

# Natural Garden Guidelines

JULY 2024



# Natural Garden Guidelines

Residents are encouraged to plant well-maintained natural gardens in their yards, following the guidelines below.

According to the City's [Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw](#) (No.8175), property owners, including those with vacant lots, are responsible for keeping grass and weeds in check and no higher than 20 cm (7.8 inches).

**Plants that form part of a natural garden, which have been deliberately planted and are consistent with a managed landscape, are allowed.** A natural garden can include native or non-native plants, such as ground covers, wildflowers, shrubs, perennials, and/or grasses.

When establishing a natural garden, please abide by the following guidelines:

- Demonstrate that efforts have been taken to properly maintain your yard and garden. Properties that affect the health, safety, or welfare of people, or the amenity of a neighbourhood, are in violation of [Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw](#) (No.8175). This could include yards that are:
  - overgrown with grass and weeds\*;
  - untidy\*\*;
  - infested with rodents, vermin or insects; or
  - comprised of dead or hazardous trees.
- Prevent plants from spreading to adjacent yards through regular weeding and mowing as needed.
- Encourage beneficial wildlife through the addition of birdhouses, bee habitat, and natural features such as boulders or logs.
- Reduce nuisance pests by keeping property free of litter, excess piles of scrap, or stored materials.
- Support biodiversity by planting native plants in your yard, which are species that grow naturally in the Saskatoon region. View the City's Native Plant Species List and Biodiversity: How-To Guide at [Saskatoon.ca/HealthyYards](#) for ideas of what to plant.
- Do not grow invasive or aggressive plants that have the potential to take over your garden and spread throughout your community. For a list of regulated weeds, visit [saskinvasives.ca](#).
- Planting on the boulevard adjacent to your home? Please review the City's Boulevard Garden Guidelines at [Saskatoon.ca/BoulevardGardens](#) before getting started.

Thank you for being a good neighbour and for upholding the City's standards and bylaws. By sharing this responsibility, we can ensure Saskatoon remains a beautiful place to live. We can't do it without you!

For more information, visit [saskatoon.ca/PropertyMaintenance](#).

*\*Weeds include prohibited, noxious or nuisance weeds as defined by the Saskatchewan Weed Control Act.*

*\*\*No person shall cause or permit any land or buildings to become untidy and unsightly due to graffiti or the accumulation of new or used lumber, cardboard, paper, newspapers, appliances, tires, cans, barrels, scrap metal or other waste materials or junk.*



# Natural Garden Visual Guide

## Bylaw Compliant Yards:

The following yards show that efforts have been taken to properly maintain a natural garden. These yards follow the City's Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw for the following reasons:

- They look like well-managed, intentional landscapes.
- They are tidy and not overgrown with regulated weeds.
- They are free of litter and scrap materials.
- They include deliberate plantings—both native and non-native.
- They incorporate intentionally placed natural materials like rocks, logs, and wood mulch.
- They have defined boundaries, edges, and pathways.
- They encourage beneficial wildlife through features such as shallow water dishes, birdhouses, standing stems, and leaf litter.





Bylaw Compliant Yards:





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## Bylaw Non-Compliant Yards:

The following yards are not in compliance with the City's Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw for the following reasons.



- This location is overgrown. No visible efforts have been taken to properly maintain this lot (e.g., through mowing, weeding, pruning, or pest management).

- This yard is overgrown with weeds and growth higher than 20 cm (7.8 inches).





## Bylaw Non-Compliant Yards:

- At this home, overgrown plants are causing a safety issue. Vines are blocking the door and stairwell, which prevent access to and from the residence.



- Property owners are responsible for mowing and maintaining the boulevards adjacent to their property. This boulevard has become overgrown and weedy. For more information on the City's Boulevard Garden Guidelines, visit [saskatoon.ca/BoulevardGardens](https://saskatoon.ca/BoulevardGardens).



## Bylaw Non-Compliant Yards:



- This lawn is overgrown and includes grass higher than 20 cm (7.8 inches). Tall grass can be a fire hazard, particularly during drought conditions.

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### What to do if you notice a non-compliant yard

Friendly communication is the best way to build a healthy relationship with your neighbours. If you see an untidy property, please consider reaching out to the property owner to inform them of the City's [Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw](#) (No.8175) and Natural Garden Guidelines. Talking with your neighbour is often the simplest and quickest way to resolve concerns.

In situations where speaking to the property owner isn't possible, residents may file a complaint at [saskatoon.ca/BylawComplaint](https://saskatoon.ca/BylawComplaint) or by calling the Property Maintenance and Safety Hotline at **306-975-2828**.

If a property owner disagrees with a bylaw ordinance, they shall be given the opportunity to present to the Property Maintenance Appeals Board.