

**LE SAUK TOWNSHIP
STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
Ordinance No. 25-03**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE REGARDING WEEDS,
LONG GRASS, AND TEMPORARY FAMILY HEALTH CARE DWELLINGS**

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of Le Sauk ordains:

ARTICLE I. Weeds and Grass. Chapter IV, Section 400 of the Le Sauk Township Code is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection 400.07 as follows:

400.07. Noxious Weeds and Long Grass.

Subdivision 1. Purpose. It is the purpose of this Subsection to protect and preserve the Town and its residential areas, and the public health, safety and welfare of those who live there. The Town Board determines that keeping the Town free of noxious weeds and unattended turf grass improves the quality of life of Town residents by improving the aesthetics of the Town, by eliminating harbor for rodents and insects, and by eliminating fire hazards. The Town Board notes that the allowances provided for native landscapes in Minnesota Statutes, section 412.925 are limited to cities and do not apply to towns.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this Subsection, the following terms shall have the meaning given them in this Subdivision.

- (a) "Noxious weed" means any plant identified by the Town weed inspector or the noxious weed law as constituting a noxious weed.
- (b) "Noxious weed law" means the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law contained in Minnesota Statutes, sections 18.76 to 18.91.
- (c) "Turf grass" means grasses commonly used in lawn areas, including any blue grass, fescue or rye grass blends or any other similar grasses.

Subd. 3. Maintenance Standards.

- (a) Turf grasses shall be regularly cut such that no individual plant shall exceed, at any time, 10 inches in height or length as measured from its base at the ground to the tip of each stalk, stem, or blade. Provided, however, that turf grasses located on slopes equal to or steeper than three feet horizontal to one foot vertical (3:1), or within 20 feet of a wetland, pond, lake or stream, need not be maintained in accordance with this subdivision.
- (b) Property owners are responsible for maintaining any plantings and other vegetation located on their property, or in the adjacent public right-of-way, so they do not

interfere with adequate site lines and safe travel within the right-of way. All such plantings, excluding trees, shall not exceed thirty-two inches in height and no planting is allowed that unreasonably interferes with the safe use or maintenance of the public right-of-way as determined by the road authority. The Town is not responsible for any damage to landscaped areas planted within right- of way areas. The Town may also require the removal of landscaped areas from within right-of-way areas at no expense to the Town.

- (c) Weeds shall be regularly cut or controlled such that no individual plant shall exceed at any time 10 inches in height or length as measured from its base at the ground to the tip of each stalk, stem, blade, or leaf. Noxious weeds shall be controlled or eradicated as required by the noxious weed law.

Subd. 4. Prohibited Nuisances. Each of the following are declared to constitute a public nuisance and are prohibited by this Code.

- (a) For an owner or occupant of land to fail to control or eradicate noxious weeds on the land in accordance with the noxious weed law or an order of the Town weed inspector.
- (b) To allow turf grass, weeds, or noxious weeds to grow to a length of 10 inches or more.

Subd. 5. Abatement. Any turf grass, noxious weed, or planting in violation of the requirements of this Subsection are subject to abatement and cost recovery as provided in Subsections 400.09 and 400.10 of this Code.

ARTICLE II. Temporary Family Health Care Dwellings. Chapter V, Section 500 of the Le Sauk Township Code is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection 500.09 as follows:

500.09. Temporary Family Health Care Dwellings. The Town elects to opt out of the statutory provisions and requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 462.3593 regarding temporary family health care dwellings.

ARTICLE III. Effective Date. This Ordinance is effective on the first day of publication of an approved summary.

ARTICLE IV. Incorporation of Amendments. The Town Attorney is authorized and directed to incorporate these amendments into the Town Code. This authorization includes incorporating any prior amendments that have not been incorporated, updating indexes, and making any typographical or other non-substantive corrections as may be needed. The updated document shall constitute the official Le Sauk Township Code.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2025.

BY THE TOWN BOARD

Dan Heim, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Marlyce Plante, Clerk

New material is shown in double underlining and deleted material is shown in ~~strikeout~~.