

PROFESSIONAL BIO: LAMAR SMITH

Lamar Smith is founder and president of the Lamar Smith Signature Development Group and has built his reputation on vision, integrity and respect for the natural beauty of Coastal Georgia. His strategic land development and building vision, both commercial and residential, focus on genuine master planning based on how families live, work, and play. He combines that aspect with a deep concern for how the area's growth should be managed and the coastal landscape preserved.

Lamar formed his vision for land development in Atlanta before moving back home in 1994 to Reidsville, Georgia. With the coastal area experiencing rampant growth, he saw a lack of planning in respect to distance and relationships among residential, commercial, and recreational areas. Because of his experience with sprawl in the Atlanta area, Lamar became a leader and innovator in introducing the concept of increased land efficiency, creating communities where people can live without getting in their cars for everything.

Lamar has studied responsible land development strategies and New Urbanism to maximize green space and decrease sprawl, attending workshops with Andreas Duany, the visionary for Seaside and Celebration, Florida. He continues to research and visit communities that are models for responsible growth and works with local planning and zoning boards, city councils and other developers on issues of smart growth. His team includes talented land planners, builders, landscapers, engineers, biologists, marketing and demographics experts who join in his efforts.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, he lives in Reidsville with his wife, Edie, and their two sons, Taylor and Steven. Lamar enjoys traveling with his family, piloting his plane, and bird hunting. What began with his concept of moving roads to save the area's massive old live oak trees has become a driving force within to introduce and expand smart growth strategies throughout the area.

Recognition & Awards

1995 Small Business of the Year, Tattnall County Chamber of Commerce
1997 Leadership Georgia of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce
1997 Georgia Trend Magazine's '40 Under 40'
2001 Builder of the Year, Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah
2004 President, Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah
2004 Appointment to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Task Force, Atlanta

Community Involvement

Coastal Area YMCA Board
Tattnall County Airport Authority Board
Tri-County Development Board
Reidsville Downtown Development Authority
Past President and Member, Reidsville Rotary Club
Deacon, Reidsville Baptist Church
Past President and Member, Pinewood Christian Academy League
Fundraising Committee, Boy Scouts of America
Member and Supporter, YMCA
Member and Supporter, Fellowship of Christian Athletes