

# NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

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The City of Rockford's Neighborhood Standards Division of Community & Economic Development is responsible for addressing ordinance violations associated with the exterior, non-structural maintenance of a property.

This brochure explains some common ordinance complaints such as:

## Tall Grass & Weeds

City of Rockford  
425 East State Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
779-348-7300  
815-967-6933 (fax)



# Tall Grass & Weeds

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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 not improved with a structure and greater than 1 acre in size shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches. All other premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 8 inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants, vegetation, overgrowth, and underbrush other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated crops, flowers and gardens.

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, including parkways, terraces and alley approaches.

Tall grass and/or weeds:

- Are a general nuisance that become a home for mosquitoes, rodents, snakes and other vermin.
- Can hide debris, contribute to blight, 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 mail a two-day written notice for the first occurrence of violation per calendar year. 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. No further notices will be sent during the balance of the calendar year for repeat violations. If the property becomes in violation again during the balance of the year, the City shall contract the same service without additional notification.

**To make a complaint, contact the Weeds Hotline at:**

**779-348-7161**

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## Yard Maintenance Tips for Homeowners

- Make sure a properly working lawn mower is available and take the time to mow your property when needed.
- Local hardware companies usually can sharpen mower blades.
- 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

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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 submitting 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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City of Rockford Community &  
Economic Development  
Neighborhood Standards  
425 E. State Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Rockford, IL 61104

779-348-7160  
815-967-6933 (fax)  
[www.rockfordil.gov](http://www.rockfordil.gov)