

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

The Neighborhood Standards Division of Community & Economic Development is responsible for inspecting ordinance violations that cover the exterior, non-structural maintenance of the property.

This brochure explains some common ordinance complaints such as:

- Inoperable and abandoned vehicles
- Vehicles parking on the grass
- RV, trailer and boat storage
- Excessive garbage
- Fencing
- Tall grass
- Signs and banners
- Other Zoning Ordinances

City of Rockford
425 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
815-987-5600
815-967-6933 (fax)
815-987-5718 (TDD)



Excellence in Services

Tall Grass\Weeds

City of Rockford's Property Maintenance Code Section 302.4, and City of Rockford Code of Ordinances, Section 17-1 and 17-2 Weed Control states:

All premises and exterior property areas shall be maintained and free from weeds, grasses, plant growth and vegetation in excess of 10 inches in height.

Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants, vegetation, overgrowth, and underbrush other than trees or shrubs. This does not include cultivated crops, flowers and gardens. All noxious weeds are prohibited.

In addition, section 26-17 of the City of Rockford Code of Ordinances requires that you maintain any vegetation growth on the right of way abutting your property.

Tall grass and\or weeds:

- Are a general nuisance that become a home for mosquitoes, rodents, snakes and other vermin.
- Can hide debris, vehicles and lower your property values and those of your neighbors.
- Are not pleasant to look at and take away from the beauty of our city.

The City will give a two day written notice for the *first* occurrence of violation. No further notice will be sent during the next 36 months for recurring violations. If the property is still in violation after 2 days, a City contractor will mow the property and the costs will be billed to the property owner. If the property becomes in violation again during the next 36 months, the City shall contract the same service without further notification prior to the cutting.

To make a complaint, contact the Weeds Hotline at 815-967-6768.

Yard Maintenance Tips for Homeowners

- Make sure that you have a properly working mower and take the time to mow your property when needed. In a typical summer, most property owners mow their lawns once a week.
- Local hardware companies usually can sharpen your mower blades.
- Mowing your property includes the public right of ways adjacent to your property. Such as parkways, terraces and approaches to alleys.
- Owners who live out of town can hire a private contractor to mow the property. Your telephone yellow pages can give you the names private lawn maintenance contractors.

Get More Information

Neighborhood Standards was formed in 1998 by the City of Rockford to offer residents a single point of contact for all environmental issues and complaints.

If you would like to make a complaint or have a question regarding a City Ordinance, contact information is listed below. Our website contains forms for listing complaints as well as this brochure and more violation information.

All complaints are kept confidential. Your name will not be asked. When inspectors respond to a complaint they generally inspect the surrounding neighborhood for other violations.



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815-987-5718 (TDD)
www.rockfordil.gov