

# **City of Thomaston**

**Upson County**

**Not located in a MSA.**

**2003 Population Estimate 9,295; -1.2% change from 2000 Census.**

**Tree City USA for 18 years.**

**City Tree Board with 10 members; no meeting frequency required by ordinance.**

## **DIVISION 5. TREE BOARD**

**First adopted 1988. Last revised 1995.**

**Addresses public property.**

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(b) All public officials shall, upon request, furnish to the zoning commission, within a reasonable time, such available information as it may require for its work. In general, the zoning commission shall have such powers as may be necessary to enable it to perform its functions and promote the planning and zoning of the city.

(Code 1965, § 2-52)

**Secs. 2-149—2-160. Reserved.**

#### DIVISION 5. TREE BOARD\*

**Sec. 2-161. Reconstituted; membership.**

The city tree board is hereby reconstituted and reestablished by enlarging the membership thereof to ten persons to be appointed in accordance with section 2-162.

(Code 1965, § 2-53; Ord. No. 850, § 1, 12-5-95)

**Sec. 2-162. Appointment; terms; filling vacancies.**

Seven members of the tree board shall be appointed by the mayor and council from the citizens of the county, at large, for a term of three calendar years each, which terms shall expire on the last day of the year. The five members appointed by the mayor and council who are presently serving on the tree board shall continue to serve in accordance with their appointment. In making the initial appointments to the two new posts hereby created, however, the mayor and council shall appoint one member for a term of one year, and one member for a term of two years. One of the members of the board shall be a person nominated by the Thomaston-Upson County recreation commission who shall serve for such term as shall be designated by that commission. One of the members of the board shall be the senior employee of the Georgia Forestry Commission whose area of responsibility includes the City of Thomaston, or the next most senior employee of the Georgia Forestry Commission if the senior employee declines to serve, whose term shall be commensurate with the assignment of such person to the territory which includes the City of Thomaston. The remaining member of the board shall be the city manager of the city. Vacancies in office during the term of any appointment shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the person was appointed whose office has become vacant.

(Code 1965, § 2-54; Ord. No. 850, § 2, 12-5-95)

**Sec. 2-163. Duties.**

The tree board shall have the duty and responsibility of studying all open spaces which are owned by the city, and to develop plans and establish goals for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal and disposition of trees and shrubs in all such open spaces, including, but not being limited to, the public parks, grounds of public buildings and unpaved portions of public streets and rights-of-way, and to present such plans, as a recommendation,

\***Cross references**—Buildings and building regulations, ch. 18; environment, ch. 46.

to the mayor and council on or before October 1 in each calendar year. The board shall also provide the mayor and council, annually, with its recommendation for the observation of National Arbor Day within the city. The board shall also serve as an advisory board to the mayor and council on such other questions or matters within its area of responsibility as may be referred to it from time to time, by the mayor and council.

(Code 1965, § 2-55)

**Sec. 2-164. Organization.**

The tree board shall elect from among its members a chairman and a vice-chairman, and shall appoint a secretary, who may, but need not necessarily, be a member of the board. The board shall make and adopt its own bylaws, as well as fix the time and place of its meetings.

(Code 1965, § 2-56)

**Sec. 2-165. Compensation.**

The members of the tree board shall serve without compensation; however, they shall be entitled to be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

(Code 1965, § 2-57)

**Sec. 2-166—2-169. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE V. CODE OF ETHICS**

**Sec. 2-170. Basic constitutional principles of ethical governance.**

All government, of right, originates with the people and is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole. Public officers are the trustees and servants of the people and are at all times amenable to them. See Georgia Constitution, Article I, Section II, Paragraph I.

(Ord. No. 966, § 1, 9-2-03)

**Sec. 2-171. Public servants are trustees.**

The public trust requires public servants to fulfill their duties faithfully and honestly and to subordinate any personal interest which conflicts with the public interest. A public servant is a trustee of the people and should strive to further the general welfare and not use public office in order to improve his or her own private standing. The principal policies which form the foundation of this code of ethics are:

- (1) The trust of citizens in their government is cultivated when individual public servants act with integrity and when the public is aware that its servants act with integrity.
- (2) The Constitutions, laws and regulations of the United States and the state and ordinances of the city should be upheld as a de minimus standard of conduct.

ZONING

§ 98-71

District	Minimum Lot Size		Minimum Lot Width (in Feet)	Minimum Size of Dwelling Unit (in Square Feet)	Minimum Front Yard Building Set- back From Centerline of Street (in Feet)		Minimum Side Yard (in Feet)	Minimum Rear Yard (in Feet)	Maximum Height (in Feet)
	Area in Square Feet	Square Feet Per Family			Major (State Route)	Minor			
R-6	Only 60% of lot may be cov- ered by build- ings.	2,500	60	600 per family	75	50	20 on each side	20 from property line	35
					(front of building must be minimum of 35 feet from front property line)				
C-1	--	--	--	--	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	50
C-2	--	--	--	--	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	35
C-3	--	--	--	--	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	35
M-1	--	--	--	--	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	50
M-2	--	--	--	--	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	15 from property line	35
P-1	See Section 98-47								
Gate- ways	See paragraph (b) of this section								

(b) Gateway Area One shall be subject to the following specific regulations, provisions and requirements:

- (1) The minimum building setback line shall be 45 feet from the respective right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 19.
- (2) That portion of Gateway Area One located between the right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 19 and a line parallel with, and 30 feet from, said right-of-way shall be a "greenspace" and:
  - a. Shall be devoted solely and entirely to the planting and maintenance of vegetation, as hereinafter specified, except that at each location where the Georgia Department of Transportation issues a permit to construct a vehicle entrance or exit connecting the gateway property to said highway, a strip, equivalent in width to the width allowed by such permit at the point where the said right-of-way abuts the private property line, and no greater in length than 45 feet, may be used as a driveway, and may be covered with an impervious surface, to permit vehicular access through the greenspace.

- b. It shall be the duty of the owner, or the person in legal possession, of the greenspace to plant, and to maintain in living condition, by re-planting, if necessary, the greenspace in accordance with the minimum requirements provided for herein.
1. The greenspace shall be maintained as a landscaped area devoted to trees, shrubs, ground cover, mulch, and other plantings appropriate for the site. The landscaping requirements may be accomplished by retaining existing, healthy trees, shrubs and plants, by planting new trees, shrubs and plants, or any combination of retained and planted vegetation meeting the minimum standards provided for herein.
  2. The minimum requirements for the greenspace are:
    - i. One "large" tree that will, at normal maturity, be expected to exceed 45 feet in height, for every 45 lineal feet of highway frontage, or
    - ii. One "medium" tree that will, at normal maturity, be expected to exceed 35 feet in height, for every 35 lineal feet of highway frontage, or
    - iii. One "small" tree that will, at normal maturity, be expected to exceed 20 feet in height, for every 25 lineal feet of highway frontage, or
    - iv. One "utility tree or shrub" that will, at normal maturity, not be expected to exceed 15 feet in height, for every 20 lineal feet of highway frontage, or
    - v. Any combination of the foregoing plantings to meet said lineal frontage requirements.
    - vi. Each tree planted to meet the foregoing requirements shall have a minimum caliper, measured at six inches above ground, of two inches.
    - vii. The portion of the greenspace not actually planted with trees or shrubs shall be planted with grass, ground cover, or flowers, or covered with mulch.
  3. The minimum requirements set forth in subparagraph 2 are intended to be an average determined by dividing the number of trees required into the total frontage of each parcel of property, so that retained or planted trees and shrubs may be grouped as part of the landscape design.
  4. The selection of tree and shrub species (for retention or planting), the height projections at maturity, and the selection of planting sites shall be made based upon the "Recommended Tree List" and "Tree Management Guidelines," promulgated by the Thomaston tree board, which are attached to Ord. No. 874 as Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B," respectively, and by this reference incorporated herein and made a part hereof. Exhibits "A" and "B" are not set out herein, but are on file and available for inspection in the office of the city clerk.
  5. The retained or planted trees and shrubs shall be the largest size, which, at maturity, meet the "Tree Management Guidelines."

6. All plantings, and retention of existing trees, shall be done in a manner to eliminate immediate and future interference with above and below ground utilities and sidewalks.

(Ord. No. 442, § 701, 8-17-67; Ord. No. 601, § 4, 9-6-77; Ord. No. 874, § 3, 4-21-97)

**Sec. 98-72. Minimum side yard requirements contained in section 98-71 inapplicable in certain instances.**

The minimum side yard requirements contained in section 98-71, as amended, shall not apply to the side of any lot in either a C-1 main commercial district, or in a C-2 general commercial district, or a C-3 neighborhood commercial district, or a M-1 industrial district or a M-2 light industrial district if the side lot line thereof is immediately contiguous to the side lot line of another such lot located in either a C-1, C-2, C-3, M-1, or M-2 district. Any side of any lot thus exempt from side yard requirements of section 98-71 shall have no minimum side yard requirements whatsoever on such side thereof.

(Ord. No. 442, § 702, 8-17-67; Ord. No. 444, § 2, 12-5-67; Ord. No. 691, § 1, 3-6-84)

**Sec. 98-73. Additions to nonconforming structures located in C-1, C-2, C-3, M-1, M-2 and P-1 districts.**

Existing single-family residences located in C-1, C-2, C-3, M-1, M-2 and P-1 zoning districts shall be allowed to continue as nonconforming structures, provided same comply with the general provisions contained in section 98-10. However, such structures may be altered, added to or repaired provided such additions and alterations conform to setback and related requirements of those in the least stringent adjoining residential district.

(Ord. No. 442, § 703, 8-17-67; Ord. No. 448, § 1, 7-16-68)

**Secs. 98-74—98-95. Reserved.**

**ARTICLE IV. EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**


**Sec. 98-96. Existing lots.**

Where the owner of a plot of land consisting of one or more adjacent lots at the time of the enactment of this chapter did not at that time own sufficient contiguous land to enable him to conform to the minimum lot size requirements of this chapter, such plot of land may nevertheless be used as a building site. The yard and other space requirements of the district in which the piece of land is located may be reduced by the smallest amount that will permit a house of minimum acceptable size to be built upon the lot.

(Ord. No. 442, § 801, 8-17-67)

**Sec. 98-97. Front yard setback for dwellings.**

The front yard setback requirements of this chapter for dwellings shall not apply on any lot where the average setback of existing buildings located wholly or in part within 100 feet on



# Thomaston Tree Board

P.O. Box 672  
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

## Recommended Tree List

April 21, 1997

Mature Size	Species	
Utility/Shrub	Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
	Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus spp.</i>
	Crapemyrtle cultivars	<i>Lagerstroemia indica—cultivars</i>
	Viburnum	<i>Viburnum spp.</i>
	Chastetree	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>
Small	Trident Maple	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>
	Holly species/cultivars	<i>Ilex sp.</i>
	Crapemyrtle cultivars	<i>Lagerstroemia indica—cultivars</i>
	Flowering Cherry	<i>Prunus—cultivars</i>
Medium	Red Maple cultivars	<i>Acer rubrum "October Glory"</i>
	American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
	Holly species/cultivars	<i>Ilex sp.</i>
	Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
	Golden Raintree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
	Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora—cultivars</i>
	Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
	Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>
	Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
Large	Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora—cultivars</i>
	Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glytostroboides</i>
	Scarlet Oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
	Nuttall Oak	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>
	Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
	Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
	Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia—cultivars</i>

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# Thomaston Tree Board

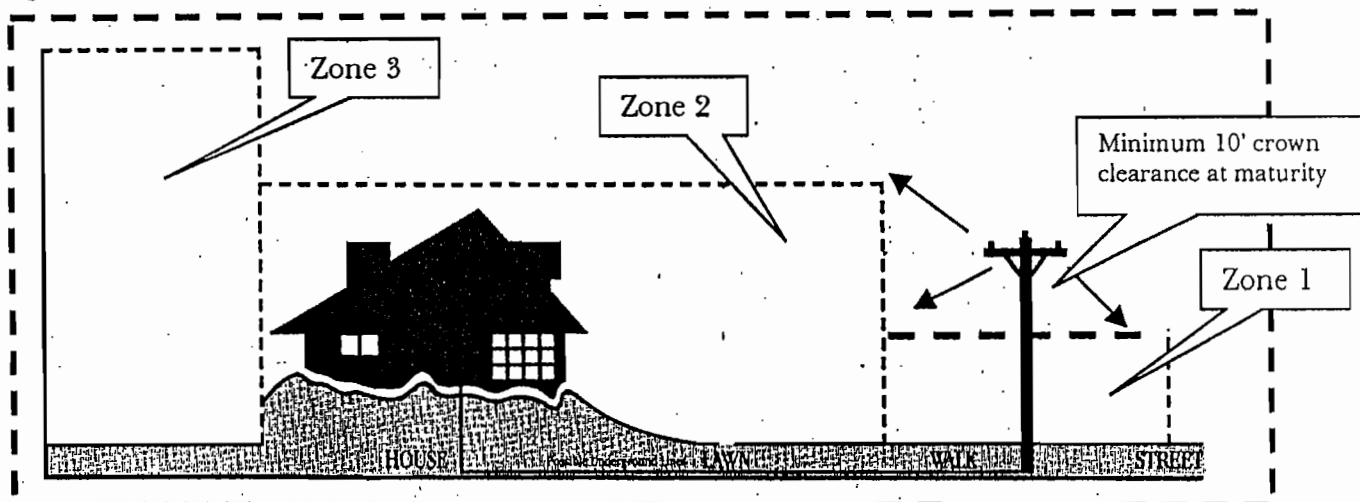
Tree management Guidelines

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April 21, 1997

## Tree Site Evaluation:

The Thomaston Tree Board has adopted the following specifications for above and below ground electric utility clearance.



At maturity, a tree crown should be at least 10' from the nearest above-ground electric utility wire.

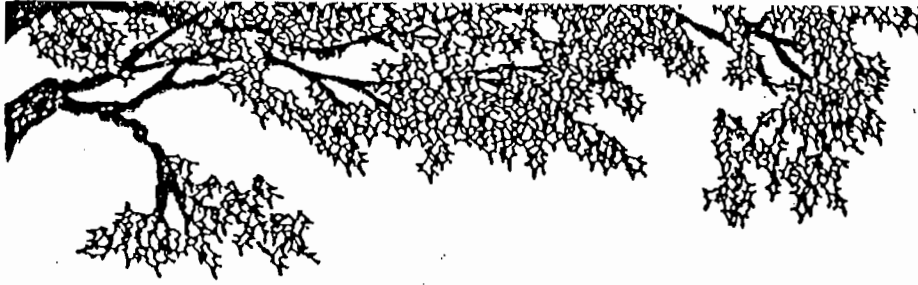
- ❖ Utility trees/shrubs may be planted in "Zone 1"
- ❖ Small and medium mature trees may be planted in "Zone 2"; plant small trees at least 25' from the utility so that the crown has 10' clearance at maturity; plant medium mature trees at least 30' from the utility.
- ❖ Large mature trees may be planted in "Zone 3" (no above ground utilities present), or in "Zone 2" when planted at least 40' from the utility.

Site selection criteria should include the minimum horizontal distance to underground utilities (distribution lines). The purpose of these criteria is to protect the tree from root damage during underground utility repair or replacement. Distance should be related to the mature size of tree:

- Large 20'-30'
- Medium 10'-20'
- Small 5'-10'

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Distance to underground service lines is not as critical since repair procedures for these lines are less intrusive in most situations and damage to a nearby tree would be minimal (assuming repair crews don't drive over trees with their truck!).


An additional criterion for planting near underground electric utility transformers (the green boxes) is a distance of 5'. This should establish a satisfactory distance providing the species list for these planting sites excludes trees and shrubs with thorns or foliage with spines (e.g. most Hollies).

### ***Pruning***

All pruning should conform to "natural target pruning" as developed by Dr. Alex Shigo.

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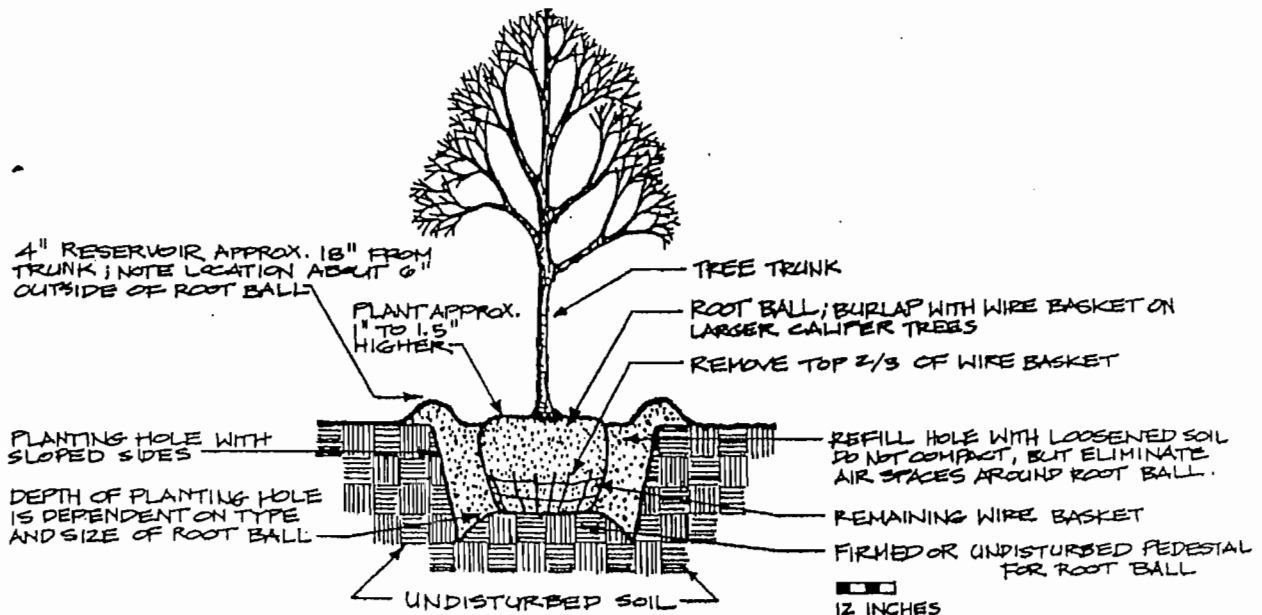
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Tree management Guidelines

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## Planting



- When transporting or moving a tree by hand, carry the tree by the root ball, providing support to the bottom of the ball. Never carry the tree by its trunk or branches.
- When transporting or moving a tree by tractor or backhoe, lift the tree by properly attached nylon straps.
- Planting hole width at the top will be 2x the width of the root ball; the planting hole will be at least 48" in diameter regardless of the size of the root ball. The sides of the planting hole will slope to the center pedestal.
- The root ball will be placed on firmed or undistributed soil (the pedestal) so that the tree is slightly (1' to 1.5") above the depth that it was previously growing.
- The top 2/3s of the wire basket will be removed by cutting each vertical wire. This procedure eliminates any future interference with the development of structural roots. The wires will not be cut with axes, shovels, mattocks, or other landscape tools. Use a bolt cutter or similar tool designed for that purpose. Remove at least the top 2/3s burlap bag.
- Refill the hole around the tree with soil removed from the hole; this soil should be thoroughly pulverized or loosened. Do not compact the soil around the tree with your feet, but gently vibrate

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the soil with a shovel as it is added. If water is available, alternate water and soil when refilling the hole to eliminate air pockets.

- Build a reservoir around the tree by mounding a ridge of soil at least 4' high approximately 18' to 24" from the trunk of the tree. This reservoir should be at least 6" outside of the root ball.
- Mulch the tree heavily with either pine straw (minimum of 6" depth) or wood chips (maximum of 4" depth); do not place wood chip mulch next to the trunk of the tree.
- All strings, twine and tags (above ground level) will be removed from the tree prior to completion of the planting project.
- Do not stake the tree unless it is in an extremely windy area, is larger than 3" caliper or an evergreen.

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