

City of Cordele

Crisp County

Not located in a MSA.

2003 Population Estimate 11,500; -1.1% change from 2000 Census.

Tree City USA for 13 years.

City tree board with 7 members; no meeting frequency required by ordinance.

ARTICLE II. TREE PRESERVATION

First adopted 1993. Several revisions.

Addresses public property.

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TREE
ARTICLE II. TREE PRESERVATION*

***Editor's note:** Ord. No. 0-93-6, adopted May 18, 1993, enacted provisions which have been included herein at the discretion of the editor as Art. II, §§ 15-41–15-55.

Cross references: Cemeteries, Ch. 7.

Sec. 15-41. Purpose and intent.

It is the purpose and intent of this article to beautify the city by properly managing the preservation of trees on city property using approved horticultural procedures; to encourage orderly addition of trees to city property in the interest of improving the ecology and environment of the city; and to set a further example to the general public of the city commission's determination to establish Cordele as a model city in every respect.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 1, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 1, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-42. Definitions.

As used in this article the following words and terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed:

Flowering trees are herein defined as multi-stemmed from single-stemmed which will normally grow to a height of less than twenty (20) feet.

Park trees: "Park trees" are herein defined as single-stemmed woody vegetation which will normally grow to a height of more than twenty (20) feet located on all lands belonging to the city other than streets, avenues and alleys.

Street trees: "Street trees" are herein defined as single-stemmed woody vegetation which will normally grow to a height of more than twenty (20) feet located on land lying between property lines of all streets, avenues and alleys belonging to the city.

Tree topping: "Tree topping" is herein defined as the severe cutting back of tree limbs to stubs larger than three (3) inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree as will remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree's crown.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 2, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 2, 10-19-93)

treeboard

Sec. 15-43. City treeboard--Established.

There is hereby created and established a "city treeboard" which shall consist of seven (7) members, citizens and residents of the city, who shall be appointed by the city commission.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 3, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 3, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-44. Same--Term of office.

The term of office of the seven (7) persons appointed to the treeboard shall be three (3) years. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of any member, his or her successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 4, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 4, 10-19-93; Ord. No. 0-97-2, § 1, 1-21-97; Ord. No. 0-99-56, § 1, 12-21-99)

Sec. 15-45. Same--Compensation.

Members of the treeboard shall serve without compensation.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 5, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 5, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-46. Same--Duties and responsibilities.

It shall be the responsibility of the treeboard to study, investigate, develop and update periodically a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, removal and disposition of the trees on city property and city cemeteries, the "Official Comprehensive Tree Plan for the City of Cordele." The treeboard, when requested by the city commission, shall consider, investigate, make findings, and report and recommend concerning any special matter or question within the scope of its duties.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 6, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 6, 10-19-93; Ord. No. 0-99-56, § 2, 12-21-99)

Sec. 15-47. Same--Operation.

The treeboard shall choose its own officers, make its own bylaws, and shall keep and preserve minutes of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of the tree board's duties under this article. The presiding officer of the board shall be allowed to vote on all matters coming before the board.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 7, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 7, 10-19-93)

tree

Sec. 15-48. Public tree care.

The city has the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees located on city property (avenues, streets, alleys and other public areas) as may be necessary to carry out the spirit and intent of this article. The city may, but is not hereby obligated, to remove, or cause to be removed, any tree which interferes with or might affect the operation of sewers, electric lines, communication lines, cable television lines, or other public improvements, or trees which are infected with fungus, insects, or other pests.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 8, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 8, 10-19-93)

Tree

Sec. 15-49. Tree topping.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or city employee to top any street tree or park tree on city property. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or trees under wires or other improvements where pruning practices are impractical may be exempted

from provisions of this article by the city manager.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 9, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 9, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-50. Reserved.

Editor's note: Ord. No. 0-99-56, § 3, adopted Dec. 21, 1999, repealed § 15-50 of the Code in its entirety, which pertained to removal of stumps and derived from Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 10, adopted May 18, 1993; and Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 10, adopted Oct. 19, 1993.

Sec. 15-51. Interference illegal.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to prevent, delay or interfere with any activity enacted by this article.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 11, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 11, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-52. Review by the city commission.

The city commission shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the treeboard. Any citizen of the city may appeal any determination made by the treeboard to the city commission, which may hear the matter and make a binding final decision.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 12, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 12, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-53. Penalty.

Any person violating any provision of the article, shall, upon conviction in the Cordele Municipal Court, be punished within the discretion of the judge of said court within the limits provided by the Charter of the City of Cordele.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 13, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 13, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-54. Severability.

Should any provision of this article, or any part thereof, be found to be unconstitutional or illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions, and parts thereof, shall remain of full force and effect.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 14, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 15, 10-19-93)

Sec. 15-55. Repeal of conflicting provisions.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances, and all provisions and parts thereof in the Code of the City of Cordele, which conflict with this article are hereby expressly repealed.

(Ord. No. 0-93-6, § 15, 5-18-93; Ord. No. 0-93-23, § 16, 10-19-93)