



www.bransonmo.gov

City of Branson
110 West Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-337-8526
Public Information Department
jadams@bransonmo.gov

News Release

June 16, 2009

Contact: Jim Lawson, planning and development director, 337-8546

Property owners reminded to keep land tidy and trimmed

It's the growing season again when property owners everywhere find it a full-time job to stay up with the mowing and maintaining of their property. And since Branson hosts about 8-million visitors a year, the pressure is a little heavier here to keep things looking neat and clean.

During the spring and summer, the city receives the most calls dealing with property maintenance and especially high grass and weeds.

The Branson Municipal Code requires grass and weeds to not exceed seven inches. When a property is in violation, the city's planning and development department, which enforces this section of the code, attempts to notify the property owner prior to employing enforcement action.

Once a notice of violation has been issued, if remedial action is not taken by the property owner, the city of Branson will then employ a mowing service to cut the grass, and the owner will be billed for the service. If payment is not made within a designated time period, the city could file a lien on the property in violation to recoup the mowing expense.

"We work diligently to obtain the cooperation of property owners to mow the weeds and grass," said Jim Lawson, planning and development director. "Placing a lien on the property by the city is a last-ditch effort to ensure our community is well-kept and code compliant."

Lawson points out that notifying property owners isn't always a quick process. In some instances, the owners may live out of town or can't be easily located by city staff, and that delays the delivery of violation notices. In the meantime, the property quickly becomes overgrown, and residents may feel the city isn't enforcing the code even though the process of contacting owners may well be underway.

In addition to grass and weeds, garbage, trash, old cars, limbs and branches and discarded construction material can also be unsightly to the community and in violation of city code. Residents and businesses need to be mindful of these violations also, according to Lawson.

“Routine property maintenance is easier, more cost effective and a basic element of owner responsibility,” said Lawson. “Pride in our community starts with pride in the appearance of our own property.”

More information regarding the Property Maintenance Code can be found through the Branson Municipal Codebook link on the city’s website, www.bransonmo.gov, section 22-182, or by calling the Branson Planning and Development Department at (417)-337-8549.