



One Community Around the Lake

What IS nuisance activity, you may ask?



In a nutshell, nuisance activities are those that can and do affect the quality of life for residents. And so was born April's fact sheet.

Many of the code-related reports that are received relate to nuisance violations, which are generally neighbor to neighbor and, often in residential areas. However, they can also crop up in commercial or mixed-use areas.

The goal of Code Enforcement is compliance, **NOT** enforcement. Being a “good neighbor” can head off complaints before they get out of hand and come to the attention of the city or create ongoing tensions between neighbors. Communication is a key factor, so the goal is to get neighbors to communicate with each other, whether it’s discussing property issues or other difficult topics.

Picture this: A Code Enforcement Officer suddenly shows up on your doorstep to discuss the unruly vegetation in your front yard. While our Code Enforcement Officers are very friendly, this can catch people off guard and the initial reaction may be, “Oh no, I’m in trouble and am going to be fined” **AND**, “Did my neighbor report me?”

Now... Picture THIS, instead! Your neighbor’s vegetation is getting out of hand. You have already introduced yourselves to each other by waving or saying “hi” when you pass, or you’ve taken the time to know your neighbor’s name. That personal touch can be the difference between a nuisance complaint and the following:

“Oh, I’m sorry my grass is so out of control.... my spouse is often away for work and usually handles the yard work. I have three kids and a full-time job, so my free time is limited”.

NOW.... You as a good neighbor might be able to offer, “Hey, I have a strong and energetic teenager who could easily mow your yard for \$10.00! He also receives credit from his Boy Scout Troop for his community involvement”.

To summarize: nuisance violations are generally easier to remedy when addressed early on and before they become an insurmountable and overwhelming task.

Our Code Enforcement Department is always happy to speak with residents and, together, come up with creative solutions to a problem. We also can provide connections to additional helpful resources.

Remember!! Communication is essential to being the neighbor you would like to have!!



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Lake Stevens Municipal Code (LSMC) 9.60 Nuisance Activity

The following excerpts are from the most commonly reported nuisance violations and can be read, in full, by clicking on this link: [Chapter 9.60 NUISANCE ACTIVITY \(codepublishing.com\)](http://Chapter 9.60 NUISANCE ACTIVITY (codepublishing.com))

9.60.55 Nuisance Vehicles

A nuisance vehicle is any vehicle, including, but not limited to motorized vehicles of any kind, boats, watercraft, recreational vehicles, and trailers of any size that are inoperable or in disrepair.

9.60.60 Vehicles and Machinery

Except for properly licensed and permitted for vehicle storage, repair, or sales in accordance with Title 14 of the Lake Stevens Municipal Code, the following are prohibited, storing of nuisance vehicles, accumulations of machinery or parts in excess of 30 days, on blocks and working on them, unless such nuisance vehicles are in a structure or unviewable to public or neighbors and recreational or watercraft not kept maintained and in a safe manner.

Vehicles must not be left on a public sidewalk or right-of-way.

9.60.070 Uncovered Trash or Abandoned Materials

Accumulations of trash or broken, decrepit items kept in disarray on a property or not stored in a proper receptacle or structure causing the property to appear abandoned or potential for injury.

9.60.090 Potential Pest, Insect or Disease Carrying Insects Harborage

Any condition due to lack of maintenance or cleanliness attracts or cause the infestation of pests, because of stored garbage, livestock, animal waste/matter, water, improperly functioning toilets, or abandoned structures.

9.60.160 Landscape Maintenance

It constitutes a nuisance for anyone to fail to maintain landscaping, including but not limited to lawns, shrubs, trees, and other plantings, whether of native growth or domestic vegetation in commercial, industrial, or multiple dwelling residential areas of the city, and it is a nuisance to fail to maintain landscaping as required pursuant to Chapter 14 of the Lake Stevens Municipal Code.

9.60.180 Dead Trees and Infested Vegetation

Allowing the existence of dead, decayed, unstable or rotting trees, or vegetation that could potentially cause harm or substantial property damage from the falling of the tree or its limbs.