

10 Acres to Host a Wedding?

New zoning could limit event venues to large parcels only.

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THE DATA

10 acres

Minimum parcel size for new special event facilities

The draft zoning update sets a 10-acre floor for new venues.

This requirement effectively excludes most existing hospitality houses, which operate on parcels under an acre. The rule applies to all new facilities, creating a significant barrier to entry for small-scale event operators and limiting geographic diversity in event hosting.

Source: WRDW/WAGT · Published November 19, 2026
https://www.wrdw.com/2026/11/19/augusta-zoning-draft-adds-special-event-facilities/



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01

Zoning favors scale over accessibility

By mandating 10-acre plots, the draft inherently favors large developers and institutional players over local entrepreneurs. This shift could reduce the number of community-driven event spaces, especially in neighborhoods like Summerville or downtown Augusta, where smaller venues currently thrive.

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02

Agricultural zoning as a hidden gatekeeper

The draft places special event facilities only in AG (agricultural) zoning districts, effectively restricting them to rural or undeveloped land. This creates a paradox: events that celebrate Augusta's urban identity—like Masters-related gatherings—are now tied to rural land use, potentially disconnecting them from the city's cultural core.

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