

OK

THE GOAL OF WEED COMPLIANCE IS TO CREATE A POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMAGE TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, THE QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ALL RESIDENTS, AND TO ENHANCE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.

(a) IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EVERY OWNER, POSSESSOR OR OCCUPIER OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY, OR OF EVERY PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF ANY LANDS, TO CUT OR CAUSE TO BE CUT OR OTHERWISE DESTROY ALL NOXIOUS WEEDS, GRASS OR OTHER GROWTH DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMUNITY GROWING THEREON, AS OFTEN AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT SUCH GRASS OR OTHER DETRIMENTAL GROWTH FROM BLOOMING OR BEFORE THEY GROW TO A HEIGHT OF MORE THAN EIGHT INCHES.

THEREFORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH WIS STATE STATUE 66.0517, 3.a AND CITY OF LACROSSE MUNICIPAL CODE 30-4, 103-336(e){4}a@b IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEED COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE, DOCUMENT, AND TRACK COMPLAINTS TO DETERMINE IF A VIOLATION EXISTS AND ISSUE AND ORDER TO CORRECT THAT OUTLINES A PROCESS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

IF A VIOLATION EXISTS A NOTICE TO CORRECT WILL BE SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, REQUIRING RECIEPT, TO THE PROPERTY OWNER LISTED IN THE COUNTY LAND RECORDS.

ONCE THE NOTICE IS SENT, IT IS THE RESPONSILBITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER TO CORRECT THE VIOLATION WITHIN 8 DAYS.

IF THE VIOLATION IS NOT SATISFIED BY THE COMPLIANCE DATE, THE WEED COMMISSIONER WILL TAKE PHOTOES OF THE PROPERTY, FILES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR ONE YEAR AND ORDERS A CONTRACTOR TO CUT, DESTROY, OR OTHERWISE CAUSE TO BE DESTROYED THE NOXIOUS WEEDS TALL GRASSES OR BRUSH.

IF A VIOLATION IS CORRECTED BY THE CITY A FINE WILL BE ISSUED TO THE PROPERTY OWNER. IF THE FINE IS UNPAID IT WILL BE ADDED TO THE PROPERTY OWNERS TAXES. PROPERTY OWNERS WISHING TO CONTEST FINES MUST APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS.

A WEED COMMISSIONER MAY ENTER UPON ANY LANDS THAT ARE NOT EXEMPT UNDER s.66.047 {5} AND CUT OR OTHERWISE DESTROY NOXIOUS WEEDS WITHOUT BEING LIABLE TO AN ACTION FOR TRESSPASS OR ANY OTHER ACTION FOR DAMAGES.

2015 WEED COMMISSIONER END REPORT

CITATIONS WRITTEN 1326
CONTRACT MOWED 132

CITY RECEIVED APPROX \$54,600

PAID CONTRACTOR \$12,223

PAID WEED COMMISSIONER \$7,000

POSTAGE \$9,515

GAS-ETC \$500

COST -----
\$ 29,238

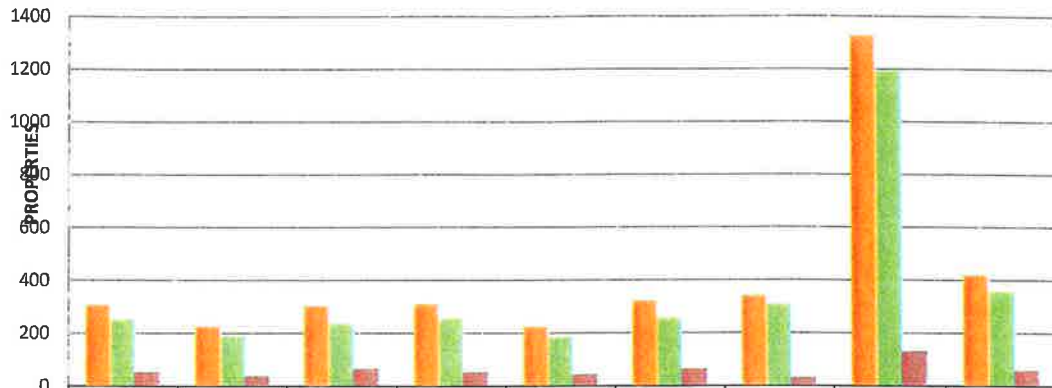
SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

- WEED COMMISSIONER TO DO INSPECTIONS, WRITE CITATIONS, PROPERLY IDENTIFY PROPERTY ON GIS, TAKE PHOTOS.
- USE CSR STAFF TO DOCUMENT AND MAIL CITATIONS
- DEVOTE EXCLUSIVE USE OF JEEP TO WEED COMMISSIONER FROM 8:30 to 12:30 EACH WEEKDAY.
- DEVELOP A HANDOUT INFORMATION PIECE EXPLAINING OUR MISSION, STATE AND MUNICIPAL CODES, OUR NOXIOUS WEED PROCESS.
- PROCESS MUNICIPAL CODES AS SUGGESTED ON ATTACHMENTS.
- INFORM PARK BOARD OF CHANGES IN THE NOXIOUS WEED WORK FLOW AND NOTICES THAT ARE SENT TO VIOLATORS, IF NEEDED (See attached examples)

Weeds Citation Report 2008-2015

YEAR	CITATIONS ISSUED	OWNER COMPLIANCE	DEPARTMENT CORRECTED	% OWNER COMPLIANCE	% CORRECTED BY DEPT
2008	306	253	53	83%	17%
2009	226	189	37	84%	16%
2010	303	238	65	79%	21%
2011	310	258	52	83%	17%
2012	224	185	44	83%	20%
2013	322	258	64	80%	20%
2014	341	310	31	91%	9%
2015	1326	1194	132	90%	10%
AVERAGE	420	361	60	86%	14%

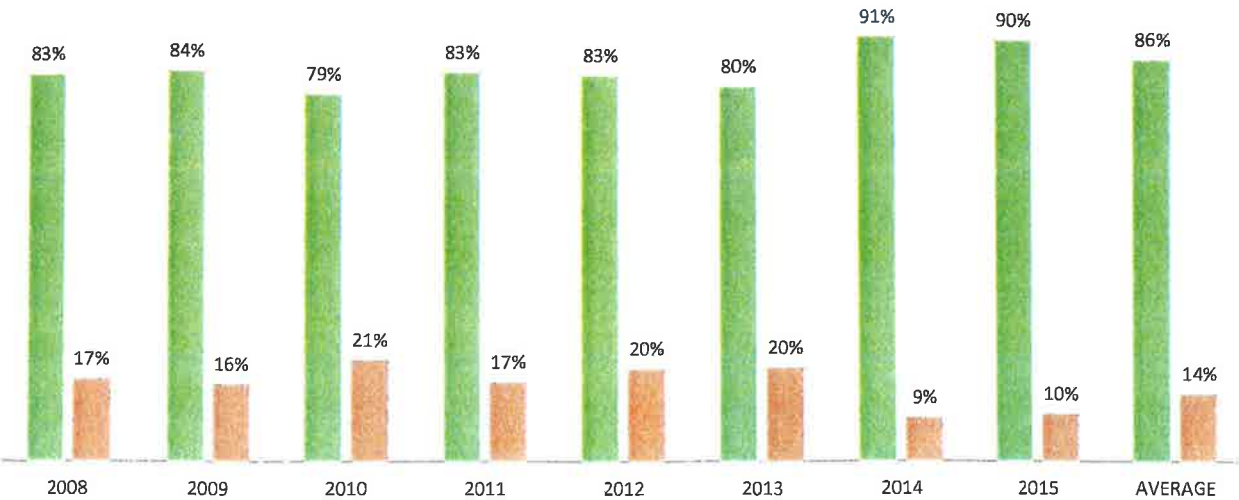
WEED CITATIONS AND ACTION 2008 TO 2015



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE
■ CITATIONS ISSUED	306	226	303	310	224	322	341	1326	420
■ OWNER COMPLIANCE	253	189	238	258	185	258	310	1194	361
■ DEPARTMENT CORRECTED	53	37	65	52	44	64	31	132	60

WEED COMPLIANCE TRENDS 2008-2015

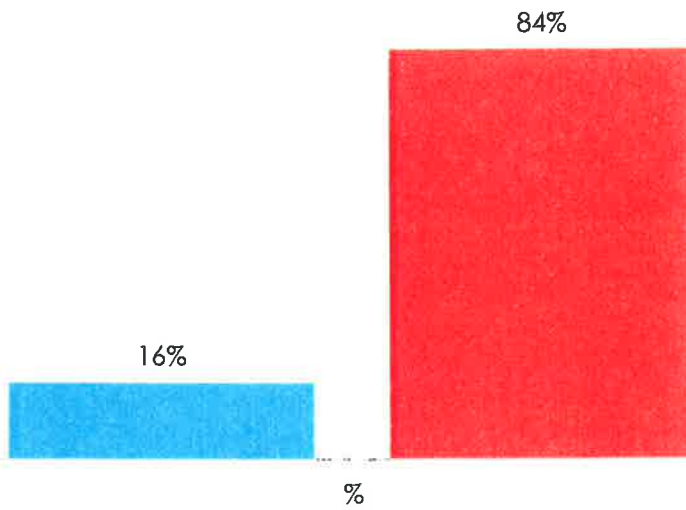
■ % OWNER COMPLIANCE ■ % CORRECTED BY DEPT



	Total	%
Owner Occupied	194	16%
Rental	1034	84%
Total	1228	1

2015 NOXIOUS WEED NOTICES Owner Occupied vs. Rental

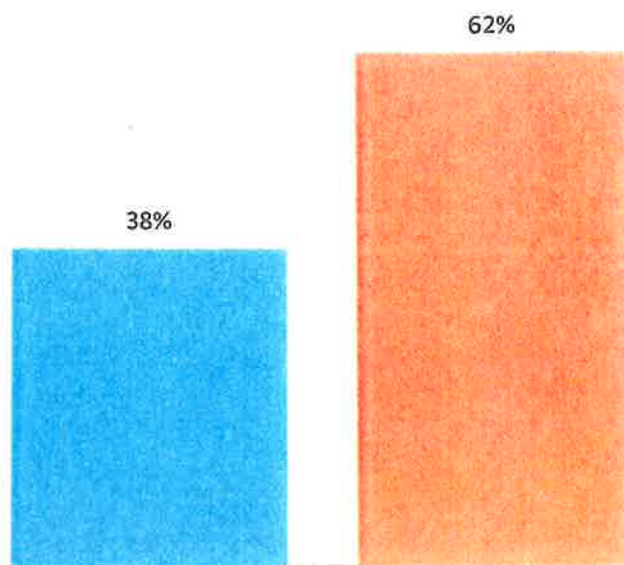
■ Owner Occupied ■ Rental



	Total	%
OWNER OCCUPIED	49	38%
RENTAL	79	62%
TOTAL	128	

2015 Noncompliant Properties Mowed Owner Occupied Vs. Rental

■ OWNER OCCUPIED ■ RENTAL



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NOXIOUS WEED PROCESS AND WORK FLOW

DISCOVERY

The City Weed Commissioner, upon notification of a complaint or concern received from any or all of the following sources: city web site, e-mail, phone call, other inspectors, contractors, social interaction, or routine inspections, will make a determination of inspection. A Weed Commissioner may enter upon any lands that are not exempt under s.66.0407[5].

DETERMINATION

To determine if a violation exist, the Weed Commissioner will inspect the property and make thorough notes of the details of the complaint, with the name and address of the party involved. If a violation exists, the Commissioner shall issue a citation listing corrections and the time limit to comply. The Commissioner shall serve to the property owner, personally or by certified mail, receipt requested, a copy of the citation along with a copy of the applicable state statutes and municipal codes that apply.

DOCUMENTATION AND TRACKING

The Weed Commissioner will use the County Land Records to enter the property address, name and exact address of property owner, tract number, tax ID number, the date of the inspection, the compliance date, the aldermanic district number, and the citation number onto an excel spread sheet. The compliance date will be used as the guide to complete the second inspection.

NONCOMPLIANCE

If the property owner fails to comply with the provisions statutes and codes within the citation and notice, by the stated comply date, the Weed Commissioner will take photos of the property, which will be filed and saved for one year. It shall be the duty of the Weed Commissioner to cause said weeds or growth to be cut down, charging the cost thereof to the piece of land described therein. The Weed Commissioner will then order the contractor to destroy all noxious weeds, tall grasses, and clear overgrown brush. The contractor will take photos after the work is completed.

BILLING

The contractor will submit a bill for their services to the Weed Commissioner. The Weed Commissioner will enter the cost of correction on a billing spreadsheet, describing each property as documented, and submit same to the Finance Department, which will process the chargeable amounts as prescribed by municipal code.

APPEALS

Property owners wishing to contest these charges must appeal to the City of La Crosse Board of Park Commissioners.

Current

City of La Crosse Municipal Code

WHERE AS, the weed commissioner shall destroy, or have destroyed, the noxious weeds in the most economical manner. Reference: Wis. Stat, 66.0517, 3. a.

• **Sec. 30-4. - Destruction of noxious weeds and cutting of grass.**

(a)

It shall be the duty of every owner, possessor or occupier of land within the City, or of every person having charge of any such lands, to cut or cause to be cut or otherwise destroy all noxious weeds, grass or other growth detrimental to the health and safety of the citizens of the community growing thereon, as often as may be necessary to prevent such grass or other detrimental growth from blooming or before they grow to a height of more than ten inches.

(b)

In case the owner, possessor or occupier of land, or the person in charge thereof, shall refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of this section within the time limited herein, the Weed Commissioner shall serve personally or by mail a copy of this section, together with a notice, to said owner, possessor or occupier of land to cut or cause to be cut or destroyed all said noxious weeds or other growths herein enumerated, within a period of five days from and after service of such notice.

(c)

In case such owner, possessor or occupier shall fail to conform with the provisions of this section within the time limited therefor in said notice, served as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Weed Commissioner to cause all of the said noxious weeds or growths to be cut down, charging the cost thereof to each piece of land, describing the same, and upon nonpayment of such charges, the amounts due shall be filed with the City Clerk, who shall enter the amount chargeable to each tract of land in the next tax roll as tax on the lands upon which such weeds were destroyed, and shall be collected as all other taxes.

(d)

Any person violating any provision of this section shall upon conviction thereof forfeit not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 and the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and the costs of prosecution shall be imprisoned in the County Jail, unless otherwise authorized by law, until payment of such forfeiture and costs of prosecution, but not exceeding 90 days for violation, provided, however, that in no case shall the forfeiture imposed for a violation of any provisions of this section exceed the maximum fine for the same offense under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

(Code 1980, §§ 7.04(M), 7.09(A))

Cross reference— General penalty for ordinance violations, § 1-7.

State Law reference— Noxious weeds, Wis. Stat. §§ 66.0407, 66.0517.

Proposed.

City of La Crosse Municipal Code

WHERE AS, the weed commissioner shall destroy, or have destroyed, the noxious weeds in the most economical manner. Reference: Wis. Stat, 66.0517, 3. a.

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(b)

In case the owner, possessor or occupier of land, or the person in charge thereof, shall refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of this section within the time limited herein, the Weed Commissioner shall serve personally or by mail a copy of this section, together with a notice, to said owner, possessor or occupier of land to cut or cause to be cut or destroyed all said noxious weeds or other growths herein enumerated, within a period of EIGHT days from THE ISSUE DATE OF SUCH NOTICE.

In case such owner, possessor or occupier shall fail to conform with the provisions of this section within the time limited therefor in said notice, served as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Weed Commissioner to cause all of the said noxious weeds or growths to be cut down, charging the cost thereof to each piece of land, describing the same, and upon nonpayment of such charges, the amounts due shall be filed with the City Clerk, who shall enter the amount chargeable to each tract of land in the next tax roll as tax on the lands upon which such weeds were destroyed, and shall be collected as all other taxes.

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State Law reference— Noxious weeds, Wis. Stat. §§ 66.0407, 66.0517.



Current.

OK

<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org>

Recreation@cityoflacrosse.org

City of La Crosse
Park, Recreation, & Forestry

Dear Sir/Madam

Due to the free enterprise system, the City of La Crosse does not wish to compete with private operators by contracting for weed/grass cutting on private property; however, state statues do require the cutting of noxious weeds and domestic grasses before they reach 10 inches in height. The city health codes also require that areas be free of litter, tall grasses and debris to prevent rodent infestation.

It is mandatory that if you cannot cut your own vegetation, that you contract private individuals to do the work. If, however, it becomes necessary for the city to cut the vegetation on your property, the cost will be considerably higher than private estimates. The city's intent is not to be in the cutting business except where it directly involves city owned property.

Thank you for your cooperation.

THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU THAT ON ALL PROPERTY THAT HAS TO BE CUT BY THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, THERE WILL BE A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$400.00.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WISCONSIN STATUTES 66.0407, LA CROSSE MUNICIPAL CODE 30-4, 103-336(e) (4) a & b. NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS, TALL GRASSES AND OVER GROWN BRUSH. Notice is hereby given to each person who owns, occupies or controls land in the City of La Crosse, County of La Crosse, and State of Wisconsin, to destroy all noxious weeds on such property before the plant blooms.

The noxious weeds are: thistle, leafy spurge, purple looserstrife, multiflora rose, field bindweed, nettle, garlic mustard, goats beard, field dodder, Indian mustard, yellow dock, burdock, cocklebur, wild parsnip, ragweed, foxtail, sandbur, goldenrod, fleabane, wild lettuce, cattail, smartweed, sparges, lambs quarter, pigweed, white cockle, curly dock, poison ivy, poison hemlock, Japanese knotweed, common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, bush and amur honeysuckle.

CC: Council Member



Proposed.

OK

Parks and Recreation

400 La Crosse St. , La Crosse, WI 54601 – (608) 789-7533 Fax (608) 789-7501
<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org> Recreation@cityoflacrosse.org

City of LaCrosse
Parks, Recreation, & Forestry

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are being notified that you have noxious weeds, grass or brush on your property that must be removed.

Due to the free enterprise system, the City of La Crosse does not wish to compete with private operators by contracting for weed/grass cutting on private property; however, state statues do require the cutting of noxious weeds and domestic grasses before they reach 8 inches in height. The City health codes also require that areas be free of litter, tall grasses, debris and overgrown brush to prevent rodent infestation.

A weed commissioner may enter upon any lands that are not exempt under s. 66.0407 [5] and cut or otherwise destroy noxious weeds without being liable to an action for trespass, or any other action for damages resulting from the entry and destruction, if reasonable care is exercised.

It is mandatory that if you cannot cut your own noxious weed, domestic grasses, and brush, that you contract private individuals to do the work. However, if it becomes necessary for the City to cut the vegetation on your property, **THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU THAT ON ALL THE PROPERTY THAT HAS TO BE CUT BY THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, THERE WILL BE A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$400.** The city's intent is not to be in the cutting business except where it directly involves City owned property.

Thank you for being a good neighbor.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

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New

NOTICE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS AND/OR BRUSH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AND YOU ARE HERE BY ORDERED TO DESTROY, OR CAUSE TO BE DESTROYED, ALL WEEDS AND/OR BRUSH ON LANDS OCCUPIED OR OWNED BY YOU, AND TO THE CENTER OF ANY PUBLIC HIGHWAY, LANE, STREET, OR ALLEY ADJOINING SAID LANDS, IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAWS AND CITY ORDINANCES BY _____.

IF WEEDS AND/OR BRUSH ARE NOT DESTROYED BY DATE SPECIFIED ABOVE, THE WORK WILL BE DONE BY THE CITY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE WEED COMMISSIONER AND THE COST OF SUCH WORK CHARGED AGAINST SAID PROPERTY.

ADDRESS _____

CORRECTIONS _____

LA CROSSE, WIS. _____, 20_____

WEED COMMISSIONER _____

09092

Notice of the Destruction of Weeds

old

Notice is hereby given and you are hereby ordered to destroy, or cause to be destroyed, all weeds on lands occupied or owned by you, and to the center of any public highway, lane, street or alley adjoining said lands, in compliance with State Laws and City Ordinances.

If weeds are not destroyed within five days from and after the serving of this notice upon you, the work will be done by the City under the direction of the Weed Commissioner and the cost of such work charged against said property.

La Crosse, Wis. _____, 20_____

_____ Weed Commissioner

Description of Property _____

08047