

We are requesting a special use permit to operate a corn maze, pumpkin patch and a walk-through Christmas light tour. The property is currently zoned agriculture and is surrounded by commercial property as well as a few residential properties. Most of the adjoining residential properties will be owners of the agritourism business. We are requesting to have gravel parking for our patrons to help minimize the environmental impact to our farm. We are trying to start a small family business on property that has been our family for multiple generations, currently our parents own the property which they purchased from my grandparents in the 1950s. We are one of the last small family farms left in the area due to commercial development surrounding us. With our request we are hoping to help cover our increased cost of preserving the property from commercial development. My sisters, brother and I grew up on the property playing on the land and helping our parents operate a small farm with growing a garden, harvesting hay and managing a small herd of cows. Our lives have been shaped by these experiences and by starting this business we get to preserve the land as well as share it with community. Do we really need another warehouse with commercial vehicles coming and going at all times of the day and night? With a commercial zoning business can be conducted 24 hrs a day, with our request we have limited hours of operation and limited days.

Our business will consist of a corn maze, wagon rides and kid's activities. We are planning a 3-acre corn maze as our main attraction. Other attractions to include a jumping pillow which is a large jumping mat integrated into the ground, a playground area, antique tractors for pictures, a corn pit, outdoor fire pits and wagon rides that tour our 17-acre farm. The jumping pillow and corn pit will be located in the area designated kids activity area on the site plan. We are also planning an area for a pumpkin patch with planted pumpkins but will mostly re-sell pumpkins in our field that we have previously purchased. We will also have a covered pole barn of 30 X 60 for picnic tables as well as an area for a small market area to sell soft drinks, waters and pre-packaged snacks. Initially we plan on using portable bathroom facilities and portable lighting. We do anticipate guests to our farm to stay less than two hours to complete the activities. Our hours of operation will be Thursday-Sunday during the month of September 10 am until 10 pm and anticipate expanding our hours for the month of October to daily until mid-November to 7 days a week.

We are also planning on a walking Christmas light tour through the corn maze area which will allow us to expand our season from mid-November until the end of the year with operating hours of dusk until 9pm Sunday through Thursday and dusk until 11pm Friday and Saturday nights.

As you can see we are trying to minimally impact our land as well as share it with our surrounding neighbors and community. We ask that you consider our request for a special use permit to help us preserve our small family farm.

I have also included pictures taken facing Lanier Island Pkwy demonstrating the commercial development across the 4 lane highway and then facing our property where we are asking to have our corn maze. As you can see there is commercial office space, a strip mall, commercial businesses and a restaurant just across the roadway from us. Looking toward our property the topography drops away from the roadway which buffers us from the roadway as well as keeps our lighting at night to minimal impact. There are also a few pictures of an example of our pole barn we are proposing, these are taken of one of the shelters at a local park.

Thank You for your time and consideration

The Bell Family