

Prepared by / Upon recording, please return to:

Jonathan F. Young  
John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods, Inc.  
1950 Sullivan Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30337

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**DECLARATION OF PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AND EASEMENTS**

**FOR**

**RIVER OAKS**

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TABLE OF EXHIBITS

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<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Name</u>
"A"	Definitions
"B"	Property Submitted
"C"	Additional Property which can be Unilaterally Submitted by Declarant
"D"	Bylaws of River Oaks Citizens Assembly, Inc.

**DECLARATION OF PROTECTIVE COVENANTS AND EASEMENTS  
FOR  
RIVER OAKS**

THIS DECLARATION is made on the date hereinafter set forth by John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods, Inc., a Georgia corporation (hereinafter sometimes called "Declarant").

**Background Statement**

Declarant is the owner, or if not the owner has the written consent of the owner, of the real property described in Article II, Section 1 of this Declaration.

Declarant desires to subject the real property described in Article II, Section 1 hereof to the provisions of this Declaration to create a residential community of single-family housing and to provide for the subjecting of other real property to the provisions of this Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant hereby declares that the real property described in Article II, Section 1 of this Declaration, including the improvements constructed or to be constructed thereon, is hereby subjected to the provisions of this Declaration and shall be held, sold, transferred, conveyed, used, occupied and mortgaged or otherwise encumbered subject to the covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, assessments and liens hereinafter set forth, which are for the purpose of protecting the value and desirability of, and which shall run with the title to, the real property hereby or hereafter made subject hereto, shall be binding on all persons having any right, title or interest in all or any portion of the real property now or hereafter made subject hereto, their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors, successors-in-title and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each and every owner of all or any portion thereof.

**Article I  
Definitions**

Unless the context shall prohibit, certain words used in this Declaration shall be defined as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof.

**Article II  
Property Subject to this Declaration**

**Section 1. Property Hereby Subjected to this Declaration.** The real property described in Exhibit "B" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof is, by the recording of this Declaration, subject to the covenants and restrictions hereafter set forth and, by virtue of the recording of this Declaration, shall be held, transferred, sold, conveyed, used, occupied and mortgaged or otherwise encumbered subject to this Declaration.

**Section 2. Other Property.** Only the real property described in Section 1 of this Article II is hereby made subject to this Declaration; provided, however, by one or more Supplementary

Declarations, Declarant and the Association have the right, but not the obligation, to subject other real property to this Declaration, as hereinafter provided.

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**Article III**  
**Association Membership and Voting Rights**

**Section 1. Membership.** Every Person who is the record owner of a fee or undivided fee interest in any Lot that is subject to this Declaration shall be deemed to have a membership in the Association. The foregoing is not intended to include Persons who hold an interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation, and the giving of a security interest shall not terminate the Owner's membership. No Owner, whether one or more Persons, shall have more than one membership per Lot. In the event of multiple Owners of a Lot, votes and rights of use and enjoyment shall be as provided in this Declaration and in the Bylaws. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any Lot. The rights and privileges of membership, including the right to vote and to hold office, may be exercised by a member or the member's spouse, but in no event shall more than one vote be cast for each Lot owned.

**Section 2. Voting.** Members shall be entitled to one vote for each Lot owned. When more than one Person holds an ownership interest in any Lot, the vote for such Lot shall be exercised as those Owners themselves determine and advise the Secretary of the Association prior to any meeting. In the absence of such advice, the Lot's vote shall be suspended in the event more than one Person seeks to exercise it.

**Article IV**  
**Assessments**

**Section 1. Purpose of Assessments.** The assessments provided for herein shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health, welfare, common benefit and enjoyment of the Owners and Occupants of Lots, including the maintenance of real and personal property, all as may be more specifically authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation for Assessments.** Each Owner of any Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, covenants and agrees to pay to the Association: (a) annual assessments or charges; (b) special assessments, such assessments to be established and collected as hereinafter provided; and (c) specific assessments against any particular Lot which are established pursuant to the terms of this Declaration, including, but not limited to, reasonable fines as may be imposed in accordance with the terms of this Declaration. All such assessments, together with late charges, interest on the principal amount due at a rate not to exceed the lesser of the maximum rate permitted by law or eighteen percent (18%) per annum, costs and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, shall be a charge on the land and shall be a continuing lien upon the Lot against which each assessment is made. Each such assessment, together with late charges, interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, shall also be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Lot at the time the assessment fell due. Each Owner shall be

personally liable for his or her portion of each assessment coming due while he or she is the Owner of a Lot, and his or her grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for such portion thereof as may be due and payable at the time of conveyance; provided, however, the liability of a grantee for the unpaid assessments of its grantor shall not apply to any first Mortgagee taking title through foreclosure proceedings or deed in lieu of foreclosure.

The Association shall, within ten (10) days after receiving a written request therefor and for a reasonable charge, furnish a certificate signed by an officer of the Association setting forth whether the assessments on a specified Lot have been paid. A properly executed certificate of the Association as to the status of assessments on a Lot shall be binding upon the Association as of the date of issuance.

Assessments shall be paid at a uniform rate per Lot in such manner and on such dates as may be fixed by the Board of Directors, which may include, without limitation, acceleration, upon ten (10) days' written notice, of assessments for delinquents. Unless otherwise provided by the Board, assessments shall be paid in annual installments.

The monthly costs of operating the Association may fluctuate dramatically during each budget year. Therefore, the Board is not required to prorate the assessment obligation of any Owner who has not lived in the Community for a full year. For example, if the bulk of the costs of operating the Association are likely to be incurred in the summer months, any Owner moving into the Community after the beginning of the budget year but prior to the summer months may be required to pay full assessments.

**Section 3. Computation.** It shall be the duty of the Board to prepare a budget covering the estimated costs of operating the Association during the coming year, which may include a capital contribution or reserve in accordance with a capital budget separately prepared. The Board shall cause the budget and the assessment to be levied against each Lot for the year (or portion thereof in the case of the initial budget) to be delivered to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the due date for payment of the assessment (or the first installment thereof). The assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a meeting by a Majority of the Total Association Vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, in the event the membership disapproves the proposed budget or the Board fails for any reason so to determine the budget for the succeeding year, then and until such time as a budget shall have been determined, as provided herein, the budget in effect for the then current year shall continue for the succeeding year.

**Section 4. Special Assessments.** In addition to the other assessments authorized herein, the Association may levy special assessments. So long as the total amount of special assessments allocable to each Lot does not exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) in any one fiscal year, the Board may impose the special assessment. Except as provided in Article VII, Section 2 hereof, any special assessment which would cause the amount of special assessments allocable to any Lot to exceed this limitation shall be effective only if approved by a Majority of the Total Association Vote. Special assessments shall be paid as determined by the Board, and the Board may permit special assessments to be paid in installments extending beyond the fiscal



year in which the special assessment is imposed.

**Section 5. Lien for Assessments.** All sums assessed against any Lot pursuant to this Declaration, together with late charges, interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, as provided herein, shall be secured by a lien on such Lot in favor of the Association, and the Association shall be entitled to file such a lien in the land records of the county in which the Lot is located. Such lien shall be superior to all other liens and encumbrances on such Lot, except for (a) liens of ad valorem taxes, or (b) liens for all sums unpaid on a first Mortgage, or (c) liens for all sums on any Mortgage to Declarant duly recorded in the land records of the county where the Community is located and all amounts advanced pursuant to such Mortgage and secured thereby in accordance with the terms of such instrument.

All other Persons acquiring liens or encumbrances on any Lot after this Declaration shall have been recorded in such records shall be deemed to consent that such liens or encumbrances shall be inferior to future liens for assessments, as provided herein, whether or not prior consent is specifically set forth in the instruments creating such liens or encumbrances.

**Section 6. Effect of Nonpayment of Assessments: Remedies of the Association.** Any sums (including assessments or installments thereof) assessed against any Lot pursuant to this Declaration which are not paid when due shall be delinquent. Any such sums delinquent for a period of more than ten (10) days shall incur a late charge in such amount as the Board may from time to time determine. The Association shall cause a notice of delinquency to be given to any member who has not paid within ten (10) days following the due date. If any such sums are not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date, the Board may accelerate and declare immediately due all such sums (including annual assessments or installments thereof) without any further notice being given to the delinquent Owner, and a lien, as herein provided, shall attach. Such lien shall include the late charge, interest on the principal amount due at a rate not to exceed the lesser of the maximum rate permitted by law or eighteen percent (18%) per annum, all late charges from the date first due and payable, all costs of collection, reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, and any other amounts provided or permitted by law. If any sum assessed against any Lot pursuant to this Declaration remains unpaid after sixty (60) days from the due date, the Association may, as the Board shall determine, institute suit to collect such amounts and/or to foreclose its lien. Each Owner, by acceptance of a deed or as a party to any other type of a conveyance, vests in the Association or its agents the right and power to bring all actions against him or her, personally, for the collection of such charges as a debt or to foreclose the aforesaid lien in the same manner as other liens for the improvement of real property. The lien provided for in this Article shall be in favor of the Association and shall be for the benefit of all other Owners. The Association, acting on behalf of the Owners, shall have the power to bid on the Lot at any foreclosure sale or to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage or convey the same.

No Owner may waive or otherwise exempt himself from liability for the assessments provided for herein, including, by way of illustration, but not limitation, abandonment of the Lot. No diminution or abatement of any assessment shall be claimed or allowed by reason of any alleged failure of the Association to take some action or perform some function required to be

taken or performed by the Association under this Declaration or the Bylaws, or for inconvenience or discomfort arising from the making of repairs or improvements which are the responsibility of the Association, or from any action taken by the Association to comply with any law, ordinance or order or directive of any municipal or other governmental authority, the obligation to pay assessments being a separate and independent covenant on the part of each Owner.

All payments shall be applied first to costs and attorney's fees, then to late charges, then interest and then to delinquent assessments.

**Section 7. Date of Commencement of Assessments/Assessment Obligation of Declarant.**

(a) The assessments provided for herein shall commence as to all Lots subject to assessment hereunder as of the first day of the calendar year in which the first Lot is conveyed by the Declarant to a Person other than Declarant. All assessments shall be due and payable in a manner and on a schedule as the Board of Directors may provide. All assessments shall be rounded up to the nearest dollar and payable as such.

(b) After the commencement of assessment payments as to any Lot, Declarant and its affiliates, on behalf of themselves and their respective successors and assigns, covenant and agree to pay the full amount of the assessments provided herein for each Lot owned by Declarant or its affiliates containing an occupied residence; provided, however, each Lot owned by Declarant or its affiliates which does not contain an occupied residence shall not be subject to any assessment provided for herein.

(c) Any Lot which has been approved by Declarant for use as a model home for marketing and sales purposes shall not be deemed to be occupied for residential purposes and shall not be subject to assessments under this Declaration whether owned by Declarant or any other Person, so long as such Lot is approved for use as a model home and is not occupied for residential purposes.

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Declarant and its affiliates may contribute assessments due from them in services or materials or a combination of services and materials, rather than in money (herein collectively called "in kind contribution"). The amount by which monetary assessments shall be decreased as a result of any in kind contribution shall be the fair market value of the contribution. If the Declarant, or its affiliate, as the case may be, and the Association agree as to the value of any contribution, the value shall be as agreed. If the Association and the Declarant, or its affiliate, as the case may be, cannot agree as to the value of any contribution, the Declarant, or its affiliate, as the case may be, shall supply the Association with a detailed explanation of the service performed and material furnished, and the Association shall acquire bids for performing like services and furnishing like materials from three (3) independent contractors, approved by the Declarant, or its affiliate, as the case may be, who are in the business of providing such services and materials. If the Association and the Declarant, or its affiliate, as the case may be, are still unable to agree on the value of the contribution, the value

shall be deemed to be the average of the bids received from the independent contractors.

**Section 8. Specific Assessments.** The Board shall have the power to specifically assess pursuant to this Section as, in its discretion, it shall deem appropriate. Failure of the Board to exercise its authority under this Section shall not be grounds for any action against the Association or the Board of Directors and shall not constitute a waiver of the Board's right to exercise its authority under this Section in the future with respect to any expenses, including an expense for which the Board has not previously exercised its authority under this Section. Fines levied pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of this Declaration and the costs of maintenance performed by the Association which the Owner is responsible for under Article V, Section 2 of this Declaration shall be specific assessments. The Board may also specifically assess Lots for the following Association expenses:

(a) Expenses of the Association which benefit less than all of the Lots may be specifically assessed equitably among all of the Lots which are benefited according to the benefit received.

(b) Expenses of the Association which benefit all Lots, but which do not provide an equal benefit to all Lots, may be assessed equitably among all Lots according to the benefit received.

**Section 9. Budget Deficits during Declarant Control.** For so long as the Declarant has the authority to appoint the directors and officers of the Association, Declarant may (a) advance funds to the Association sufficient to satisfy the deficit, if any, between the actual operating expenses of the Association (but specifically not including an allocation for capital reserves) and the sum of the annual, special and specific assessments collected by the Association in any fiscal year, and such advances shall be evidenced by promissory notes from the Association in favor of the Declarant, or (b) cause the Association to borrow such amount from a commercial lending institution at the then-prevailing rates for such a loan in the local area of the Community. The Declarant in its sole discretion may guarantee repayment of such loan, if required by the lending institution, but no Mortgage secured by the Common Property or any of the improvements maintained by the Association shall be given in connection with such loan.

**Section 10. Capitalization of Association.** Upon acquisition of record title to a Lot by the first Owner thereof other than Declarant or its affiliates, a contribution shall be made by or on behalf of the purchaser to the working capital of the Association in an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the annual assessment per Lot for that year. This contribution shall be in addition to, not in lieu of, any other assessments levied on the Lot and shall not in any way be construed as part of or identical to any such assessments or as an advance payment of any such assessments. This contribution shall be collected at the closing of the Lot and disbursed to the Association for use in covering operating and other expenses (including reserves) incurred by the Association pursuant to the terms of this Declaration and the Bylaws.

**Article V**  
**Maintenance**

**Section 1. Association's Responsibility.** The Association shall maintain and keep in good repair the Common Property. This maintenance shall include, without limitation, maintenance, repair and replacement, subject to any insurance then in effect, of all landscaping and improvements situated on the Common Property. The Association shall maintain (i) all entry features for the Community, (ii) all street signs, if any, originally installed by the Declarant or its affiliates, (iii) all drainage detention and retention areas which were originally maintained by the Declarant or its affiliates, to the extent such areas are not maintained on an ongoing basis by a governmental entity, and (iv) any lake(s), dam(s) or shoreline(s) located within the Community. The maintenance responsibility for lakes located within the Community shall include, without limitation, inspecting and maintaining the dam(s), if any, and performing any dredging or other necessary maintenance. The Association shall also maintain all property outside of Lots located within the Community which was originally maintained by Declarant or its affiliates.

The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain, repair, or replace, as necessary, all mailboxes or mailbox posts located within the Community. In addition, the Association shall have the right, but not the obligation, to maintain property not owned by the Association, and/or to provide services, where the Board has determined that such maintenance and/or services would benefit all Owners.

There is hereby granted to the Association a blanket easement upon, across, over, and under all property within the Community for access, ingress, and egress as necessary to permit the Association to perform such maintenance. The foregoing maintenance shall be performed consistent with the Community-Wide Standard.

**Section 2. Owner's Responsibility.** Except as provided in Section 1 above, all maintenance of the Lot and all structures, parking areas, landscaping and other improvements thereon shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner thereof, who shall maintain such Lot in a manner consistent with the Community-Wide Standard and this Declaration. If the Board of Directors determines that (a) any Owner has failed or refused to discharge properly any of such Owner's obligations with regard to the maintenance, repair or replacement of items for which such Owner is responsible hereunder, or (b) the need for maintenance, repair or replacement, which is the responsibility of the Association hereunder, is caused through the willful or negligent act of any Owner or Occupant or their family, guests, lessees or invitees, and is not covered or paid for by insurance, in whole or in part, then the Association may perform the repair, replacement or maintenance and shall, except in the event of an emergency situation, give the Owner written notice of the Association's intent to provide such necessary maintenance, repair or replacement at the Owner's sole cost and expense. The notice shall set forth with reasonable particularity the maintenance, repairs or replacement deemed necessary. Except in an emergency situation, the Owner shall have ten (10) days from the date of the notice within which to complete such maintenance, repair or replacement, or, in the event that such maintenance,

repair or replacement is not capable of completion within such time period, to commence such work within such ten (10) day period and diligently pursue completion within a reasonable time. If any Owner does not comply with the provisions hereof or in an emergency situation, the Association may provide any such maintenance, repair or replacement at such Owner's sole cost and expense, and all costs shall be added to and become a part of the assessment to which such Owner is subject, shall become and be a lien against the Lot, and shall be collected as provided herein for the collection of assessments.

### **Section 3. Party Walls and Party Fences.**

(a) General Rules of Law to Apply. Each wall or fence built as a part of the original construction of the Lots which shall serve and separate any two (2) adjoining Lots shall constitute a party wall or fence and, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, the general rules of law regarding party walls and fences and liability for property damage due to negligence or willful acts or omissions shall apply thereto.

(b) Sharing of Repair and Maintenance. The cost of reasonable repair and maintenance of a party wall or fence shall be shared by the Owners who make use of the wall or fence in equal proportions.

(c) Damage and Destruction. If a party wall or fence is destroyed or damaged by fire or other casualty, then to the extent that such damage is not covered by insurance and repaired out of the proceeds of insurance, any Owner who has used the wall or fence may restore it, and if the other Owner or Owners thereafter make use of the wall or fence, they shall contribute to the cost of restoration thereof in equal proportions without prejudice, however, to the right of any such Owners to call for a larger contribution from the others under any rule of law regarding liability for negligent or willful acts or omissions.

(d) Right to Contribution Runs With Land. The right of any Owner to contribution from any other Owner under this Section shall be appurtenant to the land and shall pass to such Owner's successors-in-title.

(e) Arbitration. In the event of any dispute arising concerning a party wall or fence, or under the provisions of this Section, each party shall appoint one arbitrator. Should any party refuse to appoint an arbitrator within ten (10) days after written request therefor by the Board of Directors, the Board shall appoint an arbitrator for the refusing party. The arbitrators thus appointed shall appoint one additional arbitrator and the decision by a Majority of all three arbitrators shall be binding upon the parties and shall be a condition precedent to any right of legal action that either party may have against the other.

## **Article VI**

### **Use Restrictions and Rules**

**Section 1. General.** This Article, beginning at Section 2, sets out certain use restrictions

which must be complied with by all Owners and Occupants. These use restrictions may be amended only in the manner provided in Article XII, Section 4 hereof regarding amendment of this Declaration. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, without consent of the members, promulgate, modify or delete other use restrictions and rules and regulations applicable to the Lots and the Common Property. This authority shall include, but shall not be limited to, the right to limit the type and size and to set the maximum and minimum speeds of vehicles within the Community. The Board shall also have the authority to impose all other necessary traffic and parking regulations and to restrict the maximum noise levels of vehicles in the Community. Such regulations and use restrictions shall be distributed to all Owners and Occupants prior to the date that they are to become effective and shall thereafter be binding upon all Owners and Occupants until and unless overruled, canceled or modified in a regular or special meeting by a Majority of the Total Association Vote.

**Section 2. Use of Lots.** All Lots shall be used for single-family residential purposes exclusively, and no trade, business or business activity of any kind shall be carried on or conducted in, from or upon any Lot or any part of the Community at any time without the prior written approval of the Board, except that the Owner or Occupant residing on a Lot may conduct such ancillary business activities within the residence on the Lot so long as (a) the existence or operation of the business activity is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound or smell from the exterior of the residence; (b) the business activity does not involve regular, frequent or conspicuous visitation of the Lot by employees, clients, customers, suppliers or other business invitees for business purposes; (c) the business activity conforms to all zoning requirements for the Community; (d) the business activity does not increase traffic in the Community (other than by deliveries by couriers, express mail carriers, parcel delivery services and other such similar delivery services); (e) the business activity does not increase the insurance premium paid by the Association or otherwise negatively affect the Association's ability to obtain insurance coverage; (f) the business activity is consistent with the residential character of the Community and does not constitute a nuisance or a hazardous or offensive use, or threaten the security or safety of other residents of the Community, as may be determined in the sole discretion of the Board; and (g) the business activity does not result in a materially greater use of common facilities or Association services.

The terms "business" and "trade," as used herein, shall have their ordinary, generally accepted meanings, and shall include, without limitation, any occupation, work or activity undertaken on an ongoing basis which involves the provision of goods or services to persons other than the provider's family and for which the provider receives a fee, compensation or other form of consideration, regardless of whether (i) such activity is engaged in full- or part-time; (ii) such activity is intended to or does generate a profit; or (iii) a license is required therefor.

This Section shall not apply to activities of the Association. Leasing of a Lot shall not be considered a trade, business or business activity. Lots may be leased for residential purposes.

**Section 3. Signs.** No sign of any kind, whether temporary or permanent, shall be erected or displayed by an Owner or Occupant within the Community without the prior written consent

of the Board except: (a) one (1) professional security sign consistent with the Community-Wide Standard not to exceed four inches (4") by four inches (4") in size displayed from within a Lot; (b) such signs as may be required by legal proceedings; (c) signs erected by Declarant and its affiliates; (d) in connection with a bona-fide offer to sell or lease a Lot, one (1) professionally lettered "For Sale" or "For Rent" sign consistent with the Community-Wide Standard displayed on the Lot, but only if (i) the sign has a maximum area of four (4) square feet and a maximum height of four (4) feet above ground level, and (ii) the content of the sign and anything else attached to, associated with or in the vicinity of the sign states or conveys only that that the Lot is for sale or for rent and the name and telephone number of the person to contact for additional information; and (e) in connection with a political campaign, candidate yard signs consistent with the Community-Wide Standard displayed from a Lot, but only if (i) the sign has a maximum area of four (4) square feet and a maximum height of four (4) feet above ground level, and (ii) the sign is displayed no sooner than thirty (30) days prior to the election and is removed within five (5) days after the election. The Board shall have the right to erect any reasonable and appropriate signs. The Board may impose a fine against any Owner or Occupant of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day for violations of this Section, in addition to any other remedies of the Association. Any fine imposed pursuant to this Section shall be deemed an assessment against the Lot and may be collected in the same manner as provided herein for collection of assessments.

**Section 4. Vehicles.** Vehicles shall not be parked on any street within the Community. Vehicles shall not be parked on the Common Property (except passenger non-commercial automobiles parked in designated parking areas while the users thereof are using the Common Property) or on any portion of a Lot other than the driveway and the garage. Except for passenger non-commercial automobiles, vehicles shall not be parked so as to be visible from any Lot for periods of more than twenty-four (24) continuous hours (the intent of this provision is that, with the exception mentioned above, vehicles may not be stored on a Lot except if in a garage and the temporary removal of such vehicle from a Lot to break the continuity of the twenty-four (24) consecutive hours shall not be sufficient to establish compliance with this restriction). The term "vehicles," as used herein, shall include, without limitation, motor homes, boats, trailers, motorcycles, minibikes, scooters, go-carts, golf cart, golf cars and similar vehicles, trucks, campers, buses, vans and automobiles. All parking shall be subject to such further rules and regulations as the Board may adopt.

**Section 5. Occupants Bound.** All provisions of the Declaration and of any rules and regulations or use restrictions promulgated pursuant thereto which govern the conduct of Owners and which provide for sanctions against Owners shall also apply to all Occupants of any Lot even though Occupants are not specifically mentioned. Fines may be levied against Owners or Occupants. If a fine is first levied against an Occupant and is not paid timely, the fine may then be levied against the Owner.

**Section 6. Animals and Pets.** No animals, livestock or poultry of any kind may be raised, bred, kept or permitted in the Community, except that dogs, cats or other usual and common household pets in reasonable number, as determined by the Board, may be kept on a

Lot; provided, however, those pets which are permitted to roam free, or, in the sole discretion of the Board, make objectionable noise or endanger the health of or constitute a nuisance or inconvenience to the Owners of other Lots or the owner of any property located adjacent to the Community may be removed by the Board. No pets shall be kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purpose. Dogs shall at all times whenever they are outside a Lot be confined on a leash. Without prejudice to the Board's right to remove any such household pets, no household pet that has caused damage or injury may be walked in the Community.

**Section 7. Nuisance.** It shall be the responsibility of each Owner and Occupant to prevent the development of any unclean, unhealthy, unsightly or unkempt condition on his or her Lot. No Lot shall be used, in whole or in part, for the storage of any property or thing that will cause such Lot to appear to be in an unclean or untidy condition or that will be obnoxious to the eye; nor shall any substance, thing or material be kept upon any Lot that will emit foul or obnoxious odors or that will cause any noise or other condition that will or might disturb the peace, quiet, safety, comfort or serenity of the occupants of surrounding property. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any Lot, nor shall anything be done thereon tending to cause embarrassment, discomfort, annoyance or nuisance to any Person using any property adjacent to the Lot. There shall not be maintained any plants or animals or device or thing of any sort whose activities or existence in any way is noxious, dangerous, unsightly, unpleasant or of a nature as may diminish or destroy the enjoyment of the Community. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, no speaker, horn, whistle, siren, bell, amplifier or other sound device, except such devices as may be used exclusively for security purposes, shall be located, installed or maintained upon the exterior of any Lot unless required by law.

**Section 8. Unsightly or Unkempt Conditions.** The pursuit of hobbies or other activities, including specifically, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the assembly and disassembly of motor vehicles and other mechanical devices, which might tend to cause disorderly, unsightly or unkempt conditions shall not be pursued or undertaken in any part of the Community.

**Section 9. Architectural Standards.** No exterior construction, alteration, addition or erection of any nature whatsoever (including, without limitation, fences, pools, tennis courts, exterior lighting, landscaping, trees, treehouses and play equipment) shall be commenced or placed upon any part of the Community, except such as is installed by the Declarant or its affiliates, or as is approved in accordance with this Section, or as is otherwise expressly permitted herein. No such exterior construction, addition, erection or alteration shall be made unless and until plans and specifications showing at least the nature, kind, shape, height, materials and location shall have been submitted in writing to and approved by the Board or its designee. The Board or its designee may promulgate written guidelines for the exercise of this review.

The Board or its designee shall be the sole arbiter of such plans and specifications and may withhold approval on any reasonable basis, including purely aesthetic considerations, and it shall be entitled to stop any construction in violation of these restrictions. Any member of the



Board or its designee or the representatives thereof shall have the right, during reasonable hours, to enter upon any property to inspect for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not these restrictive covenants have been or are being complied with. Such Person or Persons shall not be deemed guilty of trespass by reason of such entry. If the Board or its designee fails to approve or to disapprove submitted plans and specifications within sixty (60) days after such plans and specifications have been submitted to it, such plans and specifications will be deemed approved. However, all activities commenced pursuant to plans which have been deemed approved shall be consistent with such plans.

As a condition of approval under this Section, each Owner, on behalf of such Owner and such Owner's successors-in-interest, shall assume all responsibilities for maintenance, repair, replacement and insurance to and on any change, modification, addition or alteration. In the discretion of the Board or its designee, an Owner may be made to verify such condition of approval by a recordable written instrument acknowledged by such Owner on behalf of such Owner and such Owner's successors-in-interest.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE NOT APPROVED FOR ENGINEERING OR STRUCTURAL DESIGN OR QUALITY OF MATERIALS, AND BY APPROVING SUCH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, THE BOARD, ITS MEMBERS, ITS DESIGNEE AND THE ASSOCIATION DO NOT ASSUME LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY THEREFOR, NOR FOR ANY DEFECT IN ANY STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTED FROM SUCH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS. DECLARANT, ITS PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES, THE ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, ITS DESIGNEE, AND THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS OF ANY OF THEM, SHALL NOT BE LIABLE IN DAMAGES OR OTHERWISE TO ANYONE SUBMITTING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS TO ANY OF THEM FOR APPROVAL, OR TO ANY OWNER OF PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THESE RESTRICTIONS, BY REASON OF ANY MISTAKE IN JUDGMENT, NEGLIGENCE OR NONFEASANCE ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OR THE FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ANY SUCH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS. EVERY PERSON WHO SUBMITS PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND EVERY OWNER AGREE THAT SUCH PERSONS AND OWNERS WILL NOT BRING ANY ACTION OR SUIT AGAINST DECLARANT, ITS PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES, THE ASSOCIATION, THE BOARD, ITS DESIGNEE, OR THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS OF ANY OF THEM, TO RECOVER ANY DAMAGES OR FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE, AND SUCH PERSONS AND OWNERS HEREBY RELEASE, REMISE, QUITCLAIM AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE FOR ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND CAUSES OF ACTION, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY MISTAKE IN JUDGMENT, NEGLIGENCE OR NONFEASANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OR THE FAILURE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ANY SUCH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS. ALL SUCH PERSONS AND OWNERS HEREBY WAIVE THE PROVISIONS OF ANY LAW WHICH PROVIDE THAT A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND CAUSES OF ACTION NOT KNOWN AT THE TIME THE RELEASE IS

GIVEN.

**Section 10. Antennas and Satellite Dishes.** No transmission antennas or satellite dishes of any kind, and no direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") antennas or multi-channel multi-point distribution service ("MMDS") antennas larger than one (1) meter in diameter, shall be placed, allowed or maintained upon any portion of the Community, including any Lot, without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. DBS and MMDS antennas and satellite dishes one (1) meter or less in diameter and television broadcast service antennas may be installed only if reasonably screened and located as approved by the Board or its designee and installed in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission and of the Association, both as may be amended from time to time. However, the Board and Declarant (and its affiliates) reserve the right to (but shall not be obligated to) erect any type and size of master antenna, satellite dish or other similar master system for the benefit of the Community. Each Owner and Occupant acknowledges that this provision benefits all Owners and Occupants and each Owner and Occupant agrees to comply with this provision despite the fact that the erection of an individual outdoor antenna or similar device would be the most cost-effective way to receive the signals sought to be received.

**Section 11. Gardens, Basketball Goals, Etc.** Grass, ornamental plants and shrubbery (and only the foregoing) may be planted in the front or side yard of any Lot. All other planting may be done only with prior written approval of the Board or its designee or in accordance with the guidelines previously established by the Board or its designee. Overseeding of fescue lawns and sodding of lawns with Bermuda or zoysia grasses shall not require prior approval pursuant to this Section. No vegetable garden, hammocks, statuary or recreational equipment may be placed, erected, allowed or maintained within the Community without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. This provision shall not, however, apply to basketball goals which may be installed after the type and location have been previously approved in writing by the Board or its designee.

**Section 12. Tree Removal.** No trees shall be removed without the express prior consent of the Board or its designee, except for (a) trees removed by the Declarant or its affiliates; (b) diseased or dead trees; and (c) trees needing to be removed to promote the growth of other trees.

**Section 13. Lighting.** Notwithstanding Article VI, Section 9 above, the following exterior lighting may be installed without the necessity of obtaining the prior approval of the Board or its designee: (a) seasonal decorative lights during the Christmas season; (b) illumination of other than the front or side yards of a Lot; (c) illumination of model homes and entrance features constructed by the Declarant or its affiliates; and (d) other lighting originally installed by the Declarant or its affiliates. Plans for all other exterior lighting must be submitted and approved in accordance with Article VI, Section 9 hereof. Decorative post lights will not be approved unless they conform with established street lighting.

**Section 14. Drainage.** Catch basins and drainage areas are for the purpose of natural flow of water only. No obstructions or debris shall be placed in these areas. No Owner or

Occupant of any Lot may obstruct or rechannel the drainage flows after the location and installation of drainage swales, storm sewers or storm drains. Declarant, for itself and its affiliates, reserves the right to prepare sloping banks, cut or fill, on a three (3) to one (1) slope on all streets and roads. Declarant, for itself and its affiliates, hereby reserves a perpetual easement across all Community property for the purpose of altering drainage and water flow. Rights exercised pursuant to such reserved easement shall be exercised with a minimum of interference to the quiet enjoyment of affected property, reasonable steps shall be taken to protect such property, and damage shall be repaired by the Person causing the damage at its sole expense.

**Section 15. Sight Distance at Intersections.** All property located at street intersections shall be so landscaped as to permit safe sight across the street corners. No fence, wall, hedge, or shrub planting shall be placed or permitted to remain at any corner where this would create a traffic or sight problem.

**Section 16. Clotheslines, Garbage Cans, Woodpiles, Etc.** All clotheslines, garbage cans, woodpiles, and other similar items shall be located or screened so as to be concealed from view of neighboring Lots, streets and property located adjacent to the Lot. All rubbish, trash and garbage shall be regularly removed from the Lot and shall not be allowed to accumulate thereon. No garbage or trash shall be placed on the Common Property, temporarily or otherwise, except as provided herein. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Association reserves the right to provide and maintain a dumpster for the use of residents within the Community. Declarant, however, hereby expressly reserves the right to dump and bury rocks and trees on property within the Community as needed for efficient construction and to allow, in Declarant's sole discretion, developers and builders within the Community to do so.

**Section 17. Subdivision of Lot.** No Lot shall be subdivided or its boundary lines changed except with the prior written approval of the Board or its designee. Declarant, however, hereby expressly reserves the right to replat any Lot(s) or other property in the Community. Any such division, boundary line change or replatting shall not be in violation of the applicable subdivision and zoning regulations.

**Section 18. Guns.** The use of firearms in the Community is prohibited. The term "firearms" includes "B-B" guns, pellet guns and small firearms of all types.

**Section 19. Solar Devices.** No artificial or man-made device which is designed or used for collection of or heating by solar energy or other similar purposes shall be placed, allowed or maintained upon any portion of the Community, including any Lot, without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee.

**Section 20. Fences.** No fence or fencing type barrier of any kind shall be placed, erected, allowed or maintained upon any portion of the Community, including any Lot, without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. Fencing must be split rail, privacy or picket type fencing. The Board or its designee may issue guidelines detailing acceptable fence styles or other specifications consistent with the immediately preceding sentence, but in no event may a chain

link fence or a free-standing hog wire fence be approved.

**Section 21. Exterior Colors.** The exterior of all improvements, including, without limitation, residences, constructed, erected, allowed or maintained upon any Lot must be painted or repainted in a color as approved by the Board or its designee.

**Section 22. Mailboxes.** No mailboxes and appurtenant posts and/or structures shall be erected without the prior written approval of the Board or its designee. Generally, the foregoing must be of the same type and color as that originally installed by the Declarant or its affiliates.

**Section 23. Detached Structures.** No detached structure shall be placed, erected, allowed or maintained upon any Lot or within the Community without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. All detached structures must be consistent in design materials and color with the dwelling on the Lot.

**Section 24. Entry Features and Street Signs.** Owners shall not alter, remove or add improvements to any entry features or street signs constructed within the Community, or any part of any easement area associated therewith, without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee.

**Section 25. Pools.** No pool or water feature of any kind shall be placed, erected, allowed or maintained upon any Lot or within the Community without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee; above ground swimming pools shall not be permitted in the Community.

**Section 26. Lakes.** This Section of the Declaration and rules, use restrictions and design guidelines issued by the Board or its designee, shall govern the use of any lakes within the Community. Owners are prohibited from withdrawing water from any lakes within the Community for irrigation of lawns and gardens on a Lot or for any other purpose. No docks shall be permitted on any lake except docks originally installed by the Declarant or its affiliates. Retaining walls and similar structures shall not be installed without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. No ice skating, swimming or water skiing shall be permitted on any lake within the Community. No boats shall be permitted on any lake within the Community without the prior written consent of the Board. Owners may fish in any lake within the Community provided any such Owner has obtained such licenses as may be required by any governmental entity.

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Declaration to the contrary, no vegetable gardens, hammocks, statuary, swing sets or similar play equipment, basketball goals or similar athletic equipment, boats or boating equipment, pools, fences, clothes drying equipment, dog houses, dog runs or other pet enclosures, signs, retaining walls or any other structure or thing which, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, tends to detract from the appearance of the Community, and especially any lake within the Community, shall be permitted on any Lake Lot, without the prior written consent of the Board or its designee. The restriction contained in Article VI, Section 11 hereof relative to front and side yards shall apply to the

entire yard (front, side and rear) of each Lake Lot.

The Board may authorize special use groups, including, but not limited to, boating clubs, to use any lake within the Community on a limited basis. The Board may except such groups from use restrictions promulgated by the Board under this Article which would otherwise be applicable to such groups.

Declarant, its partners and affiliates, the Association, the Board and its designee, and the officers, directors, shareholders, members, employees, agents, successors and assigns of any of them, shall not be held liable in any manner whatsoever for, and hereby disclaims any and all such liability and responsibility for, any loss, damage or injury to any person or property arising out of the authorized or unauthorized use of any lake within the Community. Each Owner of a Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, on behalf of such Owner and such Owner's family members, guests and invitees, hereby agrees not to bring any action or suit against Declarant, its partners and affiliates, the Association, the Board and its designee, and the officers, directors, shareholders, members, employees, agents, successors and assigns of any of them, and hereby releases, remises, quitclaims and covenants not to sue any or all of the foregoing, for any claims, demands and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the authorized or unauthorized use of any lake within the Community and hereby waives the provisions of any law which provides that a general release does not extend to claims, demands and causes of action not known at the time the release is given.

#### Article VII

#### Insurance and Casualty Losses

**Section 1. Insurance.** The Association's Board of Directors or its duly authorized agent shall have the authority to and shall obtain insurance for all insurable improvements located on the Common Property or required to be maintained by the Association under Article V, Section 1 hereof. This insurance shall cover loss or damage by fire or other hazards, including extended coverage, vandalism and malicious mischief and shall be in an amount sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of any repair or reconstruction in the event of damage or destruction from any such hazard. Alternatively, the Board may purchase "all-risk" coverage in like amounts.

If available at reasonable cost, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the Board shall obtain a public liability policy applicable to the Common Property insuring the Association and its members for all damage or injury caused by the negligence of the Association or any of its members or agents. The public liability policy shall have a combined single limit of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00). If available at reasonable cost, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the Board shall also obtain directors' and officers' liability insurance.

The Board is hereby authorized to contract with or otherwise arrange to obtain the insurance coverage required hereunder through the Declarant or its affiliates and to reimburse the Person so providing or arranging the insurance coverage for the cost thereof, and Declarant or its affiliates shall be authorized, but not obligated, to purchase such insurance coverage for the

benefit of the Association and the Owners upon Declarant or its affiliate, as the case may be, and the Association agreeing upon the terms and conditions applicable to reimbursement by the Association for costs incurred by Declarant or its affiliate, as the case may be, in obtaining such coverage. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Declaration to the contrary, the Board shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this Article if the Board has contracted for or otherwise arranged to obtain the required insurance coverage through the Declarant or its affiliates.

Premiums for all insurance shall be common expenses of the Association. The policies may contain a reasonable deductible, and the amount thereof shall not be subtracted from the face amount of the policy in determining whether the insurance at least equals the full replacement cost.

All such insurance coverage obtained by the Board of Directors shall be written in the name of the Association, as trustee for the respective parties which may be benefited by such insurance, as their interests may appear. Such insurance shall be governed by the provisions hereinafter set forth:

- (a) All policies shall be written with a company authorized to do business in Georgia.
- (b) Exclusive authority to adjust losses under policies obtained by the Association shall be vested in the Association's Board of Directors; provided, however, no Mortgagee having an interest in such losses may be prohibited from participating in the settlement negotiations, if any, related thereto.
- (c) In no event shall the insurance coverage obtained and maintained by the Association's Board of Directors hereunder be brought into contribution with insurance purchased by individual Owners, Occupants, or their Mortgagees, and the insurance carried by the Association shall be primary.
- (d) All casualty insurance policies shall have an inflation guard endorsement and an agreed amount endorsement, if these are reasonably available, and all insurance policies shall be reviewed annually by one or more qualified Persons, at least one of whom must be in the real estate industry and familiar with construction in the county where the Community is located.
- (e) The Association's Board of Directors shall be required to make every reasonable effort to secure insurance policies that will provide for the following:
  - (i) a waiver of subrogation by the insurer as to any claims against the Association's Board of Directors, its manager, the Owners and their respective tenants, servants, agents and guests;
  - (ii) a waiver by the insurer of its rights to repair and reconstruct instead of paying cash;

(iii) that no policy may be canceled, subjected to nonrenewal, invalidated or suspended on account of any one or more individual Owners;

(iv) that no policy may be canceled, subjected to nonrenewal, invalidated or suspended on account of any defect or the conduct of any director, officer or employee of the Association or its duly authorized manager without prior demand in writing delivered to the Association to cure the defect or to cease the conduct and the allowance of a reasonable time thereafter within which a cure may be effected by the Association, its manager, any Owner or Mortgagee;

(v) that any "other insurance" clause in any policy exclude individual Owners' policies from consideration; and

(vi) that no policy may be canceled, subjected to nonrenewal, or substantially modified without at least ten (10) days' prior written notice to the Association.

In addition to other insurance coverage required by this Section, the Board shall obtain workers compensation insurance, if and to the extent necessary to satisfy the requirements of applicable law, and, if available at reasonable cost, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, a fidelity bond or employees dishonesty coverage covering directors, officers, employees and other Persons handling or responsible for the Association's funds. The amount of fidelity or employees dishonesty coverage, if obtained, shall be determined in the directors' best business judgment. Such coverage, if obtained, shall contain a waiver of all defenses based upon the exclusion of Persons serving without compensation and shall not be subject to cancellation, nonrenewal or substantial modification without at least ten (10) days' prior written notice to the Association. The Association shall also obtain construction code endorsements, steam boiler coverage and flood insurance, if and to the extent necessary to satisfy the requirements of The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation or the Federal National Mortgage Association.

## **Section 2. Damage and Destruction -- Property Insured by Association.**

(a) In General. Immediately after the damage or destruction by fire or other casualty to all or any portion of any improvement covered by insurance written in the name of the Association, the Board of Directors or its duly authorized agent shall proceed with the filing and adjustment of all claims arising under such insurance and obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction of the damaged or destroyed property. Repair or reconstruction, as used in this Section, means repairing or restoring the property to substantially the same condition and location that existed prior to the fire or other casualty, allowing for any changes or improvements necessary to comply with applicable building codes.

(b) Repair and Reconstruction. Any damage or destruction to property required to be covered by insurance written in the name of the Association shall be repaired or reconstructed unless, within sixty (60) days after the casualty, at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Total

Association Vote otherwise agree. If for any reason either the amount of the insurance proceeds to be paid as a result of such damage or destruction, or reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair or reconstruction, or both, are not made available to the Association within such period, then the period shall be extended until such information shall be made available; provided, however, such extension shall not exceed sixty (60) days. No Mortgagee shall have the right to participate in the determination of whether damage or destruction shall be repaired or reconstructed.

If the damage or destruction for which the insurance proceeds are paid is to be repaired or reconstructed and such proceeds are not sufficient to defray the cost thereof, the Board of Directors shall, without the necessity of a vote of the Association's members, levy a special assessment against all Owners in proportion to the number of Lots owned by such Owners. Additional assessments may be made in like manner at any time during or following the completion of any repair or reconstruction. If the funds available from insurance exceed the costs of repair or reconstruction or if the improvements are not repaired or reconstructed, such excess shall be deposited to the benefit of the Association.

In the event that it should be determined in the manner described above that the damage or destruction shall not be repaired or reconstructed and no alternative improvements are authorized, then and in that event the property shall be restored to its natural state and maintained as an undeveloped portion of the Community by the Association in a neat and attractive condition.

**Section 3. Damage and Destruction -- Lots.** The damage or destruction by fire or other casualty to all or any portion of any improvement on a Lot shall be repaired by the Owner thereof within seventy-five (75) days after such damage or destruction or, where repairs cannot be completed within seventy-five (75) days, they shall be commenced within such period and shall be completed within a reasonable time thereafter. Alternatively, the Owner may elect to demolish all improvements on the Lot and remove all debris therefrom within seventy-five (75) days after such damage or destruction. In the event of noncompliance with this provision, the Board of Directors shall have all enforcement powers specified in Article XII, Section 1 of this Declaration.

**Section 4. Insurance Deductible.** The deductible for any casualty insurance policy carried by the Association shall, in the event of damage or destruction, be allocated among the Persons who are responsible hereunder, or under any declaration or contract requiring the Association to obtain such insurance, for maintenance of the damaged or destroyed property.

#### **Article VIII** **Condemnation**

Whenever all or any part of the Common Property shall be taken (or conveyed in lieu of and under threat of condemnation by the Board, acting on behalf of the Association or on the written direction of all Owners of Lots subject to the taking, if any) by any authority having the



power of condemnation or eminent domain, the Association shall represent the Owners. The award made for such taking shall be payable to the Association as trustee for all Owners. The provisions of Article VII, Section 2 above, applicable to damage or destruction of property insured by the Association, shall govern replacement or restoration and the actions to be taken in the event that the improvements are not restored or replaced.

**Article IX**  
**Annexation and Withdrawal of Property**

**Section 1. Unilateral Annexation by Declarant.**

(a) As the owner thereof or, if not the owner, with the consent of the owner thereof, Declarant shall have the unilateral right, privilege and option from time to time at any time until ten (10) years after the recording of this Declaration to subject all or any portion of the real property described in Exhibit "C" attached hereto and by reference made a part hereof to the provisions of this Declaration and the jurisdiction of the Association by filing for record in the land records of the county in which the property to be annexed is located a Supplementary Declaration describing the property being annexed. Any such annexation shall be effective upon the filing for record of such Supplementary Declaration unless a later effective date is provided therein. As long as covenants applicable to the real property previously subjected to this Declaration are not changed and as long as rights of then Owners are not adversely affected, the Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration to reflect the different character of any such annexed real property.

(b) The rights reserved unto Declarant to subject additional land to this Declaration shall not and shall not be implied or construed so as to impose any obligation upon Declarant to subject any of such additional land to this Declaration or to the jurisdiction of the Association. If such additional land is not subjected to this Declaration, Declarant's reserved rights shall not impose any obligation on Declarant to impose any covenants and restrictions similar to those contained herein upon such additional land nor shall such rights in any manner limit or restrict the use to which such additional land may be put by Declarant or any subsequent owner thereof, whether such uses are consistent with the covenants and restrictions imposed hereby or not.

**Section 2. Other Annexation.** Subject to the consent of the owner thereof and the consent of the Declarant (so long as the Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community), upon the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Owners of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Lots, the Association may annex other real property to the provisions of this Declaration and the jurisdiction of the Association by filing for record in the land records of the county in which the property to be annexed is located a Supplementary Declaration describing the property being annexed. Any such Supplementary Declaration shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the Association, and any such annexation shall be effective upon the filing for record of such Supplementary Declaration, unless a later effective date is provided therein.

**Section 3. Withdrawal of Property.** Declarant reserves the right to amend this Declaration so long as it has a right to annex additional property pursuant to this Article for the purpose of removing any portion of the Community then owned by Declarant or its affiliates or the Association from the coverage of this Declaration, to the extent originally included in error or as a result of any changes whatsoever in the plans for the Community, provided such withdrawal is not unequivocally contrary to the overall, uniform scheme of development for the Community.

**Article X**  
**Mortgagee Provisions**

The following provisions are for the benefit of holders of first Mortgages on Lots in the Community. The provisions of this Article apply to both this Declaration and to the Bylaws, notwithstanding any other provisions contained therein.

**Section 1. Notices of Action.** An institutional holder, insurer or guarantor of a first Mortgage who provides written request to the Association (such request to state the name and address of such holder, insurer or guarantor and the Lot number) (therefore becoming an "eligible holder") will be entitled to timely written notice of:

- (a) any condemnation loss or any casualty loss which affects a material portion of the Community or which affects any Lot on which there is a first Mortgage held, insured or guaranteed by such eligible holder;
- (b) any delinquency in the payment of assessments or charges owed by an Owner of a Lot subject to the Mortgage of such eligible holder, where such delinquency has continued for a period of sixty (60) days; provided, however, notwithstanding this provision, any holder of a first Mortgage, upon request, is entitled to written notice from the Association of any default in the performance by an Owner of a Lot of any obligation under the Declaration or Bylaws of the Association which is not cured within sixty (60) days;
- (c) any lapse, cancellation or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association; or
- (d) any proposed action which would require the consent of a specified percentage of Mortgage holders.

**Section 2. No Priority.** No provision of this Declaration or the Bylaws gives or shall be construed as giving any Owner or other party priority over any rights of the first Mortgagee of any Lot in the case of distribution to such Owner of insurance proceeds or condemnation awards for losses to or a taking of the Common Property.

**Section 3. Notice to Association.** Upon request, each Lot Owner shall be obligated to furnish to the Association the name and address of the holder of any Mortgage encumbering such

Owner's Lot.

**Section 4. Amendments by Board.** Should the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation subsequently delete any of their respective requirements which necessitate the provisions of this Article or make any such requirements less stringent, the Board, without approval of the Owners, may cause an amendment to this Article to be recorded to reflect such changes.

**Section 5. Applicability of Article X.** Nothing contained in this Article shall be construed to reduce the percentage vote that must otherwise be obtained under the Declaration, Bylaws, or Georgia law for any of the acts set out in this Article.

**Section 6. Failure of Mortgagee to Respond.** Any Mortgagee who receives a written request from the Board to respond to or consent to any action shall be deemed to have approved such action if the Association does not receive a written response from the Mortgagee within thirty (30) days of the date of the Association's request.

## **Article XI** **Easements**

**Section 1. Easements for Encroachment and Overhang.** There shall be reciprocal appurtenant easements for encroachment and overhang as between each Lot and such portion or portions of the Common Property adjacent thereto or as between adjacent Lots due to the unintentional placement or settling or shifting of the improvements constructed, reconstructed or altered thereon (in accordance with the terms of this Declaration) to a distance of not more than five (5) feet, as measured from any point on the common boundary between each Lot and the adjacent portion of the Common Property or as between adjacent Lots, as the case may be, along a line perpendicular to such boundary at such point; provided, however, in no event shall an easement for encroachment exist if such encroachment occurred due to willful conduct on the part of an Owner, tenant or the Association.

### **Section 2. Easements for Use and Enjoyment.**

(a) Every Owner of a Lot shall have a right and easement of ingress and egress, use and enjoyment in and to the Common Property which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to his Lot, subject to the following provisions:

(i) the right of the Association to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use of any portion of the Common Property, to limit the number of guests of Lot Owners and tenants who may use the Common Property, and to provide for the exclusive use and enjoyment of specific portions thereof at certain designated times by an Owner, his family, tenants, guests and invitees;

(ii) the right of the Association to suspend the voting rights of a Lot Owner

and the right of an Owner to use the recreational facilities available for use by the Community, if any, for any period during which any assessment against such Owner's Lot which is hereby provided for remains unpaid; and, for a reasonable period of time, for an infraction of the Declaration, Bylaws, or rules and regulations;

(iii) the right of the Association to borrow money for the purpose of improving the Common Property, or any portion thereof, or for construction, repairing or improving any facilities located or to be located thereon, and give as security for the payment of any such loan a Mortgage conveying all or any portion of the Common Property; provided, however, the lien and encumbrance of any such Mortgage given by the Association shall be subject and subordinate to any rights, interests, options, easements and privileges herein reserved or established for the benefit of Declarant and/or its affiliates, any Lot or Lot Owner, and/or the holder of any Mortgage, irrespective of when executed, given by Declarant or any Lot Owner encumbering any Lot or other property located within the Community (any provision in this Declaration or in any such Mortgage given by the Association to the contrary notwithstanding, the exercise of any rights therein by the holder thereof in the event of a default thereunder shall not cancel or terminate any rights, interests, options, easements or privileges herein reserved or established for the benefit of Declarant and/or its affiliates, any Lot or Lot Owner, and/or the holder of any Mortgage, irrespective of when executed, given by Declarant or any Lot Owner encumbering any Lot or other property located within the Community); no such Mortgage given by the Association shall be effective unless an instrument agreeing to such Mortgage has been approved by Owners of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Lots (other than Lots of Declarant so long as the consent of Declarant is required) and the consent of Declarant (so long as the Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex property to the Community); and

(iv) the right of the Association to dedicate or transfer all or any portion of the Common Property subject to such conditions as may be agreed to by the members of the Association; no such dedication or transfer shall be effective unless an instrument agreeing to such dedication or transfer has been approved by Declarant (so long as Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale within the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community) and Owners representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Total Association Vote (other than Declarant so long as the consent of Declarant is required).

(b) Any Lot Owner may delegate his or her right of use and enjoyment in and to the Common Property and facilities located thereon to the members of his family, his tenants and guests and shall be deemed to have made a delegation of all such rights to the Occupants of such Owner's Lot if leased.

**Section 3. Easements for Utilities.** There is hereby granted to the Association blanket easements upon, across, above and under all property within the Community for access to, ingress to, egress from, installation of, repairing, replacing and maintaining all utilities serving the Community or any portion thereof, including, but not limited to, gas, water, sanitary sewer, telephone and electricity utilities, as well as storm drainage and any other service, such as, but

not limited to, a master television antenna system, cable television system, or security system, which the Declarant or Association might decide to have installed to serve the Community. It shall be expressly permissible for the Declarant, the Association, or the designees of either, as the case may be, to install, repair, replace and maintain, or to authorize the installation, repairing, replacing and maintaining, of such wires, conduits, cables and other equipment related to the providing of any such utility or service. Should any party furnishing any such utility or service request a specific license or easement by separate recordable document, the Board shall have the right to grant such easement.

**Section 4. Easements for Association Maintenance.** There is hereby expressly granted to the Association a perpetual easement across such portions of the Community, determined in the sole discretion of the Association, as are necessary to allow for the maintenance required under Article V. Such maintenance shall be performed with a minimum of interference to the quiet enjoyment of Owners' property, reasonable steps shall be taken to protect such property, and damage shall be repaired by the Person causing the damage at its sole expense.

**Section 5. Easements for Maintenance and Repair.** There shall be reciprocal appurtenant easements between adjacent Lots for the purpose of maintaining or repairing the improvements, including, without limitation, landscaping, located on each Lot, which easement shall extend to a distance of not more than five (5) feet as measured from any point on the common boundary between the Lots and along a line perpendicular to such boundary at such point. The easement shall be used only for such period of time as is reasonably necessary in order to complete the needed maintenance or repair. The Lot Owner exercising this easement right shall be liable for the prompt repair of any damage to the Lot over which this easement is exercised which is caused by the maintenance or repair work. The damaged portions of such Lot shall be restored to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the damage.

**Section 6. Easements for Entry.** In addition to the right of the Board to exercise self-help as provided in Article XII, Section 2 hereof, the Board shall have the right, but shall not be obligated, to enter upon any property within the Community for emergency, security and safety reasons, which right may be exercised by the manager and all policemen, firemen, ambulance personnel and similar emergency personnel in the performance of their respective duties. Except in an emergency situation, entry shall only be during reasonable hours and after notice to the Owner, and the entering party shall be responsible for any damage caused. This right of entry shall include the right of the Board to enter to cure any condition which may increase the possibility of a fire, slope erosion or other hazard in the event an Owner or Occupant fails or refuses to cure the condition upon request by the Board.

**Section 7. Easements for Entry Features and Street Signs.** There is hereby reserved to the Declarant, and granted to the Association, and the designees of either, an easement over and upon all of the Community for ingress to, egress from, installation, construction, landscaping and maintenance of entry features and street signs for the Community. The easement and right herein reserved shall include the right to cut, remove and plant trees, shrubbery, flowers and other vegetation around all entry features and the right to grade the land under and around the

entry features.

**Section 8. Easements for Common Driveways.** Declarant hereby creates joint and reciprocal easements in perpetuity for vehicular and pedestrian traffic in, upon, over and across those areas, if any, shown on any plat for the Community, recorded by Declarant in the land records of the county where the Community is located, as a common driveway (or such similar or equivalent language as would indicate that such area is a common driveway among two or more Lots) (hereinafter referred to as a "Common Driveway"). These easements shall be for the benefit of any Owner of a Lot upon which a Common Driveway is located and shall be for access to and ingress and egress to and from such Owner's Lot by such Owner, and his or her family members, invitees, and designees in, upon, over and across the Common Driveway, or portion thereof, located on such Owner's Lot. Any Common Driveway shall continue to be used for this purpose by the Owners of the Lots upon which such Common Driveway is located and by the subsequent Owners and successors-in-title to such Lots. In connection with the reservation of these easements, it is acknowledged and agreed that the Owner of a Lot burdened by these easements will be required to utilize the easements for access to and ingress and egress to and from such Owner's Lot and that such easements are critical to the future use and enjoyment of such Owner's Lot. No Owner shall be allowed to change, alter or diminish the rights of an Owner of a Lot burdened by these easements to the use and enjoyment of the Common Driveway such Owner's Lot.

Each Common Driveway shall be cleaned, maintained, repaired and replaced by the Association. The cost thereof shall be assessed on an equal basis to each of said Owners, notwithstanding the respective use of the Common Driveway by the Owners of the Lots served by such Common Driveway. In order to protect the value of the respective Lots and to insure the proper use and enjoyment of the respective Lots, the Association shall have the full and unrestricted right to cause the cleaning, maintenance, repair and replacement of the Common Driveway.

Declarant hereby expressly reserves for itself, its successors and assigns, all rights and privileges incident to the Common Driveways which are not inconsistent with the rights and privileges herein granted, including, without limitation, the right to maintain one or more proprietary signs on about the Common Driveways and the right to grant additional non-exclusive easements to third parties over, under and across the Common Driveways. Declarant hereby reserves for the benefit of Declarant, and grants to the Association as Common Property, the perpetual nonexclusive right and easement upon, over and across the Common Driveways for the installation, maintenance, and use of such Common Driveways, traffic directional signs located adjacent to said Common Driveways, grading for proper drainage of said Common Driveways, and related activities and improvements.

**Section 9. Easements for Driveway Turnaround.** Each Lot is hereby granted an appurtenant easement for encroachment onto adjacent Lots to a distance of not more than five (5) feet from the common boundary or boundaries with the adjacent Lots. This easement is for the sole purpose of the placement, existence, use and maintenance of a driveway turnaround as

originally constructed on and to serve the Lot. If the driveway turnaround on and serving the Lot is originally constructed so as not to utilize portions of this easement, the portions of this easement not utilized (which could be all of this easement, as the case may be) shall terminate and be null and void forever and of no further force and effect at any time.

This easement shall be for the benefit of the Owner of the Lot served by a driveway turnaround originally constructed in whole or in part on an adjacent Lot and shall be solely for access to, and ingress and egress to and from, such Owner's Lot by such Owner and his or her family members, invitees and designees in, upon, over and across the driveway turnaround serving such Owner's Lot. No other Person shall be allowed to change, alter or diminish the rights of the Owner of the Lot benefited by this easement to the use and enjoyment of the driveway turnaround serving such Owner's Lot. The driveway turnaround shall be cleaned, maintained, repaired and replaced by the Owner of the Lot served by the driveway turnaround. However, the Owner of the Lot served by the driveway turnaround shall not in any way expand this easement/encroachment after initial construction on the Lot.

**Section 10. Easements for Encroachments.** The dwellings located on the Lots may have certain eaves, roof overhangs, building materials and other structures attached to the walls and roofs of such dwellings which may encroach over or extend into the air space, improvements and/or real property located on adjoining or continuous Lots and/or Common Property. All of the Lots and the Common Property shall be subject to easements for encroachments and for the maintenance, repair and replacement thereof as a result of construction, reconstruction, repair, renovation, restoration, shifting, settlement or movement so long as such encroachment exists. If any such Lot, including any dwelling located thereon, is damaged or destroyed as a result of fire or other casualty or as a result of condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, the Owner of such Lot shall have an easement to reconstruct such encroachments in connection with the reconstruction of such dwelling. Easements shall also exist for encroachment upon the Common Property and/or Lots as necessary for the express purpose of maintenance, repair and restoration of any Lot or structure located thereon. The easements shall be used only for such period of time as is reasonably necessary in order to complete the needed maintenance, repair and restoration. The Owner of the Lot exercising the easement right shall be liable for the prompt repair of any damage to the property over which the easement is exercised which is caused by the maintenance, repair or restoration work. The damaged portions of such property shall be restored to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the damage.

**Section 11. Easements for Declarant, Association and Pedestrian Access to Lakes.**

(a) Declarant hereby expressly reserves a perpetual easement for itself and its successors and assigns and the Association on, over, across and under such portions of the Community, determined in the sole discretion of Declarant (or its successors and assigns) or the Association, as is reasonably required for maintenance of any lake, lakebed, dam or shoreline located within the Community. Such maintenance, if performed, shall be performed with a minimum of interference to the quiet enjoyment of Owner's property, reasonable steps shall be taken to protect the Community, and damage to the Community shall be repaired by

the Person causing the damage at its sole expense.

(b) Declarant hereby expressly reserves perpetual pedestrian easements for access to any lake within the Community for the benefit of Declarant, its affiliates, the Association and the Owners, if and to the extent any such easements are shown on any plat for the Community recorded by the Declarant in the land records of the county where the property containing such easements is located.

## **Article XII** **General Provisions**

**Section 1. Enforcement.** Each Owner and every Occupant of a Lot shall comply strictly with the Bylaws, the rules and regulations, the use restrictions, as they may be lawfully amended or modified from time to time, and with the covenants, conditions and restrictions set forth in this Declaration and in the deed to his or her Lot, if any. The Board of Directors may impose fines or other sanctions, which shall be collected as provided herein for the collection of assessments. Failure to comply with this Declaration, the Bylaws or the rules and regulations shall be grounds for an action to recover sums due for damages or injunctive relief, or both, maintainable by the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Association, or, in a proper case, by an aggrieved Owner. Failure by the Association or any Owner to enforce any of the foregoing shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the right to do so thereafter. The Board shall have the right to record in the appropriate land records a notice of violation of the Declaration, Bylaws, rules and regulations or use restrictions and to assess the cost of recording and removing such notice against the Owner who is responsible (or whose Occupants are responsible) for violating the foregoing.

**Section 2. Self-Help.** In addition to any other remedies provided for herein, the Association or its duly authorized agent shall have the power to enter upon a Lot or any portion of the Common Property to abate or remove, using such force as may be reasonably necessary, any structure, thing or condition which violates this Declaration, the Bylaws, the rules and regulations or the use restrictions. Unless an emergency situation exists, the Board shall give the violating Lot Owner ten (10) days' written notice of its intent to exercise self-help. Notwithstanding the foregoing, vehicles may be towed after reasonable notice. All costs of self-help, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, shall be assessed against the violating Lot Owner and shall be collected as provided for herein for the collection of assessments.

**Section 3. Duration.** The covenants and restrictions of this Declaration shall run with and bind the Community, and shall inure to the benefit of and shall be enforceable by the Association or any Owner, their respective legal representatives, heirs, successors and assigns, perpetually to the extent permitted by law; provided, however, if Georgia law limits the period during which covenants restricting lands to certain uses may run, any provisions of this Declaration affected thereby shall run with and bind the land so long as permitted by such law, after which time any such provisions shall be (a) automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years, unless a written instrument reflecting disapproval signed by the then Owners of



at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Lots and the Declarant (so long as the Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community) has been recorded within the year immediately preceding the beginning of a ten (10) year renewal period agreeing to change such provisions, in whole or in part, or to terminate the same, in which case this Declaration shall be modified or terminated to the extent specified therein; or (b) extended as otherwise provided by law. Every purchaser or grantee of any interest (including, without limitation, a security interest) in any real property subject to this Declaration, by acceptance of a deed or other conveyance therefor, thereby agrees that such provisions of this Declaration may be extended and renewed as provided in this Section.

**Section 4. Amendment.** This Declaration may be amended unilaterally at any time and from time to time by Declarant (a) if such amendment is necessary to bring any provision hereof into compliance with any applicable governmental statute, rule, or regulation or judicial determination which shall be in conflict therewith; (b) if such amendment is necessary to enable any reputable title insurance company to issue title insurance coverage with respect to the Lots subject to this Declaration; (c) if such amendment is required by an institutional or governmental lender or purchaser of Mortgage loans, including, for example, the Federal National Mortgage Association or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, to enable such lender or purchaser to make or purchase Mortgage loans on the Lots subject to this Declaration; or (d) if such amendment is necessary to enable any governmental agency or reputable private insurance company to guarantee or insure Mortgage loans on the Lots subject to this Declaration; provided, however, any such amendment shall not adversely affect the title to any Owner's Lot unless any such Lot Owner shall consent thereto in writing. Further, so long as Declarant has the right unilaterally to subject additional property to this Declaration as provided in Article IX hereof, Declarant may unilaterally amend this Declaration for any other purpose; provided, however, any such amendment shall not materially adversely affect the substantive rights of any Lot Owner hereunder, nor shall it adversely affect title to any Lot without the consent of the affected Lot Owner.

In addition to the above, this Declaration may be amended upon the affirmative vote or written consent, or any combination thereof, of Owners of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Lots (other than Lots of Declarant so long as the consent of Declarant is required) and the consent of Declarant (so long as the Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community). Amendments to this Declaration shall become effective upon recordation, unless a later effective date is specified therein. No provision of this Declaration which reserves or grants special rights to the Declarant and/or its affiliates shall be amended without the prior written consent of the Declarant and any affiliates affected by such amendment, so long as the Declarant and/or such affiliates, as the case may be, own any property primarily for development and/or sale in the Community or subject to annexation by the Declarant to the Community.

Any lawsuit challenging any aspect of an amendment to this Declaration must be filed in a court of competent jurisdiction in a county in which the Community is located within one (1)

year of the recordation of such amendment.

**Section 5. Gender and Grammar.** The singular, wherever used herein, shall be construed to mean the plural, when applicable, and the use of the masculine pronoun shall include the neuter and feminine.

**Section 6. Severability.** Whenever possible, each provision of this Declaration shall be interpreted in such manner as to be effective and valid, but if the application of any provision of this Declaration to any Person or to any property shall be prohibited or held invalid, such prohibition or invalidity shall not affect any other provision or the application of any provision which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and, to this end, the provisions of this Declaration are declared to be severable.

**Section 7. Captions.** The captions of each Article and Section hereof, as to the contents of each Article and Section, are inserted only for convenience and are in no way to be construed as defining, limiting, extending, or otherwise modifying or adding to the particular Article or Section to which they refer.

**Section 8. Conveyance of Property to Association; No Implied Rights.** Declarant and its affiliates may transfer or convey to the Association at any time and from time to time any personal property and any interest in improved or unimproved real property. Such conveyance shall be accepted by the Association, and the property shall thereafter be Common Property to be maintained by the Association for the benefit of all or a part of its members. So long as Declarant owns any property primarily for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Declaration, Declarant may, upon written notice to the Association, require the reconveyance by the Association to Declarant or its designee of any Common Property or any portion thereof, improved or unimproved, at no charge to Declarant or its designee, without a vote of the Owners/members of the Association, if the Common Property or portion thereof is: (i) found by Declarant to have been conveyed in error, (ii) needed by Declarant so that Declarant can make adjustments in property boundary lines, or (iii) reasonably determined by Declarant to be needed by Declarant due to changes in the overall scheme of development for the Community.

The Association hereby constitutes and appoints Declarant or its assigns as the Association's agent and attorney-in-fact to accept/make on behalf of the Association any such conveyances and reconveyances and to execute on behalf of the Association any and all documents, including, without limitation, deeds and transfer tax declaration forms, necessary or convenient to effectuate and document any of the foregoing conveyances and reconveyances, and all of the acts of such attorney-in-fact are hereby ratified. The power and agency hereby granted are coupled with an interest and are irrevocable by death or otherwise.

Declarant and its affiliates shall not be required to make any improvements whatsoever to property to be conveyed and accepted pursuant to this Section, and Declarant and its affiliates shall have no duty or obligation to convey any property or property rights to the Association,

regardless of whether or not any such property has been made available for the use of Owners. The Association shall also accept assignment of, and shall assume and agree to perform, any contracts entered into by Declarant and its affiliates for the benefit of the Association, its members or the Owners, including, without limitation, detention pond maintenance agreements and all types of utility easements.

Declarant may reserve, by condition, restriction, lease, license, easement or otherwise, such rights of use and enjoyment in and to all or any portion of the property conveyed as Declarant may reasonably require, so long as such reservation is not materially inconsistent with the overall scheme of development for the Community. Neither the recordation of any subdivision plat, nor the use by the Owners or maintenance by the Association of any property, shall create any rights, easements or licenses in the Association or the Owners, express or implied, unless and until any such property, rights, easements or licenses are conveyed to the Association or the Owners, as the case may be, by an instrument recorded in the land/real estate records of the county where the property is located.

Lakes and dams shall, without limitation, be included in the property that may be conveyed by Declarant and its affiliates and which shall be accepted by the Association. Declarant and its affiliates shall not be required to make any improvements whatsoever to property to be conveyed and accepted pursuant to this Section, including, without limitation, dredging or otherwise removing silt from any lake that may be conveyed. The Association shall also accept assignment of, and shall assume and agree to perform, any contracts entered into by the Declarant and its affiliates for the benefit of the Association or the Owners, including, without limitation, detention pond maintenance agreements and all types of utility easements.

**Section 9. Perpetuities.** If any of the covenants, conditions, restrictions or other provisions of this Declaration shall be unlawful, void or voidable for violation of the rule against perpetuities, then such provisions shall continue only until twenty-one (21) years after the death of the last survivor of the now living descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.

**Section 10. Indemnification.** In accordance with, and to the full extent allowed by, the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code, the Association shall indemnify every Person who was or is a party or who is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Association), by reason of the fact that such Person is or was serving as a director or officer of the Association against any and all expenses, including attorney's fees, imposed upon or reasonably incurred in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, if such Person acted in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Association and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. Any indemnification hereunder shall be made by the Association only as authorized in a specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the Person is proper under the circumstances.

**Section 11. Construction and Sale Period.** Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, rules and regulations, use restrictions, and any amendments to any of the foregoing, the Declarant hereby expressly reserves unto itself and its successors and assigns a non-exclusive, perpetual right, privilege, and easement with respect to the Community for the benefit of the Declarant, its successors and assigns, over, under, in, and/or on the Community, without obligation and without charge to the Declarant, for the purposes of taking all actions related to or connected with construction, installation, relocation, development, sale, maintenance, repair or replacement in the Community and any other property now owned or which may in the future be owned by the Declarant (such other property is hereinafter referred to as "Additional Property"). The reserved easement shall constitute a burden on the title to the Community and specifically includes, but is not limited to:

(a) the right of access, ingress and egress for vehicular and pedestrian traffic over, under, on or in the Community; and the right to tie into any portion of the Community with streets, driveways, parking areas and walkways; and the right to tie into and/or otherwise connect and use (without a tap-on or any other fee payable to the Association or any Owner for so doing), replace, relocate, maintain and repair any device which provides utility or similar services, including, without limitation, electrical, telephone, natural gas, water, sewer and drainage lines and facilities constructed or installed in, on, under and/or over the Community;

(b) the right to use (continually or from time to time) without charge any clubhouse or similar structure and appurtenant recreational facilities, if any, for business purposes or company functions and any similar use, including, but not limited to, sales and marketing meetings, offices for sales or other employees and agents, a design studio and employee parties; and

(c) the right to construct, install, replace, relocate, maintain, repair, use and enjoy signs, model residences, construction trailers and sales offices in the Community.

No rights, privileges and easements granted or reserved herein shall be merged into the title of any property, including, without limitation, the Community, but shall be held independent of such title, and no such right, privilege or easement shall be surrendered, conveyed or released unless and until and except by delivery of a quitclaim deed from the Declarant releasing such right, privilege or easement by express reference thereto.

If these reserved easements are exercised without annexing any Additional Property to the Community, the owners of the affected Additional Property shall share the costs, if any, of using and maintaining utility and similar facilities, including, without limitation, electrical, telephone, natural gas, water, sewer and drainage lines and facilities, with the Owners in the Community in the proportion that the number of completed dwellings on the affected Additional Property bears to the sum of the number of completed dwellings on the affected Additional Property plus the number of Lots in the Community. The costs of maintenance and repair of Community streets and driveways shall likewise be apportioned to the affected Additional Property if the only means of vehicular access to the affected Additional Property is across the Community. For the

purposes of this provision, a dwelling on the affected Additional Property shall be considered completed when a certificate of occupancy has been granted. The allocation of expenses and the collection therefor may be done on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis as may reasonably be determined by the Association in accordance with this Declaration. If any of the Additional Property is added to the Community, from the time of the annexation, the sharing of costs and expenses and the use of any property so added shall be governed by this Declaration, rather than by these reserved easements.

This Section shall not be amended without the prior written consent of the Declarant so long as the Declarant owns any property primarily for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community.

**Section 12. Books and Records.**

(a) Inspection by Members and Mortgagees. This Declaration, the Bylaws, copies of rules and use restrictions, membership register, books of account and minutes of meetings of the members of the Board and of committees shall be made available for inspection and copying by any member of the Association or by his duly appointed representative and by holders, insurers or guarantors of any first Mortgage at any reasonable time and for a purpose reasonably related to his or her interest as a member or holder, insurer or guarantor of a first Mortgage at the office of the Association or at such other reasonable place as the Board shall prescribe.

(b) Rules for Inspection. The Board shall establish reasonable rules with respect to:

- (i) notice to be given to the custodian of the records;
- (ii) hours and days of the week when such an inspection may be made; and
- (iii) payment of the cost of reproducing copies of documents.

(c) Inspection by Directors. Every director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records and documents of the Association and the physical properties owned or controlled by the Association. The right of inspection by a director includes the right to make extra copies of documents at the reasonable expense of the Association.

**Section 13. Financial Statements.** Financial statements for the Association shall be compiled annually in the manner as the Board of Directors may decide; provided, however, after having received the Board's financial statements at the annual meeting, the Owners, by a Majority vote, may require that the financial statements of the Association be audited as a common expense by a certified public accountant. Upon written request of any institutional holder of a first Mortgage and upon payment of all costs associated therewith, such holder shall be entitled to receive a copy of the audited financial statements of the Association within ninety (90) days of the date of the request.

**Section 14. Notice of Sale or Lease.** In the event an Owner sells or leases his or her Lot, the Owner shall give to the Association, in writing, the name of the purchaser or lessee of the Lot and such other information as the Board may reasonably require.

**Section 15. Agreements.** Subject to the prior approval of Declarant, so long as the Declarant has an option to unilaterally subject additional property to this Declaration as provided in Article IX above, all agreements and determinations, including settlement agreements regarding litigation involving the Association, lawfully authorized by the Board of Directors shall be binding upon all Owners, their heirs, legal representatives, successors, assigns and others having an interest in the Community or the privilege of possession and enjoyment of any part of the Community.

**Section 16. Variances.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Board of Directors or its designee shall be authorized to grant individual variances from any of the provisions of this Declaration, the Bylaws and any rule, regulation or use restriction promulgated pursuant thereto if it determines that waiver of application or enforcement of the provision in a particular case would not be inconsistent with the overall scheme of development for the Community.

**Section 17. Litigation.** No judicial or administrative proceeding shall be commenced or prosecuted by the Association unless approved by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the Total Association Vote. This Section shall not apply, however, to (a) actions brought by the Association to enforce the provisions of this Declaration (including, without limitation, the foreclosure of liens), (b) the imposition and collection of assessments as provided in Article IV hereof, (c) proceedings involving challenges to ad valorem taxation, or (d) counterclaims brought by the Association in proceedings instituted against it. This Section shall not be amended unless such amendment is made by the Declarant pursuant to Article XII, Section 4 hereof, or is approved by the percentage votes, and pursuant to the same procedures, necessary to institute proceedings as provided above.

**Section 18. Implied Rights.** The Association may exercise any right or privilege given to it expressly by this Declaration, the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, any use restriction or rule, and every other right or privilege reasonably to be implied from the existence of any right or privilege given to it therein or reasonably necessary to effectuate any such right or privilege.

**Section 19. Use of Recreational Facilities by Nonmembers.** For so long as Declarant has an option to unilaterally subject additional property to this Declaration as provided in Article IX above, Declarant shall have the right to grant to persons who are not members of the Association the right to use the Community recreational facilities (if any). The extent and duration of nonmember use and the fee to be charged therefor shall be determined solely by Declarant. The Declarant may grant nonmember use rights to individuals as an easement appurtenant to such individuals' residential real property so that such use rights shall automatically inure to the benefit of both the original grantees and their respective

successors-in-title to such real property. For so long as Declarant or an affiliate of Declarant owns such recreational facilities, nonmember user fees shall be paid to Declarant. If such recreational facilities are conveyed to the Association, nonmember user fees due and payable after the date of such conveyance shall be paid to the Association. Declarant shall determine the amount of nonmember user fees which are due and payable after such conveyance. Such fees shall be paid in equal annual installments to the Association, unless otherwise determined by the Board. The amount of such installment payments may be increased each year by the Board so long as the percentage increase (as compared to the previous year's installment) does not exceed the percentage increase in the annual assessment levied against members of the Association (as compared to the previous year's assessment).

Unless otherwise determined by the Declarant, any use right granted to nonmembers which extends beyond the termination of Declarant's option to unilaterally subject additional property to this Declaration shall be valid and may not be terminated by the Association so long as the terms and conditions imposed upon nonmember use by Declarant are complied with by the nonmember user.

Declarant hereby expressly reserves unto itself and its successors and assigns a non-exclusive, perpetual right, privilege and easement with respect to the Community for the benefit of Declarant, its successors, assigns and the above discussed nonmember users, over, under, in and/or on the Community (including, without limitation, the above described recreational facilities), without obligation and without charge to the foregoing, for the purposes of taking all actions related to or connected with the granting of nonmember use and the use by such nonmembers as described above. Such right, privilege and easement shall include, without limitation, the right of access, ingress, use and egress of and to the above described recreational facilities and the right of access, ingress, use and egress for vehicular and pedestrian traffic over, under, on or in the Community roads, parking areas and walkways.

Declarant, its partners and affiliates, and the officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, successors and assigns of any of the foregoing, shall not be liable for and are hereby held harmless by the Association from any failure of any nonmember to pay a nonmember user fee to the Association where required to do so by this Section. In such case, the Association's sole remedy shall be to suspend the use right of the nonmember who has not timely paid until all amounts owed are paid. Declarant, its partners and affiliates, and the officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents, successors and assigns of any of the foregoing, shall also not be liable for and are hereby held harmless by the Association from any personal injury or property damage caused by a nonmember entitled to use the above described recreational facilities.

So long as Declarant has an option to unilaterally subject additional property to this Declaration as provided in Article IX above, Declarant shall have the sole right to grant use rights to the above described recreational facilities to nonmembers and the Board shall have no such right; provided, however, upon the expiration or earlier surrender in writing of this option, the Board shall have the rights of the Declarant set forth in this Section, subject to then existing nonmember use rights. The provisions of this Section shall apply notwithstanding any contrary

provisions in this Declaration, the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, rules and regulations, use restrictions and any amendments to any of the foregoing.

**Section 20. Security.** The Declarant and the Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Community designed to make the Community and the Lots safer than they otherwise might be. HOWEVER, THE ASSOCIATION, THE DECLARANT, ITS PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES, ANY SUCCESSOR DECLARANT, AND THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING, SHALL NOT IN ANY WAY BE CONSIDERED INSURERS OR GUARANTORS OF SECURITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, NOR SHALL ANY OF THE FOREGOING BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE BY REASON OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY OR OF INEFFECTIVENESS OF SECURITY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN. NO REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY IS MADE THAT ANY FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM, BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM OR OTHER SECURITY SYSTEM CANNOT BE COMPROMISED OR CIRCUMVENTED, NOR THAT ANY SUCH SYSTEMS OR SECURITY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN WILL IN ALL CASES PREVENT LOSS OR PROVIDE THE DETECTION OR PROTECTION FOR WHICH THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED OR INTENDED. EACH OWNER ACKNOWLEDGES, UNDERSTANDS AND COVENANTS TO INFORM ITS TENANTS THAT THE ASSOCIATION, THE DECLARANT, ITS PARTNERS AND AFFILIATES, ANY SUCCESSOR DECLARANT, AND THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF ANY OF THE FOREGOING, ARE NOT INSURERS AND THAT EACH PERSON USING THE COMMUNITY ASSUMES ALL RISKS FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSONS, TO PROPERTY, TO LOTS, AND TO THE CONTENTS OF LOTS AND THE STRUCTURES THEREON RESULTING FROM ACTS OF THIRD PARTIES.

[continued on next page]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument and affixed the seal this 27th day of October, 2003

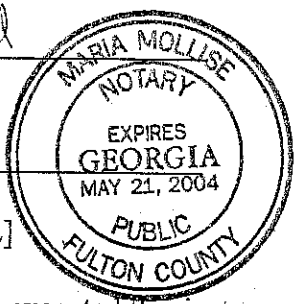
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

[Signature]  
Witness

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

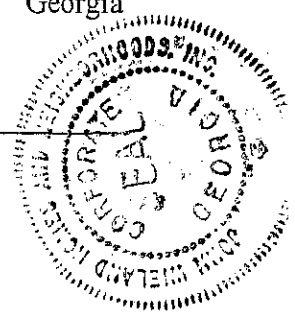
[NOTARIAL SEAL]



JOHN WIELAND HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS, INC., a Georgia corporation

By: [Signature]  
Andrea Lofstrand  
Assistant Secretary

[CORPORATE SEAL]



The Association has executed this instrument and affixed the seal below this 27th day of October, 2003 for the purpose of consenting to all of the terms and provisions of this Declaration.

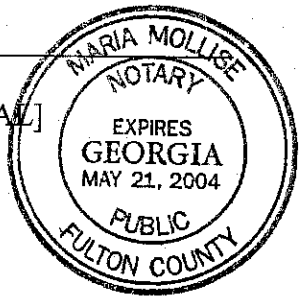
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

[Signature]  
Witness

[Signature]  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

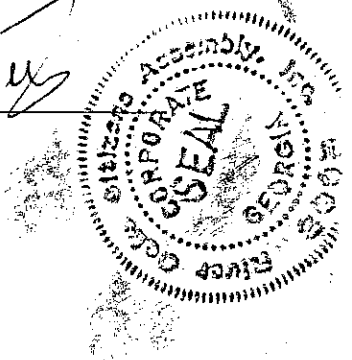
[NOTARIAL SEAL]



RIVER OAKS CITIZENS ASSEMBLY, INC., a Georgia nonprofit corporation

By: [Signature]  
Frederick D. Evans III  
Secretary

[CORPORATE SEAL]



## EXHIBIT "A"

### Definitions

The following words, when used in this Declaration or in any amendment thereof (unless the context shall prohibit), shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Association" shall mean and refer to River Oaks Citizens Assembly, Inc., a nonprofit Georgia corporation, its successors and assigns.
- (b) "Board of Directors" or "Board" of the Association shall be the appointed or elected body, as applicable, having its normal meaning under Georgia corporate law.
- (c) "Bylaws" shall refer to the Bylaws of River Oaks Citizens Assembly, Inc., attached to this Declaration as Exhibit "D" and incorporated herein by this reference.
- (d) "Common Property" shall mean any and all real and personal property and easements, leaseholds and other interests therein, together with the facilities and improvements located thereon, now or hereafter owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners.
- (e) "Community" shall mean and refer to that certain real property and interests therein described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto, and (i) such additions thereto as may be made by Declarant (or its Mortgagee or transferee, as provided in the Declaration) of all or any portion of the real property described in Exhibit "C", attached hereto; and (ii) such additions thereto as may be made by the Association (as provided in the Declaration) of other real property.
- (f) "Community-Wide Standard" shall mean the standard of conduct, maintenance or other activity generally prevailing in the Community. Such standard may be more specifically determined by the Board of Directors of the Association. Such determination, however, must be consistent with the Community-Wide Standard originally established by the Declarant.
- (g) "Declarant" shall mean and refer to John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods, Inc., a Georgia corporation, and its successors-in-title and assigns, provided any such successor-in-title or assign shall acquire for the purpose of development or sale all or any portion of the remaining undeveloped or unsold portions of the real property described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto, or in Exhibit "C", attached hereto, and provided further, in the instrument of conveyance to any such successor-in-title or assign, such successor-in-title or assign is designated as the "Declarant" hereunder by the grantor of such conveyance, which grantor shall be the "Declarant" hereunder at the time of such conveyance; provided, further, upon such designation of such successor Declarant, all rights of the former Declarant in and to such status as "Declarant" hereunder shall cease, it being understood that as to all of the property described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto, and in Exhibit "C", attached hereto, which is now or hereafter subjected to this Declaration, there shall be only one Person or legal entity entitled to exercise the rights and powers of the "Declarant" hereunder at any one point in time. An "affiliate" of

Declarant shall mean any entity in which Declarant or John Wieland (and/or member(s) of his immediate family) own or control at least twenty (20%) percent of the beneficial interest thereof.

(h) "Lake Lot" shall mean a Lot containing any real property which abuts any lake within the Community.

(i) "Lot" shall mean any plot of land within the Community, whether or not improvements are constructed thereon, which constitutes or will constitute, after the construction of improvements, a single dwelling site, as shown on any plats for the Community, or amendments thereto, recorded in the land records of the county where the Community is located.

The ownership of each Lot shall include, and there shall pass with each Lot as an appurtenance thereto, whether or not separately described, all of the right, title, and interest of an Owner in the Common Property, which shall include, without limitation, membership in the Association.

(j) "Majority" means those eligible votes, Owners or other group as the context may indicate totaling more than fifty percent (50%) of the total eligible number.

(k) "Mortgage" means any mortgage, deed to secure debt, and any and all other similar instruments used for the purpose of conveying or encumbering real property as security for the payment or satisfaction of an obligation.

(l) "Mortgagee" shall mean the holder of a Mortgage.

(m) "Occupant" shall mean any Person occupying all or any portion of a Lot or other property located within the Community for any period of time, regardless of whether such Person is a tenant of the Owner of such property.

(n) "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more Persons, of the fee simple title to any Lot located within the Community, excluding, however, any Person holding such interest merely as security for the performance or satisfaction of any obligation.

(o) "Person" means any natural person, as well as a corporation, joint venture, partnership (general or limited), association, trust, or other legal entity.

(p) "Supplementary Declaration" means an amendment or supplement to this Declaration which subjects additional property to this Declaration or imposes, expressly or by reference, additional restrictions and obligations on the land described therein, or both.

(q) "Total Association Vote" means all of the votes attributable to members of the Association (including votes of Declarant) and the consent of Declarant (so long as Declarant owns any property for development and/or sale in the Community or has the right unilaterally to annex additional property to the Community).

**EXHIBIT "B"**

Property Submitted

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in Land Lot 6 of the 7th District AND IN Land Lots 80, 81, 82, 111, and 112 of the 9<sup>th</sup> District of Fayette County, Georgia, containing approximately 237.79 acres as shown on that certain Final Plat of River Oaks Subdivision, dated 10/17/03, prepared by Integrated Science & Engineering, certified by George T. White, Georgia Registered Land Surveyor No. 1929, which plat was recorded on 10/20/03 in Book 38, Pages 116-125, Fayette County, Georgia land records.

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EXHIBIT "C"

Additional Property which can be Unilaterally  
Submitted by Declarant

ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND lying and being in Land Lots 6, 49, 50, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 142, 143 and 144 of the 7th District, Fayette County, Georgia, and in Land Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the 9<sup>th</sup> District, aforesaid County and State.

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rev. 10/27/03

