



Landscape Permit

***Must be accompanied by a Natural Management Landscape Plan per City of Watertown Code Section 356-1, attached to this permit for your reference. This request will be returned to the applicant when the decision to approve or deny has been made by the Weed Commissioner and Landscape Committee. For questions, please contact the Weed Commissioner at 920-262-4080, Ext 3.**

Once completed, this permit must be sent to the Weed Commissioner by one of the following options:

- 1) **Email (with the subject line "Landscape Permit Application"):** streets@cityofwatertown.org
- 2) **USPS Mail:** Watertown Street Department; Attn: Weed Commissioner, 811 S. First St., Watertown, WI 53094

No fee

Date of Application: _____

Property Address: _____

Applicant (Please Print): _____

Applicant Phone Number: _____

Applicant Email: _____

Applicant Address (if different from Property Address): _____

Applicant Signature: _____

By submitting this permit application, the applicant agrees that they have read the Natural Landscape Management Code Section 356, attached to this permit for your reference, and agree to abide by all rules under this Ordinance.

Applicant also understands they must attach the required information to this permit, as specified in the Landscape Ordinance.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ Application is: _____ Approved _____ Denied

Received by: _____ Decision Date: _____

Reason for Decision: _____

§ 356-1. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

NATURAL LANDSCAPE — Includes common species of grass and wildflowers native to Wisconsin and/or ornamental plantings which are designed and purposely cultivated to exceed eight inches in height. Specifically excluded in natural landscapes are the noxious grasses and weeds identified in this article. **[Amended by Ord. No. 94-35]**

NATURAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN — A written plan relating to the management and maintenance of a landscape which meets the following requirements:

- A. Street address or legal description of the property where the proposed natural landscape is being requested.
- B. A statement of intent and purpose for the landscape.
- C. A detailed description of the types of plants and plant succession involved.
- D. Specific management and maintenance techniques to be employed.

§ 356-2. Plan and permit required; restrictions.

- A. The growth of natural landscapes in excess of eight inches in height shall be prohibited within the City, unless a natural landscape management plan is approved and a permit is issued by the City as set forth in this article. **[Amended by Ord. No. 94-35]**
- B. Proposed landscaping is to be confined to property owned by the applicant according to current City Assessor's records.
- C. Natural landscaping on any City-owned property within any street right-of-way is strictly prohibited. This shall include the property between the sidewalk and street and not less than 10 feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk.
- D. Natural landscapes shall not be permitted within three feet of the abutting property unless waived in writing by the abutting property owner on the side or sides affected. Such waiver shall be affixed to the landscape management plan.
- E. The property owner shall submit to the Weed Commissioner a drawing, plot plan and/or survey which will show the location of the natural landscape area on the applicant's property. **[Amended by Ord. No. 05-29]**
- F. All property owners who currently have natural landscapes must file for a permit and submit a plan to be covered by this article.
- G. Natural landscapes may constitute a fire or safety hazard, due to weather conditions or other conditions. The Street Department, the Weed Commissioner may order natural landscapes cut due to such conditions. As a condition of receiving approval of the natural landscape permit, the property owner shall be required to cut the

natural landscape within three days upon receiving a written letter from the City of Watertown's Weed Commissioner.

§ 356-3. Noxious grasses or weeds.

The following noxious grasses or weeds will not be allowed in a natural landscape area:

Common Name(s)	Botanical Name(s)
Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica
	Rhamnus frangula
Burdock (yellowdock)	Artium lappa
Field bindweed (wild morning glory)	Convolvulus arvensis
Garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata
Goatsbeard (oyster plant, salsify)	Tragopogon porrifolius
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula
Marijuana	Cannabis sativa
Nettle	Urtica dioica
Oxeye daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemu
Pigweed (lamb's quarters)	Chenopodium album
Pigweed (amaranth)	Amaranthus retroflexus
Poison ivy	Rhus radicans
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Quackgrass	Bromus brizaeformis
Ragweed (common)	Ambrosia artemisifolia
Ragweed (great)	Ambrosia trifida
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea maculosa
Thistle bull	Cirsium vulgare
Thistle canada	Cirsium arbense
Thistle musk or nodding	Carduus nutans
Thistle star (caltrops)	Centaurea calicitrappa
Thistle sow (field)	Sonchus arvensis
Thistle sow (common)	Sonchus oleraceus
Thistle sow (spiny leaved)	Sonchus asper
Sweet clover (yellow)	Melilotus officinalis
Sweet clover (white)	Melilotus alba

Common Name(s)	Botanical Name(s)
Yellow mustard (yellow rocket winter cress)	Barbarea vulgaris
Japanese bamboo	
Wild mustard	

§ 356-4. Application for natural landscape permit. [Amended by Ord. No. 05-29]

Property owners interested in applying for a natural landscape permit shall submit a natural landscape management plan to the Street Department, attention Weed Commissioner. All plans received will be reviewed by the Weed Commissioner and the Public Works Commission for permit approval. The property owner will be notified in writing by the City of Watertown of approval or denial. If no notification is received within 45 days of the property owner's initial submittal, the plans shall be deemed approved. The plan, permit and letter of notification will remain on file at the Street Department, Weed Commissioner's office for future reference.

§ 356-5. Appeal. [Amended by Ord. No. 05-29¹]

The property owner may appeal a decision to deny or revoke the natural landscape permit to the Public Works Commission at an open meeting. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within 15 calendar days of the notice of denial or revocation of the natural landscape permit. The decision rendered by the Public Works Commission shall be final and binding.

§ 356-6. Enforcement. [Amended by Ord. No. 05-29]

Enforcement will be upon written complaint by at least one adjoining owner and filed with the Watertown Weed Commissioner. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the permitted property will be inspected by the Weed Commissioner. If the permitted property is determined to be in violation of this article, the property owner shall be notified by the Public Works Commission and City of Watertown Weed Commissioner by written notice to correct specific violations within 15 days upon receipt of letter. If the property owner does not correct the violations described in the written notice, the City of Watertown shall order the property mowed, and the property owner will be billed at the current rate for every hour worked, and the permit shall be revoked.

§ 356-7. Violations and penalties.

Any person who shall violate any provision of this article shall be subject to a penalty as provided in § 1-4 of this Code. Each violation and each day a violation continues or occurs shall constitute a separate offense. This action shall not preclude the City from maintaining any appropriate action to prevent or remove a violation of this article.

1. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. II).