



Memorandum

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
Jim Hart, General Manager

Parks, Forestry & Recreation
24th Floor, 55 John Street
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Garth Armour
Coordinator
Natural Environment
Parks, Forestry & Recreation

DATE: 18 November, 2011
TO: Joe Magalhaes
UDS - Municipal Licensing and Standards
FROM: Garth Armour, Coordinator – Natural Environment
Parks, Forestry and Recreation
RE: **Natural Gardens Inspection**
Location: 50 Oxford St.

The above noted - property was inspected by Patricia Landry of my section for potential natural garden status which is covered by Chapter 489 of the Municipal Code:

Grass & Weeds – Article 2 A. – Height Restriction, which states: “The owner or occupant of private land shall cut the grass and weeds on their land and remove the cuttings whenever the growth of grass and weeds exceeds 20 centimetres in height.”

The ‘natural garden’ exemption (**Article 2 B.**) reads as follows:

For the purposes of this section, the term “grass and weeds” shall refer to:

- 1. All noxious weeds and local weeds designated under the *Weed Control Act*; and**
- 2. Any other vegetation growth which does not form part of a natural garden that has been deliberately implemented to produce ground cover, including one or more species of wildflowers, shrubs, perennials, grasses, or combinations of them, whether native or non-native, consistent with a managed and natural landscape, other than regularly mown grass.**

Our findings are as follows:

We found this property to be within the provisions of the natural garden exemption. . To be in compliance with the natural garden exemption, a garden must be consistent with a **“managed and natural landscape”**.

Findings:

1. Front yard was a mix of herbaceous perennials, herbs including: Hollyhock, Lychnis, Calendula, Lemon Balm, Mint, Sage, English Ivy, Woodland Sunflower, Vinca and spruce. There was a small amount of invasive weeds, including garlic mustard, broad-leafed plantain.
2. I recommend the removal of the garlic mustard and broad-leaf plantain. Samples left in mailbox with educational literature on organic weed control. The plant material growing along the sidewalk edge should be cut back and kept trimmed to prevent impeding pedestrians walking along the public sidewalk. Some of the plant material is hanging over the sidewalk.

Maintenance required to continue to meet the provisions of a natural garden once the above work has been completed:

1. On-going weed removal and proper pruning of plant material (as specified above) when required is recommended in order to continue to be in compliance with the natural garden exemption.

Garth Armour
Coordinator, Natural Environment
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

