



4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Paul Leonhardt, Deputy Community Development Director

Date: February 9, 2026

Subject: Text Amendment to Prohibit Burning of Yard Waste

ITEM DESCRIPTION

This item is an ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the City of Dunwoody Code of Ordinances, Nuisances by prohibiting the burning of yard waste.

DISCUSSION

Upon request by Councilmember Heneghan, the staff has prepared an ordinance that restricts outdoor burning. Presently, State EPD (Environmental Protection Division) rules govern outdoor burning in Dunwoody, prohibiting the burning of yard waste from May 1 through September 30, when ozone levels are highest. Between October 1 and April 30, burning of yard waste is presently allowed.

DeKalb County Sanitation offers yard waste pickup services on regular pickup days. Residents place yard waste in approved containers at the curb, typically in durable paper bags. While most Dunwoody residents utilize this service, the City receives annual complaints about residents that burn yard waste in back yards. Yard waste can produce black smoke and particulate matter that can impact the environment and health of residents and pets.

Of Dunwoody's sister communities, Sandy Springs, Brookhaven, and Alpharetta all allow outdoor burning only for specified purposes, which does not include the burning of yard waste. Decatur and Roswell specifically prohibit the burning of yard waste.

The proposed ordinance will become effective on May 1, 2026. This will allow residents to continue burning yard waste through the current EPD outdoor burning season, which lasts through April 30, 2026. The staff will communicate this ordinance change through its communication channels to ensure residents will learn about the new restrictions.

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposed Ordinance

Lynn Deutsch Mayor

Eric Linton ICMA-CM City Manager

Sharon Lowery CMC City Clerk

Catherine Lautenbacher City Council Post 1

Rob Price City Council Post 2

Tom Lambert City Council Post 3

Stacey Harris City Council Post 4

Joe Seconder City Council Post 5

John Heneghan City Council Post 6
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STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

ORDINANCE 2026-XX-XX

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO PROHIBIT BURNING OF YARD WASTE.

WHEREAS the City of Dunwoody is charged with preserving the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city; and

WHEREAS under State of Georgia, outdoor burning is prohibited in times of bad air pollution; and

WHEREAS outdoor burning of yard waste produces smoke and particulate matter that can have negative health and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS the burning of substances designed for the cooking of food and for recreational fires, including natural gas and firewood, produces fewer such emissions; and

WHEREAS the City of Dunwoody wishes to continue to allow cooking, recreational, and other less harmful uses; and

WHEREAS the proposed text amendment allows City staff to issue citations for any unauthorized outdoor burning.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Dunwoody HEREBY ORDAIN that the City's Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

SECTION 1: Chapter 22 – Nuisances is amended as follows:

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Sec. 22-1. – Outdoor burning of yard waste prohibited

No person shall openly burn yard waste anywhere in the city. This shall include brush, leaves, grass, and clippings.

Secs. 22-12—22-18. - Reserved.

SECTION 2: This Amendment shall become effective and incorporated into the Code of the City of Dunwoody on May 1, 2026.

SO ORDAINED, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

ORDINANCE 2026-XX-XX

Approved:

Lynn P. Deutsch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form and Content:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk (Seal)

City Attorney