

## TITLE 8

### Health and Sanitation

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## CHAPTER 1

### Health and Sanitation

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#### **SEC. 8-1-1 RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

The Village Board, acting as Board of Health, may make reasonable and general rules for the enforcement of the provisions of this Chapter and for the prevention of the creation of health nuisances and the protection of the public health and welfare and may, where appropriate, require the issuance of licenses and permits. All such regulations shall have the same effect as ordinances, and any person violating any of such regulations and any lawful order of the Board shall be subject to the general penalty provided for in this Code.

#### **SEC. 8-1-2 HEALTH NUISANCES; ABATEMENT OF.**

**Defined.** A health nuisance is any source of filth or cause of sickness.

**Duty to Abate.** The Board of Health shall abate health nuisances pursuant to Sec. 146.14, Wis. Stats., which is adopted by reference and made a part of this Section.

State Law Reference: Sec. 146.14, Wis. Stats.

#### **SEC. 8-1-3 DEPOSIT OF DELETERIOUS SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED.**

No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited in any public street or on any public ground or on any private property not his own any refuse, garbage, litter, waste material or liquid or any other objectionable material or liquid. When any such

material is placed on the person's own private property, it shall be properly enclosed and covered so as to prevent the same from becoming a public nuisance.

**SEC. 8-1-4 DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS.**

- (a) The Village Clerk shall annually on or before May 15th publish as required by state law a notice that every person is required by law to destroy all noxious weeds on lands in the Village which he owns, occupies or controls. A joint notice with other towns or municipalities may be utilized.
- (b) If the owner or occupant shall neglect to destroy any weeds as required by such notice, then the Weed Commissioner of the Village shall give five (5) days' written notice by mail to the owner or occupant of any lands upon which the weeds shall be growing to the effect that the said Weed Commissioner after the expiration of the five (5) day period will proceed to destroy or cause to be destroyed all such weeds growing upon said lands and that the cost thereof will be assessed as a tax upon the lands upon which such weeds are located under the provisions of Sec. 66.96 of the Wisconsin Statutes. In case the owner or occupant shall further neglect to comply within such five (5) day notice, then the Weed Commissioner shall destroy such weeds or cause them to be destroyed in the manner deemed to be the most economical method and the expense thereof, including the cost of billing and other necessary administrative expenses, shall be charged against such lots and be collected as a special tax thereon.
- (c) As provided for in Sec. 66.96(2), Wis. Stats., the Village shall require that all noxious weeds shall be destroyed prior to the time in which such plants would mature to the bloom or flower state. The growth of noxious weeds in excess of eight (8) inches in height from the ground surface shall be prohibited within the Village corporate limits Noxious weeds shall include any weed, grass or similar plant growth which, if allowed to pollinate, would cause or produce hayfever in human beings or would cause a skin rash through contact with the skin. Noxious weeds, as defined in this Section and in Section 8-1-6, shall include but not be limited to the following:

Cirsium Arvense (Canada Thistle)  
Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Common Ragweed)  
Ambrosia trifida (Great Ragweed)  
Euphorbia esula (Leafy Spurge)  
Convolvulus arvensis (Creeping Jenny) (Field Bind Weed)  
Tragopogon dubius (Goat's Beard)  
Rhus radicans (Poison Ivy)  
Cirsium vulgaries (Bull Thistle)  
Pastinaca sativa (Wild Parsnip)  
Arctium minus (Burdock)  
Xanthium strumarium (Cocklebur)  
Amaranthus retroflexus (Pigweed)  
Chenopodium album (Common Lambsquarter)  
Rumex Crispus (Curled Dock)  
Cannabis sativa (Hemp)  
Plantago lanceolata (English Plantain)

Noxious grasses, as defined in this Section and in Section 8-1-6, shall include but not be limited to the following:

Agrostia alba (Redtop)  
Sorghum halepense (Johnson)  
Setaria (Foxtail)

Noxious weeds are also the following plants and other rank growth:

Ragweed  
Thistles  
Smartweed  
Dandelions (over 8 inches in height)  
Milkweed (over 8 inches in height)

State Law Reference: Sec. 66.96, Wis. Stats.

### **SEC. 8-1-5 REGULATION OF NATURAL LAWNS.**

- (a) **Natural Lawns Defined.** Natural lawn as used in this Section shall include common species of grass and wild flowers native to North America which are designed and purposely cultivated to exceed twelve (12) inches in height from the ground. Specifically excluded in natural lawns are the noxious grasses and weeds identified in Section 8-1-4 of this Chapter. The growth of a natural lawn in excess of twelve (12) inches in height from the ground surface shall be prohibited within the Village corporate limits unless a Natural Lawn Management Plan is approved and a permit is issued by the Village as set forth in this Section. Natural lawns shall not contain litter or debris and shall not harbor undesirable wildlife.
- (b) **Natural Lawn Management Plan Defined.**
- (1) Natural Lawn Management Plan as used in this Section shall mean a written plan relating to the management and maintenance of a lawn which contains a legal description of lawn upon which the planted grass will exceed twelve (12) inches in length, a statement of intent and purpose for the lawn, a detailed description of the vegetational types, plants and plant succession involved, and the specific management and maintenance techniques to be employed.
  - (2) Property owners who wish to plant and cultivate a natural lawn must submit their written plan and related information on the form provided by the Village. "Property Owner" shall be defined to include the legal title holder and/or the beneficial owner of any such lot according to most current Village records. Natural Lawn Management Plans shall only indicate the planting and cultivating of natural lawns on property legally owned by the property owner. Applicants are strictly prohibited from developing a natural lawn on any Village-owned property including street rights-of-way. This shall include at a minimum property located between the sidewalk and the street or a strip not less than ten (10) feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk whether the area is under public or private ownership. In addition, natural lawns shall not be permitted within ten (10) feet of the abutting property owner's property unless waived in writing by the abutting property owner on the side so affected. Such waiver is to be affixed to the Lawn Management Plan.
  - (3) Any subsequent property owner who abuts an approved natural lawn may revoke the waiver thereby requiring the owner of the natural lawn to

remove the natural lawn that is located in the ten (10) foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. Such revocation shall be put in writing and presented to the Village Clerk by the subsequent abutting property owner. Upon receiving the written request to revoke the original waiver, the Village Board shall contact the owner of the approved natural lawn and direct the owner to remove the natural lawn located in the ten (10) foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. The Village Board shall revise the approved Natural Lawn Management Permit accordingly. The owner of the approved natural lawn shall be required to remove the ten (10) foot section abutting the neighboring property owner within twenty (20) days of receipt of the written notification from the Village provided the notification is received sometime between May 1 and November 1. Property owners who receive notification from the Village between November 1 and April 30 shall be required to remove the ten (10) foot section abutting the neighboring property owner no later than May 20 following receipt of the notification.

**(c) Application Process.**

- (1) Property owners interested in applying for permission to establish a natural lawn shall obtain and complete an application form available from the Village Clerk. The completed application shall include a Natural Lawn Management Plan. Upon submitting a completed application, a Twenty-five Dollar (\$25.00) non-refundable filing fee will be assessed by the Village. Upon receiving payment, copies of the completed application shall be mailed by the Village to each of the owners of record, as listed in the Office of the Village Assessor, who are owners of the property situated wholly or in part within three hundred (300) feet of the boundaries of the properties for which the application is made. If within fifteen (15) calendar days of mailing the copies of the complete application to the neighboring property owners the Village receives written objections from fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the neighboring property owners, the Village Clerk shall immediately deny the application. Neighboring property owners shall be defined as all those property owners who are located within three hundred (300) feet of the proposed natural lawn site.
- (2) If the property owner's application is in full compliance with the Natural Lawn Management Plan requirements and less than fifty-one percent (51%) of the neighboring property owners provide written objections, the Village Clerk shall issue permission to install a natural lawn.

**(d) Application For Appeal.** The property owner may appeal the Clerk-Treasurer's decision to deny the natural lawn permit request to the Village Board at an open meeting. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days of the notice of denial of the Natural Lawn Management Plan. The decision rendered by the Village Board shall be final and binding.

**(e) Safety Precautions For Natural Grass Areas.**

- (1) When, in the opinion of the Fire Chief of the Department serving the Village of Nichols, the presence of a natural lawn may constitute a fire or safety hazard due to weather and/or other conditions, the Fire Chief may order the cutting of natural lawns to a safe condition. As a condition of receiving approval of the natural lawn permit, the property owner shall be required to cut the natural lawn within the three (3) days upon receiving written direction from the Fire Chief.