



Report to CLIPP

Agenda Item: Review current language related to Lawns and Natural Areas.

Meeting Date: July 7, 2025

Referring Body: Community Life, Infrastructure and Public Property

Committee Contact: Ken Charneski

Staff Contact: Peter Wegner, CD/PZ Director

Report Prepared by: Peter Wegner, CD/PZ Director

AGENDA ITEM: Review current language related to Lawns and Natural Areas.

OBJECTIVE(S): To review existing language to determine whether changes are needed.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND: Staff has received numerous complaints regarding lawns not being maintained within the Village. Current language allows the establishment of a lawn or natural area. The property owner shall establish a manicured lawn, natural area vegetation (including trees, shrubs, prairie or meadow species) or combination of both on the property. A lot or parcel cultivated with a manicured lawn to a height of no more than nine inches within all zoning districts except Agricultural and Residential (AR), Rural Residential 5 (RR-5), Rural Residential 2 (RR-2), and Parks and Recreation (PR). Trees, shrubs or other natural vegetation are not subject to this height standard.

Manicured lawn. Grass cultivated to create a vegetated mat of leaf blades and roots which is used to turf unpaved lawn areas which are intended to be cut regularly to maintain an aesthetic appearance.

Natural area. Any land managed to preserve or restore native Wisconsin vegetation.

Property owners who not mowing their lawn, advise staff they letting it go into a Natural Area. Neighbors argue an over grown lawn is not a natural area since it does not include shrubs and trees. The definition of natural area states native Wisconsin vegetation. Residents voiced concerns some “natural areas” contain noxious weeds and other rank growth of vegetation. An act or condition causing a public nuisance affecting health.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: To review current language and to provide staff with direction.

ATTACHMENTS: § 520-80. - Lawn care; alternative groundcover; preservation of topography, § 409-2. - Lawns and natural areas and § 382-4. - Public nuisances affecting health. Staff examples.