

City of Odum, Georgia
Tree Ordinance

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Odum, State of Georgia

Section 1. Intent

The Intent of this Ordinance is to establish regulations for trees, shrubs, and vines, in the public areas of the city in order to better control problems with flooding, soil conservation, air pollution and noise in the city and to make the city a healthier, safer, and more beautiful place in which to live.

Section 2. Definitions

Street Trees: “Street Trees” are herein defined as either evergreen or deciduous trees, shrubs, or vines, on land lying between the public right-of-way and private property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

Park Trees: “Park Trees” are herein defined as either evergreen or deciduous trees, shrubs, or vines, on land designated as public park land, owned by the City or land to which the public has free access as a park.

Shade Trees: “Shade Trees” are herein defined as any self-supporting woody plant of a species that is well shaped, well branched and well foliated which normally grows to an overall height of a least thirty-five (35) feet and normally develop an average mature crown spread greater than thirty(30) feet in Odum, Georgia.

Crown Spread: “Crown Spread” id defined herein as the distance measured across the greatest diameter of a plant.

A listing of Street, Park, Shade and Small trees, approved by the tree Board for planting shall be maintained in the office of the City Council of Odum, Georgia.

Section 3. Distance from Street Corners and Fireplug.

No street tree shall be planted closer than thirty(30) feet of any street corner, measured from the point of nearest intersection curbs or curb-lines. However, shrubs maintained less that three(3) feet in height are acceptable. No street trees

shall be
planted closer than ten(10) feet of any fireplug.

Section 4. Utilities:

No street trees other than those species listed as “small trees” in this Ordinance may be planted under or within ten(10) lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, or over or within five(5) lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, power line or other utility.

Section 5. Public Tree Care:

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants, shrubs, and vines within the lines of street, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares, and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety and to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

The City shall have the right to 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, electrical power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest.

Section 6. 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(3) 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 where other pruning practices are impractical shall be exempted from this Ordinance.

Section 7. Pruning, Corner Clearance:

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 obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight(8) feet above the surface of the street or 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 8. 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 constitutes a potential threat to other trees within the City. The City will serve notice to the property owner as to the hazardous condition or disease of the trees, allowing the property owner 60 days to comply. In the event of failure of the owner to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and issue a summons to the property owner to appear in city Court.

Section 9. Removal of Stumps:

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

Section 10. Interference with City:

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

Section 11. 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 \$500.00 annually in advance; provided, however, that no license shall be required of any public utility 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 amount of \$1,000,000.00 for bodily injury or death and \$100,000.00 property damage indemnifying the city or any person injured or damaged resulting from the pursuit of such endeavor as herein described.

Section 12. Penalty:

Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be, upon conviction or plea of guilty, subject to punishment according to law.