

City of Woodbine

Camden County

Not located in a MSA.

2003 Population Estimate 1,252; +3.2% change from 2000 Census.

Tree City USA for 2 years.

City Tree Board with 5 members; semi-annual meetings required by ordinance.

TREE ORDINANCE

First adopted 2004. No revisions.

Addresses public property.

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Tree Ordinance
City of Woodbine, Georgia
December 2004

SECTION I – INTENT AND PURPOSE

The intent of this Ordinance is to:

- Recognize trees to be a valuable asset providing a healthier and more beautiful environment in which to live;
- Recognize that trees are economically beneficial in attracting new residents providing shade and cooling effects as well as preventing noise and pollution;
- Recognize that trees also prevent erosion and assist in flood control;
- Establish standards limiting the removal of , and insuring the replacement of trees sufficient to safeguard the ecological and aesthetic environment necessary to a healthy, happy community; and
- Not be punitive or to cause hardship to any individual, private or public company that uses care and diligence to protect trees within the City.
- This ordinance will not affect private property of any sort except in the situation of public safety; and
- This ordinance is not designed to affect new development projects in the private sector.

SECTION II – DEFINITIONS

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

PARK TREES; “Park trees” are herein defined as trees 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 III - CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITY TREE BOARD

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of Woodbine, Georgia which shall consist of five members, who shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the Council. Two of the members will include representation from; (1) the county extension office and/or a certified horticulturist or arborist, and (2) representation from the City’s street department. The remaining members will be property or business owners in the city of Woodbine.

SECTION IV – TERM OF OFFICE

The term of the five persons to be appointed by the mayor shall be three years except that the term of two of the 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, his/her successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION V – COMPENSATION

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

SECTION VI – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The City Tree Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council on matters relating to the implementation of this Ordinance and to tree management in the City, including appropriate funding mechanisms.
- The City Tree Board shall use its best efforts to inventory the condition and major-maintenance needs of all street trees in the City, making recommendations to Mayor and Council. Maintenance recommendations shall be in accordance to species-specific standards issued by the County Extension Agent, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), or Forestry Service. Recommendations shall include, but need not be limited to: structural pruning as necessary to maintain public safety and to sustain the health, safety and natural growth habit of the tree; routine adjustment and timely removal of stakes, ties, tree guards and tree grates; watering sufficient to assure the establishment and survival of a tree; fertilizing as needed; pest and disease management procedures as needed and in a manner consistent with public health and ecological diversity; and replacement of missing or damaged trees.
- The City Tree Board shall meet every six months or as deemed necessary by the nature of business being conducted by the Board.

SECTION VII – OPERATION

The City Tree Board shall choose its own officers, develop its own bylaws (to be approved by City Council), and keep a journal of its proceedings. All Tree Board records will be kept on file with the City. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION VIII - STREET TREE SPECIES TO BE PLANTED

The following list (Attachment 1) constitutes the official Street Tree recommended species for Woodbine, Georgia. All Street Trees must be approved by the City Tree Board prior to being planted if they are not included on this list.

SECTION IX – SPACING; DISTANCE FROM CURB AND SIDEWALK; DISTANCE FROM STREET CORNERS AND FIREBLUG; UTILITIES

All planting will be in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations and follow acceptable spacing guidelines as suggested by the ISA publication standards and County Extension Service office.

SECTION X – PUBLIC TREE CARE

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, 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 or order 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 power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. Trees removed on City property must be replaced, if feasible, at proper tree planting times as determined by recommendation of the City Tree Board. This Section does not prohibit the planting of Street Trees by adjacent property owners. Said property owners must plant according to the list of recommended trees listed as Attachment 1 to this document and have approval from the City Tree Board prior to planting.

SECTION XI – 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 their obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this ordinance at the determination of the City Tree Board. Severely topped trees may be removed to prevent future hazards.

SECTION XII – PRUNING AND CORNER CLEARANCE

For reasons of public safety, every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the city shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not severely obstruct the light from any street lamp, obstruct the view of any street intersection, or obstruct pedestrian's ability to use the City's sidewalks. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune or remove any tree or other woody vegetation on private property when it interferes with issues pertaining to public safety.

Tree limbs that grow near high voltage electrical conductors shall be maintained clear of such conductors by the electric utility company in compliance with any applicable franchise agreements. All utility pruning shall follow current ISA guidelines.

SECTION XIII – DEAD OR DISEASED TREE REMOVAL ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

For reasons of public safety, the owner shall 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 constitutes a potential threat to other trees within the city. The City Tree Board will notify in writing the owner 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 file a lien against the property for the cost of removal.

SECTION XIV – REMOVAL OF STUMPS

All stumps of City Trees and Park Trees shall be ground to a minimum depth of 8” below ground level and all stump debris removed and replaced with similar type soil fill.

SECTION XV – 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, while conducting business in accordance with this ordinance.

SECTION XVI – REVIEW BY COUNCIL

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