

# **City of Screven**

**Wayne County**

**Not located in a MSA.**

**2003 Population Estimate 723; +2.8% change from 2000 Census.**

**Tree City USA for 11 years.**

**City Tree Board with 5 members; no meeting frequency required by ordinance.**

## **Tree Ordinance**

**First adopted 1995. No revisions.**

**Addresses public property.**

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Preferred that contact  
information not be published.

City of Screven  
Tree Ordinance

An ordinance relating to protection of trees on public property which serves the public interest by providing oxygen, stabilization of the soil, prevention of erosion, shelter for wildlife, conservation of energy by providing shade, filtering air, and adding to the beauty of the City of Screven; and providing when this ordinance shall take effect.

**Whereas**, trees provide a setting with a variety of color unsurpassed in shade and hue; and

**Whereas**, trees are an invaluable psychological counterpart to the man-made urban setting; and

**Whereas**, trees absorb a high percentage of carbon dioxide and return oxygen, a vital ingredient to life; and

**Whereas**, trees are a valuable asset that can affect an area economically; and

**Whereas**, the City Council of the City of Screven has determined that the protection of trees on public property within the city of Screven is not only desirable but essential to the present and future health, safety and welfare of all citizens; and

**Whereas**, the City of Screven recognizes that trees on public property are valuable contributors to the City's environment;

**Now, Therefore, be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Screven, Georgia:**

**Section 1. Definitions**

Street trees: "Street trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

Park trees: "Park trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the City, or to which the public has free access as a park.

**Section 2. Creation and Establishment of a City Tree Board**

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of Screven, Georgia which shall consist of five members who are citizens and residents of this area and who be appointed by the City Council of the City of Screven, Georgia.

**Section 3. Term of Office**

The term of the five persons appointed to the City Tree Board shall be three years except that the term of two of these members appointed to the first Board shall be for only one year and the term of two members of the first Board shall be for two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, their successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of that term.

**Section 4. Compensation**

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

**Section 5. Duties and responsibilities**

(a) It shall be the responsibility of the Board to study, investigate, counsel, and develop and update annually, and administer a plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal, or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets, and in all other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the City Council and, upon their acceptance and approval, shall constitute the official comprehensive tree plan for the City of Screven, Georgia.

(b) The Board, when requested by the City Council of the City of Screven, shall consider, investigate, make findings of fact, report, and make recommendations upon any special matter or question coming within the scope of its duties.

**Section 6. Operation**

The Board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations, and keep a journal of its actions. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 7. Street Trees to be Planted**

The following list constitutes the official Street Tree species for Screven, Georgia. No species other than those included in this list may be planted as Street Trees without written permission of the City Tree Board.

Small, Medium and Large Trees

|                    |                        |                   |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| American Holly     | Washington Hawthorne   | Bradford Pear     |
| Crabapple          | Crape Myrtle           | Southern Sugar    |
| Redbud             | Jerusalem Thorn        | Southern Magnolia |
| Red Maple          | Carolina Laurel Cherry | Red Cedar         |
| Sassafras          | Cherry                 | Sourwood          |
| Japanese Maple     | Dogwood                | Foster Holly      |
| Yaupon Holly       | Japanese Crabapple     | Oleander          |
| Frazier's Photenia | Gingko                 | American Beech    |
| Black gum          | Pecan                  | Hickory           |

### **Section 7. Street Trees to be Planted Continued**

|             |                  |                  |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| River Birch | Sugar Hackberry  | Katsura          |
| Pin Oak     | Swamp Laurel Oak | Water Oak        |
| Willow Oak  | Live Oak         | Japanese Zelkova |
| Sweet Gum   | White Oak        | Hickory          |

### **Section 8. Spacing**

The spacing of street trees will be in accordance with the three species classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and no trees may be planted closer together than the following: Small trees, 30 feet; Medium trees, 40 feet; Large trees, 50 feet, except in special plantings designed or approved by a landscape architect.

### **Section 9. Distance from Curb or Sidewalk**

The distance trees may be planted from curbs or curblines and sidewalks will be in accordance with the three species size classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and no trees may be planted closer to any curb or sidewalk than the following: Small trees, 2 feet; Medium trees, 3 feet; and Large trees, 4 feet.

### **Section 10. Distance from Street Corners and Fireplugs**

No street trees shall be planted closer than 20 feet of any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs or curblines. No street tree shall be planted closer than 10 feet of any fireplug.

### **Section 11. Public Tree Care**

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. The City Tree Board may remove or cause to be removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric lines, gas lines, water lines or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or pest. This section does not prohibit the planting of street trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Sections 7 through 11 of this ordinance.

### **Section 12. Tree Topping**

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm or city department to top any street tree, park tree or other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other

pruning practices are impractical may be exempt from this ordinance at the determination of the City Tree Board.

### **Section 13. Pruning, Corner Clearance**

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and to that shall be a clear space of eight feet (8') above the surface of the sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public.

The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a street light, or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

### **Section 14. Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property**

The City shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the city, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the City. The City Tree Board will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within sixty days after the date of service of notice. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owners property tax notice.

### **Section 15. Interference with City Tree Board**

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the City Tree Board, or any of its agents, or servants, while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying or removing of any street tree, park trees, or trees on private grounds, as authorized in this ordinance.

### **Section 16. Arborists License and Bond**

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing street or park trees within the City without first applying for and procuring a license. The license fee shall be \$25 annually in advance; provided, however, that no license shall be required of any public service company or City employee doing such work in the pursuit of their public service endeavors. Before any license shall be issued, each applicant shall first file evidence of possession of liability insurance in the minimum amounts of \$25,000 for bodily injury or \$10,000 property damage indemnifying the City of any person injured or damaged resulting from the pursuit of such endeavors as herein described.

**Section 17. Review by City Council**

The City Council shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the City Tree Board. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the City Tree Board to the City Council who may hear the matter and make the final decision.

**Section 18. Exceptions**

- a. In the event that any tree shall be determined to be in hazardous or dangerous condition as determined by the City Tree Board so as to endanger health or safety and require immediate removal without delay, verbal authorization for removal may be given by the City.
- b. During the period of emergencies such as hurricane, windstorm, flood, freeze, or other disasters, the requirements of this ordinance may be waived by the City. Said waiver must be for a time certain and may not be for an indefinite period.

**Section 19. Penalty**

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be upon conviction of a plea of guilt, subject to a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

**Section 20. Effective Date**

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1995.

Approved By:

Attested by:

Joseph E. Kuplighter  
Mayor

James Royal  
Councilman

Bianca Jackson

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Councilman

Willie Williams  
Councilman

Nellie Hill  
Councilman

Melvin Boyette  
Councilman