



Overgrowth of Grass, Weeds, Underbrush



Hillsborough County's Property Maintenance Code requires that all properties be kept free from certain conditions which degrade the health, safety, and/or welfare of Hillsborough County's citizens. Among these conditions are overgrowth; accumulations of junk, trash and/or debris; inoperable vehicles and improperly secured swimming pools. In this edition, we will focus on overgrown conditions and the common questions associated with this type of nuisance.

Q. What is overgrowth?

Overgrowth is defined by the County as the growth of grass, weeds or underbrush exceeding 10 inches in height and within 200 feet of a building, structure, recreational area, or street right of way; and is determined by the County to create a nuisance for the surrounding community.

Q. Why is overgrowth considered to be a violation?

The excessive growth of grass, weeds or underbrush creates a harborage or shelter for disease-carrying insects and vermin, and poisonous reptiles. Overgrown properties detract from the overall value of the neighborhood and can attract a criminal element into your community. Cases have been documented of criminals using overgrown properties to hide from law enforcement, as well as to commit other nefarious acts under cover of the grass and weeds.

Q. What about plants and Xeriscaping?

Maintenance of ornamental plantings, such as shrubs and hedges, is not regulated by the Minimum Standards Ordinance.

Q. How can I report a suspected violation to the County?

Suspected violations should be reported to Hillsborough County Code Enforcement by calling (813) 274-6600, or logging onto www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce and clicking on the Online Services link on the left side of the page.

Q. Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. Hillsborough County does not require that you provide any personal identifying information when registering your complaint. It should be noted that any information provided to the department, including names, phone numbers, or email addresses, are subject to the Public Record Laws of the State of Florida and must be provided to anyone who requests the information. If you wish to remain completely anonymous when making your complaint, do not provide any of this information to the department when registering the complaint.

Q. What do I do if I've received a notice of violation from Code Enforcement?

If you have any questions about what is required of you to achieve compliance with Hillsborough County's Code, contact the investigator assigned to your case. The investigator's name is listed at the bottom of the notice you received. The goal of Code Enforcement is to preserve the quality and value of public and private property, and maintain a high standard of living by eliminating conditions that threaten the life, health, safety, and general welfare of the public. The department recognizes that this goal is most effectively achieved through the education of, and cooperation with, the citizens of Hillsborough County.

Resources

Hillsborough County Code Enforcement -
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce/

Abandoned Property Ordinance -
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce/apro/

Locations -

10119 Windhorst Road, Tampa, FL 33619, (813) 274-6600

410 SE 30th St., Ruskin, FL 33570, (813) 641-6946

