within a public right-of-way more than ten calendar days prior to the Monday of the week scheduled for the collection and removal of such debris by Athens-Clarke County or a private or commercial collector.

Signs

1. Signs in the front yard require a permit except for: temporary real estate signs, election signs, flags, temporary construction signs, residential nameplates, temporary window signs, temporary free expression signs, and on-site directional signs.
2. Signs tacked, painted, posted, marked or otherwise affixed to trees, rocks, utility poles or other similar structures or natural features are prohibited (applies to trees and utility poles along the right-of-way and the stop sign at the front entrance).

Public Safety

1. Disorderly conduct is prohibited (see *Excerpts from the Athens-Clarke County Ordinances* for a list of prohibited behaviors and activities).
2. It is unlawful to fire a rifle within 900 feet of a home without the owner's permission.
3. It is unlawful to fire other firearms within 600 feet of a home without the owner's permission.
4. It is unlawful to fire any firearm within 150 feet of a street.
5. It is unlawful to shoot birds or animals unless the bird or animal is endangering a person or property.
6. Open burning of trash or vegetative matter such as leaves, grasses, tree limbs or stumps is prohibited.

Parking

1. It is unlawful for any vehicle to be parked within ten feet of a fire hydrant or driveway.
2. Parking on the right of way, in the middle of the street, or in front of a driveway is prohibited (see #2 in the fences and walls section regarding rights of way).
3. It is unlawful to park in one place on the street for more than 48 hours.
4. It is unlawful to wash, grease or repair any vehicle in the streets.
5. It is unlawful to park junked vehicles on private property for longer than 30 days.

Noise Control

1. During the day and continuing until 11 PM (12 midnight on Saturday and Sunday), it is unlawful to create any noise that can be heard at a distance of 300 feet or more, including noise from sound-making devices, commercial loudspeakers, shouting, whistling, singing, and parties. Between 11 PM (12 midnight on Saturday and Sunday) and 7 AM, it is unlawful to create any noise that can be heard at a distance of 100 feet or more.
2. It is unlawful to operate landscape maintenance motorized devices such as leaf blowers, lawn mowers, or chain saws between 8 PM and 8 AM.
3. It is unlawful for any person in a motor vehicle on a street or highway to play a sound-making device or instrument from within the motor vehicle so that the sound is audible at a distance of 100 feet or more from the motor vehicle (Georgia law).

Animal Control

1. Domestic animals must be controlled through one of the following: on a leash when off the owner's property, within a car, attended by the owner when on the owner's property, or confined in a pen, fence or structure.
2. Any tether used to temporarily confine an animal while attended by its owner must be attached to a collar or harness and shall not be wrapped directly around the animal's neck. Such tethers shall not be excessively heavy or weighted so as to inhibit the animal's movement.
3. It is unlawful to let a domestic animal go on another person's property without permission; attack or menace pedestrians; disturb the peace by loud, persistent, habitual barking or howling (requires two complaining witnesses); or roam unconfined while in heat.
4. It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to refuse or fail to immediately remove any feces deposited by such animal upon public streets or other public property or upon any private property.
5. It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to permit such animal to defecate or urinate upon any private property without permission except that upon which he or she resides or owns.
6. All domestic animals shall be provided with sanitary shelter from the elements. Said shelter shall be designed, constructed and maintained to protect the animal from the elements, and of a size to allow the animal sufficient space to comfortably stand, turn around, and lie down.
7. All domestic animals shall be provided with a safe and sanitary confinement area big enough to allow for adequate exercise.
8. All domestic animals shall be provided with clean, potable water at all times.
9. A domestic animal owner must promptly remove and dispose of animal excrement and food wastes.
10. Owners of guard dogs must post a "Warning Guard Dog" notice.
11. Domestic dogs and cats must have a current rabies inoculation and wear a current rabies tag.
12. Breeding of any animals and keeping of livestock is prohibited.

Miscellaneous

1. Private property must be maintained free of litter.
2. It is unlawful for any person to throw paper, organic waste, grass cuttings, or any other trash or garbage onto another person's property, or on any of the streets and rights-of-way.
3. It is unlawful for any person to place or otherwise cause to be placed any tree limbs or leaves in or on any public street inside the curb line.
4. Plans for land-disturbing activities shall contain provisions for application of soil erosion and sedimentation and pollution control measures and practices.
5. It is unlawful to destroy, damage or tamper with any meter, pipe, conduit, wire, line, post, lamp or other apparatus owned by Athens-Clarke County or by any company engaged in the manufacture or sale of electricity, gas, water, telephone, cable television or other public service.
6. Door-to-door salespersons must have a permit from the county and must wear an ID badge obtained from the county.
7. In the Huntington Park zoning district, it is unlawful for any residence to have more than two unrelated individuals residing therein, nor shall any family have more than one unrelated individual residing with such family. However, one unrelated individual residing with a family may have minor children residing with him or her.