

## Application Disclaimer

**PRIOR TO STARTING YOUR APPLICATION, DID YOU REVIEW THE LCI GUIDEBOOK, AND DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE?**

We strongly recommend you review the [application guidebook](#) while filling out this application.

✓ Yes, I acknowledge that I reviewed the guidebook and fully understand the program as explained.

## Section 1: Applicant Information

### NAME OF ORGANIZATION

City of Stone Mountain

### NAME OF PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON

Darnetta Tyus

### JOB TITLE

City Manager

### DEPARTMENT

City Manager

### ADDRESS

875 Main Street  
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083  
United States

### PHONE

(770) 879-4980

### EMAIL

[dtyus@stonemountaincity.org](mailto:dtyus@stonemountaincity.org)

## Section 2: Type of Assistance

### TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

- Tactical: Advances the implementation of a priority action identified in a study within the LCI area.

## Section 3: Project Information

### NAME OF PROJECT

Connecting Parks, PATHs and Public Spaces in the City of Stone Mountain

### NAME OF LCI AREA AND LAST PLAN ADOPTION DATE

: Stone Mountain. The last LCI update was in 2013. The Stone Mountain Village Master Plan (Village Forward) was adopted in 2020 and the City of Stone Mountain Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2021.

### TOTAL COST OF PROJECT

\$250,000.00

### PROPOSED LOCAL MATCH (MINIMUM 20% OF PROJECT COST)

\$50,000.00

#### PROJECT LOCATION/EXTENTS

The project locations are all within the area known as Stone Mountain Village, which is the downtown/city center of the City of Stone Mountain. The boundaries of this area were defined in a 2003 LCI Study and include the City Cemetery north of the Five Points intersection at East Ponce de Leon/James B Rivers Memorial Drive; as well as neighborhoods to the east and southeast of this intersection until the western edge of Stone Mountain Park. On the south, the boundary runs from the edge of Stone Mountain Park on the east, along Lucille Street across Main Street and north on Ridge Road to Cloud Street. A line running south along Ferndale Street south to Cloud Street including the VFW Park delineates the western edge of the area. Specific project locations include the two PATH trails that come into the city (the Stone Mountain Trail near the Five Points intersection, and the Stone Mountain Park Trail near the Visitor Center and City Hall), along with the half-mile gap between the segments. City parks included in this project are Leila Mason Park in historic Shermantown; Randolph Medlock Park on the south side off of Ridge Avenue; the VFW fields located behind the Post Office; and McCurdy Park on West Mountain Street across from the Post Office. The City Cemetery is another public space that could be included in this study.

#### UPLOAD STUDY AREA MAP

- [sm-map-of-parks.pdf](#)

#### HAS THIS PROJECT BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A PREVIOUS LCI STUDY, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OR ANOTHER RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY?

Yes

#### PLEASE NAME THE STUDY, AND REFERENCE THE SECTION OR PAGE THAT RELATES TO THIS PROJECT

LCI 2003 Study - page 61; LCI 2013 Update - pages 20-21; Village Forward Master Plan - page 118; Stone Mountain 2021 Comprehensive Plan - page 31

#### IS THE PROJECT WITHIN AN EXISTING LCI AREA?

Yes

#### REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

- [stone-mountain-report-of-accomplishments-2023-for-lci.pdf](#)

#### PROVIDE A BRIEF STUDY GOAL AND DESCRIPTION. IN YOUR PROJECT DESCRIPTION, PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES THAT THIS STUDY WILL CREATE.

Connecting Parks, PATHs and Public Spaces will result in a plan that connects the City of Stone Mountain's many vibrant outdoor resources in a pedestrian- and bike-friendly way, encouraging residents to get outdoors and explore their own city and bringing in more visitors and the jobs and economic boost that comes with them. It will encourage residents and visitors to access and explore the city and nearby Stone Mountain Park without their cars by creating a seamless bicycle and pedestrian loop between Stone Mountain Park and the city parks and public green spaces. The Stone Mountain PATH runs through the city, but a half-mile gap in the city center is often daunting for cyclists. There are at least two ideas for connecting the PATHs: along the railroad or via a 2nd Street Sidepath. This study will look at both alternatives and find the best and most feasible way forward, outlining realistic funding sources and timelines to make this priority a reality. This study will also take a step back and look at the city's other existing and needed infrastructure (including bike parking and lanes; sidewalks and crossings; and park amenities). The final plan will create a holistic, comprehensive system that uses green infrastructure as much as possible (permeable pavements; additional trees along walking/biking paths) and is responsive to both resident needs and visitor wishes.

#### HOW DOES THIS PROPOSED LCI STUDY ADDRESS A NEED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

This tactical study addresses a number of longstanding needs in the City of Stone Mountain. The overarching needs include improving the city's resources for pedestrians and cyclists; creating better links between the city's existing outdoor and public spaces; and finding new ways to attract visitors. Specifically, connecting the two PATH trails would

provide a safer, more comfortable biking experience for recreational or novice riders, bringing more visitors to the Village without the use of a vehicle. The City has a good framework of community spaces and parks, but, as a 2003 LCI study noted, "improvements should be made to the existing network of bike paths and sidewalks to connect new parks and community facilities. Specifically, extensions of bike/pedestrian routes from the PATH into the community are encouraged." The more recent 2021 city comprehensive plan echoed this same idea, highlighting the connection to the PATH network "as another unique characteristic of the Town Center" that "should be expanded in the future, including more direct connections to greenspace and trail networks as well as linking parks to one another. All of these efforts, accompanied by the addition of sidewalks and creation of other pedestrian-friendly trail/bike routes will link neighboring communities and major destinations."

**HOW DOES YOUR LCI STUDY ADVANCE OR ADDRESS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING LCI PRIORITIES. IF THE APPLICATION IS SELECTED, THE ANSWERS PROVIDED WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE LCI STUDY SCOPE. PROJECTS DO NOT NEED TO ADVANCE ALL OF THE LCI PRIORITIES.**

This study will address the LCI Priority of Climate Change by encouraging more cycling and walking in and to the City of Stone Mountain and the state's busiest tourist attraction, Stone Mountain Park. Rather than driving, visitors will be able to ride their bikes or walk to visit both the city center, the city's parks and Stone Mountain Park. In addition, the plan will look at ways to incorporate green infrastructure - for example, permeable pavements and additional trees along walking/biking paths - in the overall plan to improve the connections between the parks, cycling paths and other public spaces in the city.

**ARC STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT LCI APPLICANTS ACTIVELY ENGAGE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LCI APPLICATION. LIST STAKEHOLDERS (E.G., COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOS), BUSINESSES AND/OR INSTITUTIONS, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS) INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS APPLICATION, AS WELL AS HOW THEY WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS, IF THE APPLICATION IS SELECTED.**

The City will involve many local and regional stakeholders for their input and involvement in this plan, including city residents, business and property owners, elected officials and city administration; the city Parks & Recreation Committee; the city Planning Commission; the Downtown Development Authority; Stone Mountain Main Street; Stone Mountain Visitors Center; Stone Mountain Park; the PATH Foundation; and visitors to the city. The city currently is conducting an online survey of parks and recreation needs. The study will include information from that survey, as well as stakeholder meetings, focus groups, open houses and other opportunities for community engagement.

**WHO IN YOUR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY UNDER-REPRESENTED IN LOCAL PLANNING PROCESSES? HOW WILL THESE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS BE INCLUDED IN THIS PLANNING PROCESS?**

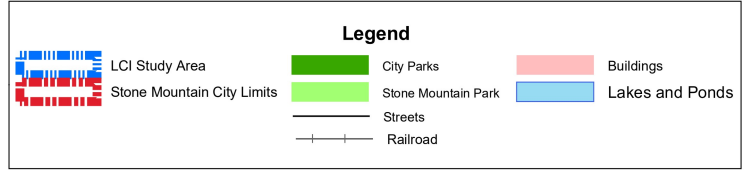
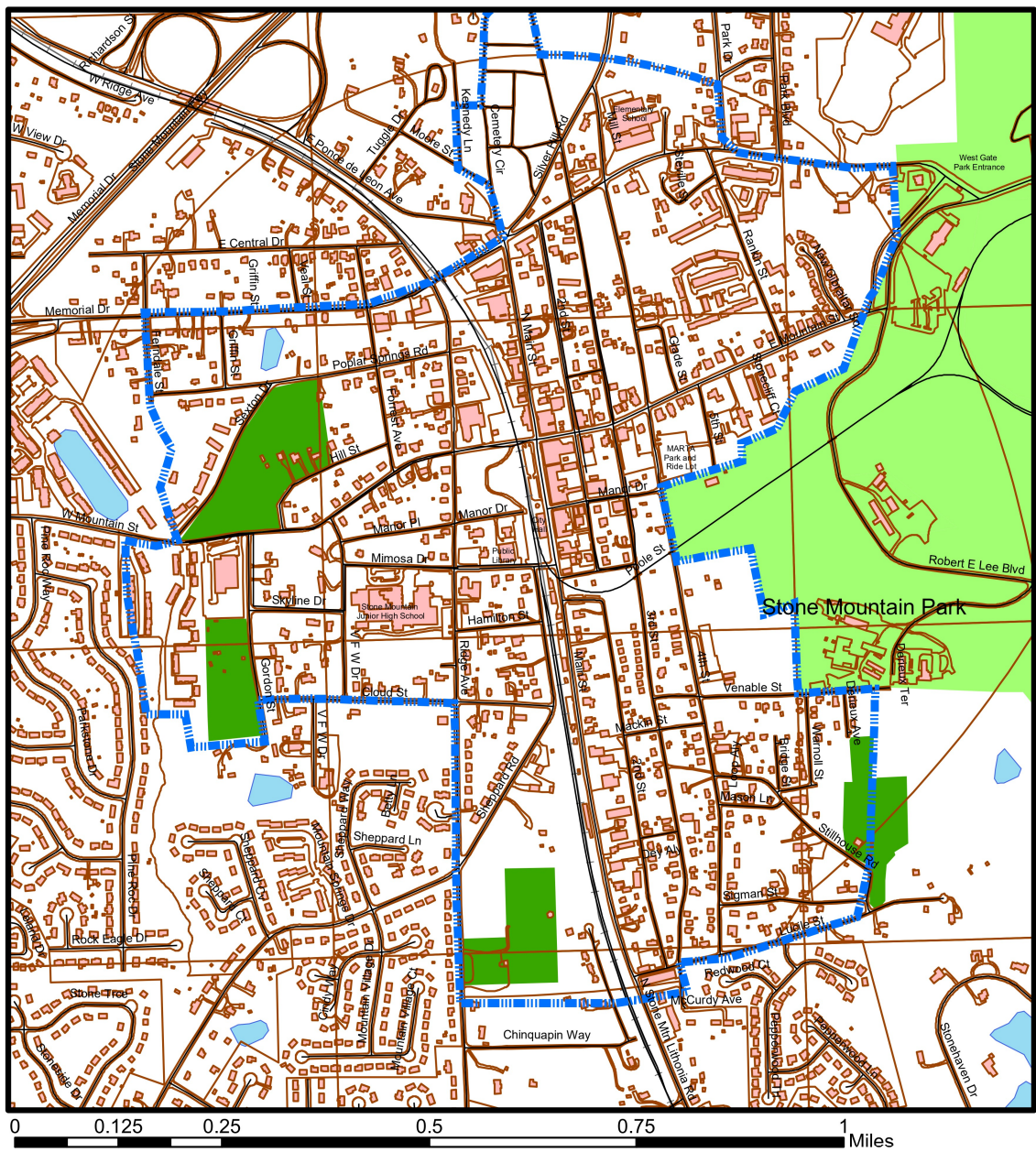
Stone Mountain's minority community - specifically, the city's African American residents - have historically been underrepresented in local planning processes. The planning for this project will make certain that thoughtful, broad and inclusive community involvement is central to the process every step of the way. Community-based focus groups, stakeholder meetings and other outreach methods will ensure that all voices and viewpoints are heard and included.

**Section 5: Commitment**

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

- [stone-mountain-letters-of-support.pdf](#)

# Stone Mountain Village LCI Study Area



**Robert and Company**  
Engineers, Architects, and Planners  
96 Poplar Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
RAC 0305110

**DWA**  
Dip Winters Associates, Inc.



# ***City of Stone Mountain***

875 Main Street  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083  
Beverly Jones, Mayor  
phone: 770-498-8984  
fax: 770-498-8609



March 3, 2023

Ms. Lauren Blaszyk  
Atlanta Regional Commission – Livable Centers Initiative  
229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
RE: Connecting Parks, PATHs, and Public Spaces Plan Proposal

Dear Ms. Blaszyk,

The City of Stone Mountain is pleased to express our full support of the attached ARC Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Application for “Connecting Parks, PATHs and Public Spaces in the City of Stone Mountain,” while committing to provide the 20% match required for the LCI grant if awarded.

The City has previously conducted LCI studies and updates in 2003, 2008, and 2013. These plans led to significant improvements in the City, and we are appreciative of the past and present support of this meaningful program.

This latest application will also lead to meaningful improvements for the City of Stone Mountain. In the 2003 study, some 48 acres, or 11%, of the City’s existing land was dedicated to parks, recreation, or conservation. We have four municipal parks and a historic cemetery in our City. We are also a part of the metro area’s busy PATH trail system and located next to the state’s most-visited attraction, Stone Mountain Park.

We have a bounty of outdoor and natural resources – what we need now is a way to bring them all together to make them more accessible and attractive to our residents and visitors. This is where we are asking for your support.

We envision a future where residents and visitors from across the metro area can leave their cars at home and easily access Stone Mountain Park. They can pass through a vibrant city center in Stone Mountain Village while taking a lunch break at one of our local restaurants.

We look forward to being a part of the study’s planning process. Thank you again for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Dr. Beverly Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the word "Sincerely,".

**Dr. Beverly Jones, Mayor**  
**City of Stone Mountain**

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

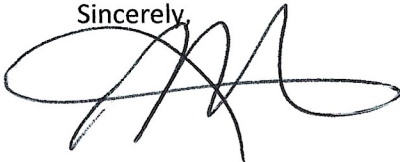
From: Mrs. Michelle Dunbar  
Co-Owner of Aztec Cycles  
901 Main Street  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Ms. Lauren Blasyk Atlanta Regional Commission – Livable Centers initiative  
229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Ms. Blaszyk,

I am pleased to write a letter supporting the application for "Connecting Parks, PATHs and Public Spaces" submitted by the City of Stone Mountain. I strongly support this grant application and the study which will focus on the accessibility and connectivity of city parks with walking and cycling paths within the city. As a business owner in the City of Stone Mountain, I am excited about strengthening the local economy and the new opportunities for an improved quality of life that will be made possible with the grant funding for the proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MD' with a large loop and a horizontal stroke.

Michelle Dunbar  
Co-Owner of Aztec Cycles, Inc.





## *GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club*

P.O. Box 28  
Stone Mountain, GA 30086  
[www.stonemountainwomansclub.org](http://www.stonemountainwomansclub.org)

March 6, 2023

Ms. Lauren Blasyk  
Atlanta Regional Commission – Livable Centers initiative  
229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Ms. Blaszyk,

We are pleased to write a letter supporting the application for “Connecting Parks, PATHs and Public Spaces” submitted by the City of Stone Mountain. I strongly support this grant application and the study which will focus on the accessibility and connectivity of city parks with walking and cycling paths within the city.

As a community organization in the City of Stone Mountain, we are excited about strengthening the local economy and the new opportunities for an improved quality of life that will be made possible with the grant funding for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

*Sheila Hartman*

Sheila Hortman  
Stone Mountain Woman's Club

Completed Partially Completed On Hold Cancelled

2013 Plan Assessment - Progress towards projects listed in 2013 LCI Implementation Program	Planned Fiscal Year(s)	Total Project Cost	Local Cost	Funding Source(s)	Responsible Party	Status
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Dissolve the current Tax Allocation District #1 and create one or more districts based upon new redevelopment plans.	2013/14				City	On Hold
Create a new TAD along the south end of Main Street.	2018 +				City	On Hold
Apply for an LCI Supplemental Study grant to prepare an Economic Development/Retail Recruiting/Parking Plan and hire a part time economic development person to execute plan.	2013/14	\$ 100,000.00		ARC	City	Partially completed.The City has a full time economic development director & a 2013 parking study has been completed
Create incentives for businesses that relocate into the Village from outside of the City.	2013/13				City	Partially Completed
Pursue designation as a State of Georgia Opportunity Zone which provides a \$3500 tax credit for two or more new jobs created.	2018 +				City	The city is a rural zone provides Job Tax Credits up to \$2,000.00 per new full time employee per year.
Establish infill commercial and residential development incentives.	2018 +				City	Partially Completed
Hold more festivals and events downtown.	2018 +				City/private	Completed
Recruit bed & breakfast, hospitality inn or similar lodging facility to locate in Stone Mountain Village	2014/15				City/DDA	Completed. We have a Stone Mountain Manor.
Facilitate the expansion of Georgia Military College	2016/17				City	Completed
Develop and implement a plan for to promote heritage and cultural tourism.	2018 +				City/private	On Hold
Adopt an ordinance providing for the establishment of temporary vendors such as food trucks.	2013/14				City	Completed.
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>						
Reconstruct the Five Points intersection to improve traffic flow and pedestrian access.	2014/15				City/GDOT	Underway. This is a priority project for 2023. The City is actively pursuing partnerships and funding to design and construct roundabout at this intersection.
Develop a roundabout, or other traffic dispersal/mitigation design solution, at the south end of City, as a way to encourage traffic to use other North/South streets (2nd St.) in addition to Main Street.	2018 +				City/GDOT	Partially Completed: Underway. This is a priority project for 2023. The City is actively pursuing partnerships and funding to design and construct roundabout at this intersection.
Establish scheduled round trip transportation service from city to Stone Mountain Park with MARTA or private vendor.	2015/16				City/ MARTA/Private	Cancelled
Provide sidewalk/streetscape improvements along South Main Street.	2018 +				City/DDA	Cancelled
Create "gateways" – landscape and signage improvements – along the major roads leading into the town center.	2015/16				City/DDA/GDOT	Partially Completed



Provide alternative, safer bike routes into and through the village, including a PATH connection to the Visitor Center via Memorial, Ridge and Poplar Springs (along the west side of the railroad tracks) to cross back over the railroad at Mimosa Drive.	2014/15	City/PATH	Partially Completed: Underway. This LCI application is intended to look at ways to make this happen.
Construct new sidewalks and renovate existing sidewalks connecting Main Street to adjacent streets in a cohesive grid, including wide sidewalks along Sheppard Road to provide connections for walkers and family recreational bicycle riders from the surrounding neighborhoods into the village center .	2016/17	City/DDA	On Hold
Close off / Get rid of Silver Hill connection to 5 Points	2018 +	City/GDOT	On Hold
Provide greenway trails along the existing streams, like Barbashela Creek, in existing neighborhoods to provide walking and biking connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools and the village center.	2018 +	City	Partially underway. This LCI application is intended to look at ways to provide walking and biking connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools and the village center.
Meet with CSX Railroad to develop improvements to the bridge over JBR/Memorial Drive	2016/17	City/CSX	CSX planning for 2024
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES</b>			
Develop a plan to utilize the Pavilion property and make it available as a community gathering place	2015/16	City/DDA	Completed
Construct a senior citizen community center on the DeKalb Housing Authority site.	2014/15	City	Completed
Acquire historic rock gym from DeKalb County School District for community activities	2015/16	City	Partially Completed: Priority project in 2025
Renovate Historic Train Depot as a welcome center, city museum and community meeting space with public restroom facilities for the downtown	2013/2014	\$300,000 City	The City is currently in discussion with Stone Mountain Park to complete renovations. Renovations have been completed for the welcome center, community meeting space, and public restrooms.
<b>HOUSING</b>			
Negotiate with MARTA to obtain the former 4th Street Park and Ride Lot and solicit development proposals.	2016/17	City/MARTA	Underway. Priority project in 2023.
Recruit builder or builders for the vacant subdivision lots at the intersection of Cloud Street and Ridge Avenue.	2017/18	City/private	Cancelled
<b>OTHER LOCAL INITIATIVES</b>			
The City of Stone Mountain will continue to build, plan, develop and foster a welcoming environment for artists in order to increase the City's presence as an arts and cultural friendly municipality by sponsoring festivals, events and obtaining designation as one of the "Best Art Towns in America," as defined by John Villani publications.	On-going	City/DDA/private	Partially Completed