

CHAPTER 53

LAWN MAINTENANCE

53.01 Definition

53.02 Noxious Weed and Grass Control

53.03 Penalty

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53.01 DEFINITION. For use in this chapter, “parking” means that part of the street, avenue or highway in the City not covered by sidewalk and lying between the lot line and the curb line; or, on unpaved streets, that part of the street, avenue or highway lying between the lot line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.

53.02 NOXIOUS WEED AND GRASS CONTROL. All property owners shall maintain or cause to be maintained, their property and the abutting parking area according to the following standards:

1. All property within the City, whether developed or vacant, shall be mowed anytime the grasses, noxious weeds pursuant to Section 317.1A of the Iowa Code, or brush reaches a height of ten (10) inches.
2. The mowing requirements of Section 53.02(1) above shall be completed by the first (1st) and fifteenth (15th) day of each month for the months of May, June, July, August, September, and October of each year.
3. Further, it is unlawful to discharge into the storm sewer system any yard waste, sticks or branches, garbage or trash, sand or silt, or any other material in such a way as to obstruct the system from functioning properly. It is also unlawful to discharge or place such material into a public right-of-way (such as a street) in a manner likely to cause these materials to eventually accumulate in the storm sewer system or create a safety hazard.

53.03 PENALTY. Any person or entity violating the provisions of this Chapter shall be cause for the City or their agent to mow the property in question. All costs associated with the mowing shall be charged to the property owner. There shall be a minimum charge for one hour of work at the rate of \$100.00 per hour. Additional costs shall include a \$20.00 surcharge plus any attorney fees, court costs or postal fees incurred by the City. Any property owner who fails to pay the charges of the City for the City’s mowing of the property after being billed risks the assessment of those charges for collection with the real estate taxes assessed against the property.

53.04 METHODS OF SERVICE AND BILLING.

1. Annual publication of this ordinance will serve as notice to property owners.

2. If the City finds a property in violation of this chapter one (1) letter and a copy of this chapter will be sent by regular mail to the property owner. That letter will require immediate and continued compliance.
3. Any property owner who violates the provisions of this chapter will be given one (1) notice per summer and the City will be authorized to respond to additional violations without additional written notice being given.
4. Any billings for mowing done by the City or their agents are to be sent by regular mail and are payable within 30 days of billing date.