



# CITY OF REDWOOD CITY

*Building Inspection and Code Enforcement Services*

## OVERGROWN WEEDS & VEGETATION ENCROACHMENT

Every spring, or after the rains have subsided, you may notice that weeds and overgrowth of various types appear in Redwood City. The overgrowth is commonly found in a residential yard, vacant lot, or encroaching upon a public right-of-way. At times the overgrowth is such that it becomes a breeding ground and harborage for rodents or insects. When summer arrives, much of the overgrowth dies and thus becomes a fire hazard. What exactly is the City's policy or ordinances regarding overgrown weeds and vegetation encroachment?



### Weeds and Overgrowth

According to the Redwood City Code, it has been deemed a public nuisance for a property owner to allow the overgrowth of weeds, vegetation, dead, decayed, diseased, or hazardous trees that are likely to harbor rats, vermin, or constitute a fire hazard (RCC14.72F). It is the property owner's duty and responsibility to have their vacant lots cleared of overgrown vegetation and their front or back lawns mowed before the dry grass reaches a height of 8". (RCC 14.38)

### Vegetation Encroachment

As trees and landscaping grows, it tends to encroach upon the public right-of-ways (sidewalks, streets, or alleys). This encroachment has also been deemed a public nuisance in the City Code and constitutes a hazard, which impedes the free movement of pedestrians or vehicles. All vegetation, excluding trees, that grow in the parking strip (that portion of property between the street and sidewalk) must also be maintained by the property owner, and may not encroach upon the street/sidewalk or protrude any higher than 36 inches (3') above the level of the curb. (RCC 14.72E)

Tree branches/foliage which overhangs a sidewalk must maintain a height no lower than 7 feet. Tree branches/foliage which overhangs a street or alley must maintain a height of no lower than 14 feet.

### **WARNING:**

The cutting, removal, or pruning of any PROTECTED TREE [(more than 38" in circumference or 12" in diameter) or any CITY TREE] (commonly located in a park or parking strip) is prohibited. Please contact Public Works (650) 780-7464.

*The City of Redwood City thanks you for your help*



### Code Enforcement Mission Statement



*It shall be the Code Enforcement staff's mission to provide the residents and businesses of Redwood City with professional and courteous community service they can count on at all times.*

*We will always endeavor to protect and preserve the public health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of all our residents by investigating violations and enforcing city ordinances without prejudice or bias.*

*We recognize that team work is essential in any organization and will continuously strive to work in partnership with residents, businesses, neighborhood associations, public service agencies and other city departments to make Redwood City a great place to live or work.*



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