

RESOLUTION NO. _____
PASSED _____

A resolution of the City Commission of the City of Gainesville, Florida, declaring a tree emergency in the urban forest due to the imminent threat of destruction of pine trees by infestation of southern pine beetles; adopting an emergency pine beetle suppression program; and providing an immediate effective date.

WHEREAS, on April 30, the City Commission passed a resolution declaring a tree emergency in the urban forest due to the imminent threat of infestation and destruction of pine trees as a consequence of a southern pine beetle outbreak in Alachua County; and

WHEREAS, on the same date the City Commission adopted an emergency southern pine beetle suppression program; and

WHEREAS, allowing property owners ^{two} days rather than ~~three~~ ^{two} to decide whether to choose the cost-share option for taking down infested pines will better enable said owners to obtain competitive prices from private tree companies; and

WHEREAS, limiting the number of infested pines that can be taken down on the cost-share program to fifteen will more equitably distribute the funds allocated to the suppression program; and

WHEREAS, the environment of Gainesville will be better served if the provision to suspend all requirements for property owners to obtain permits prior to removing infested trees is modified so that the procedure is expedited but not eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission intends to affirm their intention that logging companies removing infested trees in Gainesville recognize the importance of limiting collateral damage to hardwoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA THAT THE EMERGENCY SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE SUPPRESSION PROGRAM ADOPTED ON APRIL 30, 2001 BE MODIFIED AS INDICATED IN THE ATTACHED COPY OF THE PROGRAM.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

THOMAS B. BUSSING
MAYOR

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ATTEST:

Approved as to form and legality

KURT M. LANNON
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

MARION J. RADSON
CITY ATTORNEY

City of Gainesville

Emergency Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Program

- ★ The City will immediately undertake a public education campaign to inform citizens about the Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Program.
- ★ The City will seek grants and aid from the Florida Division of Forestry and U.S. Forestry Service and any other governmental agency for any eligible expenses and costs to the City.
- ★ The City will undertake the removal of infested trees from City-owned properties including parks and rights-of-way immediately.
- ★ Through Section 30-254(h), the City Manager will waive the normal permit requirements for on properties where trees are infested with Southern Pine Beetles provided the Florida Division of Forestry has verified the Southern Pine Beetle infestation in said trees. Recommendations made by the Florida Division of forestry to control the infestation will be followed. The City Manager or designee will review sites where a commercial tree removal permit would normally be required and issue a modified permit with conditions requiring that:
 - *pines only will be harvested;
 - *collateral damage to hardwoods will be minimized;
 - *Division of Forestry Best Management Practices will be followed, and
 - *on sites along main roads, logging trucks will not enter or leave the site between 7:00 and 9:00 AM or 4:00 and 6:00 PM.

This authorization will expire with the expiration of the program.

- ★ The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, will identify the presence of Southern Pine Beetles in pine trees in Gainesville, marking and listing each infested tree and informing the property owner.

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- * Property owner must contact the City within ~~48~~ hours (two business days) and execute the City's contract to participate in this the City's cost-share Southern Pine Beetle control program. Property owners will be charged one-half the City's direct cost for cutting and spraying of each infested tree. The City will be responsible for the remainder of the cost.
 - * Cutting of infested trees will begin after property owners have signed a contract prepared by the City Attorney. Trunks and stumps will be sprayed with insecticide. No part of the tree will be removed from the site by the City. The homeowner should take immediate action to properly dispose of treetops and trunks. No more than fifteen (15) infested pines from a single property may be removed on the City cost-share program. If a property-owner needs to remove more than 15 infested pines, the additional trees must be handled through a private company.
 - * The City may implement a mandatory compliance program for those owners who failed to remove infested trees.