

Watertown is being Overrun by Vegetation & Weed Overgrowth

By Mike Mena, Watertown Zoning Enforcement

During New England's rainy season, vegetation which has laid dormant over the winter takes full advantage of the spring rains and summer monsoons, growing extremely fast.

This overgrowth of vegetation and trees can create a nuisance and blighted appearance in our neighborhoods and create a safe harbor for a variety of pests and unwanted vermin. Depending on the size and locations of the overgrowth, it can also create hazardous conditions for vehicle and pedestrian safety by blocking visibility at corner lots and intersections, or narrowing the accessibility of sidewalks, forcing pedestrians into our streets and putting them at risk with vehicle traffic. The Town Municipal Code regulates vegetation and tree overgrowth in several areas. By maintaining our lawns and vegetation, property owners can avoid violating the Town's Ordinances and create a safe and attractive neighborhood to live and play. Below is a list of the codes with which a property owner may be in violation:

- Shrubs or evergreens from parcel shall not be allowed to intrude onto public sidewalks more than six (6) inches, except above a height of eight (8) feet.
- No structure, fence, planting or sign shall be kept between a plane of two and one-half (2-1/2) feet above curb level and a plane seven (7) feet above curb level as to interfere with traffic visibility across the corner within a triangle bounded by the street lot lines and a straight line drawn between points on each such lot line twenty-five (25) feet from the intersection of said lot lines or extension thereof.
- Any parcel of land, vacant or otherwise, shall maintain such the parcel of land free from overgrowth vegetation as determined by the Board of Health and its agents utilizing their reasonable discretion, standing water, and/or the accumulation of rubbish or other conditions deemed to be a public health nuisance.

Please contact your local Zoning Enforcement Office at 617.972.6427 or the Health Department at 617.972.6446, if you have any questions.