



LAWN & LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Code Enforcement & Public Health

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To promote a safe and attractive community, the City of Brooklyn Park has established standards for lawn and landscape maintenance. Proper lawn and landscape maintenance is essential in reaching this goal. Some ordinance requirements and helpful hints about lawn and landscape management are described below.

Lawn and Landscape Maintenance

According to City ordinance, any weeds or grasses on property within the city may not exceed eight (8) inches in height. This includes, but is not limited to boulevards; alleys; landscaped areas; developed land; and undeveloped land. Drainage ponds, ditches, and wetlands are exceptions. Further, noxious weeds, determined by state or county law, must be controlled or destroyed. Noxious weeds are:

- Field Bin weed, Hemp, Loosestrife, Mustard garlic, Poison Ivy, Leafy Spurge, Sow thistle (perennial), Thistle (bull, Canada, musk, and plume less) [MN Stat. 1510.0271]

Meadow or Prairie Vegetation

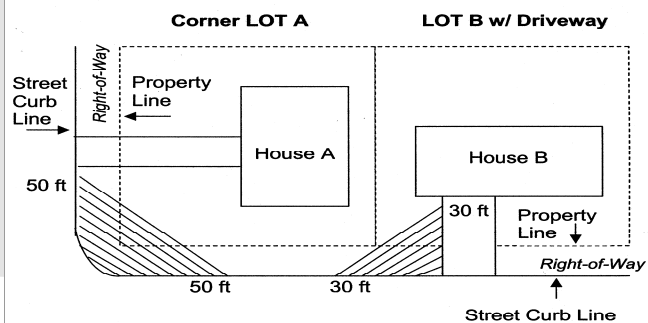
If you are establishing a meadow or prairie, and vegetation covers more than twenty-five (25) percent of the area, a sign must be posted in this area indicating that a meadow or prairie is being established. The prior vegetation is then eliminated and the meadow vegetation is planted through transplanting or seed by human or

mechanical means. The area must be cut at least once per year to a height of no more than eight inches. A plan must be submitted to the city and approved prior to establishing a meadow or prairie vegetation area. [City Sec. Ord. 97.20]

Boulevard and Right-of-Way

City ordinance prohibits intrusions in the right-of-way without city approval. Landscaping rock (flush with grade), flowers, groundcover or other plantings may be allowed in boulevards if they do not block traffic visibility, walkways or bike paths; or do not interfere with street maintenance activities (such as snowplowing). The vegetation height should not exceed twelve (12) inches in height and tree overhangs must be trimmed up seven (7) feet. Vegetation, such as perennials, which die back during the winter and are flush with grade are best to avoid snowplow damage. For example, bushes and trees are not allowed in the boulevard area.

Property owners are responsible for damage to their property and city maintenance equipment where unapproved items are located in the right-of-way. No building, structure, fence or planting may be erected inside the fifty (50) foot clear view triangle of intersecting streets. Care must be taken to ensure visibility is not restricted where driveways exist.



Helpful Hints For Lawn Maintenance

- Mow frequently. Leaving grass clippings on the lawn adds food and moisture (reduces fertilizer demands), and discourages weed encroachment.
- Water in the early morning to avoid excessive evaporation. Watering in the evening encourages disease development. Watering times may be restricted by the Water Department when water shortages occur. This would be announced in the *Park Pages* and *Sun Post* local newspaper.
- Proper fertilization encourages healthy, vigorous lawn grasses that help prevent weed growth. Fall is the best time to fertilize because it encourages good root and runner development so grass comes back greener and thicker in the spring.

Firewood Storage

- Firewood must be stacked on an impervious surface or be elevated at least three and a half inches off the ground, and may not include more than two cords of wood per property. (A cord is 4 ft by 4 ft by 8 ft.)
- Unrestrained stacks may not exceed six feet in height. Firewood stacks located next to structures and supported by restraints, may not exceed ten feet in height, and be constructed in a manner that does not create a safety hazard.

- To prevent the spread of disease to adjacent trees, storage of diseased wood is restricted. Example, Elm may not be stored with bark intact at anytime, and Oak must either be debarked or covered with four 4 mil. or greater plastic from Apr. 15 until July 1 of the following year. (City Ord. 97.45) Please contact the City Forester for more information regarding diseased wood.
- Firewood storage must comply with accessory structure setbacks, generally ten (10) ft from property lines. [City Ord. Sec. 152.220-152.226]

Yard Waste Removal

- One of the main questions people ask is what to do with the waste that has accumulated from this maintenance? Minnesota state law prohibits disposing yard waste with trash or garbage. Yard waste may be disposed as follows:
- Garden waste, leaves, lawn clippings, and pruning two inches or less in diameter may be taken to the drop-off site located at 14796 101st Ave N. in Maple Grove.
- All garbage haulers will provide a separate collection for yard waste and leaves, but may charge a fee for such services. Please contact your hauler regarding fees and service.
- The city does not provide collection of grass, leaves, pruning, or other yard waste.
- The accumulation of brush, leaves, or other yard waste is prohibited. [City Ord. 98.04]
- Burning of leaves, brush, and other yard waste is not allowed. [City Ord. Sec. 98.16 & 93.26]
- Dumping your yard waste on public property, into the street, in wetland or drainage areas, or other person's property is illegal. [City Ord. Sec. 94.03]

Composting

Yard waste is a natural resource, and if properly managed, can act as a valuable soil conditioner.

Compost generally improves drainage and aeration of heavy soils. Yard waste can be composted on private properties of a single-family dwelling, or on property operated by the city, as an essential service. Compost activities must be conducted in accordance with all city ordinances, and in a manner that will not create a nuisance.

Materials Allowed

- Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, small pruning, pine cones and needles, fine wood chips, garden debris, compost processing enhancers

Materials Not Allowed

- Food waste / meat scraps, grease, cooked or raw fish, bones, eggs, dairy products diseased plant material, construction wood, glass, plastic, metal / synthetics sewage waste, animal feces.

Compost materials should be contained within a structure that is rot resistant wood, cement block, or sturdy metal fencing, or in a specially designed commercially fabricated compost bin. Compost bins may not exceed five (5) feet in width, 12 feet in length and five (5) feet in height. It must be at least forty (40) feet from any inhabited building not owned by the owner of the compost material, five (5) feet from any lot line, and six (6) feet from any city park or trail. Other location requirements may exist in the zoning code regarding accessory structures. [City Ord. Sec. 98.31(D)]

Contacts and Resources

A variety of resources are available to help with any questions dealing with these issues:

Code Enforcement & Public Health

Tall Grass/Noxious Weeds
763-493-8070

Yard Waste Drop-Off Site in Maple Grove

763-420-4886

Recycling/Solid Waste Manager

Compost Information
763-493-8006

Brooklyn Park City Forester

Diseased Wood Information
763-493-8126

U of M Extension Services Yard & Garden Line

(612) 624-4771

This brochure is intended only as a general guide. Other codes and ordinances may apply. You can reference ordinances at the city website by visiting www.brooklynpark.org