

FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting Date: 3/3/26

Adoption of Chapter – Noxious Vegetation

SUBJECT

Adoption of new **Boardman Municipal Code-Noxious Vegetation**, establishing regulations, enforcement procedures, and abatement authority for noxious vegetation and related fire hazards within the City of Boardman.

ISSUE SUMMARY

The proposed ordinance creates a clear and enforceable framework for addressing overgrown vegetation, invasive plants, fire hazards, and hazardous trees that threaten public health, safety, and welfare. Currently, the City's weed and noxious vegetation ordinance exists generally under Chapter 8.04 -Nuisance but does not contain detailed standards or procedures specific to vegetation hazards.

The proposal:

- Defines noxious vegetation
 - Establishes maintenance responsibilities **annually**
 - Creates notice and review procedures
 - Authorizes City abatement when necessary
 - Provides cost recovery through assessment and lien
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KEY PROVISIONS

Property owners must:

- Maintain vegetation below six (6) inches on developed lots **throughout the year**
- Remove hazardous trees (dead, leaning etc)
- Where fire exposure exists, vacant parcels shall maintain a **20-foot green belt/bare-ground firebreak**, plus an **additional 100 feet** of vegetation maintained to a **maximum height of 6 inches**.

Positive impacts include:

- Improved neighborhood appearance
- Reduced fire hazard exposure
- Improved pedestrian safety
- Reduced concealment conditions conducive to unlawful activity

The ordinance provides clear standards, protects due process rights, enhances fire safety preparedness, and strengthens the City's ability to protect public health, safety, and welfare.