

**Key Definitions**

**Debris** - something broken down or destroyed such as fallen trees or fallen tree limbs whole trees, tree stumps, tree branches, tree trunks, and other leafy material, or materials or objects not a part of land existing at random or in a disorderly manner and constituting a health or safety hazard.

**Grass** - vegetation consisting of typically short plants with long, narrow leaves, growing wild or cultivated on lawns and pasture, and as a fodder crop.

**Object**– Any item of personal property; other than a vehicle, boat, trailer, or children's toys in good repair; junk materials, machinery and equipment, appliances or other household items including indoor furniture, lumber and building materials, sand, fill rock and stone, downed trees and fallen tree limbs or other material(s) not forming part of the natural landscape or a structure.

**Rubbish** – Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood. Excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard

The City of Savannah's Code Compliance Department serves as the Enforcement Arm of the City for Property, Zoning, Tourism, Taxi, Pedicab, and Wrecker Ordinances to maintain a Clean, Safe and Healthy environment for the City's Residents and Visitors.



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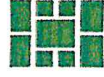
# Exterior Property Ordinance

Adopted 5BD

Effective Date for  
enforcement:  
TBD



**SAVANNAH**  
savannahga.gov



Code  
Compliance  
Department

## Key Definitions

**Unsafe tree**—a tree where the condition of the tree presents a foreseeable danger of infliction damage that cannot be alleviated by treatment or pruning. A tree may be dangerous because it is likely to injure people or damage vehicles, structures or development, such as sidewalks or utilities

**Vacant Lot** – any property, lot or parcel that has or had an existing on site building or structure that is either abandoned, vacant or unleased. A vacant lot shall not include lots for which construction on the lot is proceeding diligently towards completion, or for which a building permit has been issued and has not yet expired. A vacant lot also shall not include any lot being lawfully utilized for small scale agricultural purposes.

**Vegetation**— plant life or total plant cover

**Weeds**— all noxious weeds, grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs. This term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

## Litter, garbage, rubbish, debris, objects and animal excrement

It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant of a premises to have or to place any of the following on the premises to the extent and in a manner that could endanger the public health, safety, and/or welfare or could adversely affect and/or impair the economic value of an adjacent property.

- 1) Any accumulation of litter, debris, rubbish, garbage or animal excrement on any portion of the property.
- 2) Any object or objects, as defined, on the front yard or on the front porch.
- 3) Any object or objects, as defined, on the side or rear yards, or on side or rear porches, or underneath or inside any structure or accessory structure that is visible from the street, lane or neighboring property unless screened as to not be visible from the street, lane, or neighboring property.
- 4) Any accessory building on the front yard or any accessory building in the side or rear yard which is dilapidated or in a state of disrepair.
- 5) Any broken, discarded or abandoned refrigerator, freezer, water heater, dishwasher, range, over, trash compactor, washing machine, clothes dryer, or similar appliance located in the front, rear or side yard, including porches and unsecured garages, of any premises used as a residence regardless of zoning, of on any vacant lot
- 6) Any clothesline in the front yard or on front or side porches.

## Vegetation, grass, and weeds

- Vegetation, grass, or weeds in excess of a height of 10 inches; debris, any dangerous or unsafe tree, stagnant water, and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter.
- Owner or occupant will have 15 days to cut or remove items.
- Portions of natural forest and land used for agricultural purposes within 150 feet of any building are required to maintain a ten foot wide strip at the property line abutting such building, property or improved right of way.
- If, after 15 days' notice to the owner, or the owner's duly authorized agent, fails to cut and/or remove vegetation, grass, or weeds in excess of a height of 10 inches; debris, any dangerous or unsafe tree, stagnant water, rubbish, garbage, debris, including but not limited to household furnishings, and all other objectionable, unsightly or unsanitary matter, the Code Compliance Director may authorize contractor to cut and/or remove these materials and charge the expenses of the removal to the owner.

