



# Discuss Proposed Amendments to Section 19-6

Overgrowth of Shrubs, Trees, and Other Such  
Vegetation

*6/3/2025*

- (f) *Duty to cut overgrowth of shrubs, trees, and other such vegetation.* It shall be the duty of the owners of any occupied or vacant **developed** real property in the county to **cut overgrown shrubs, trees, and other such vegetation including noxious weeds, vines, and ivy.** Such overgrown vegetation shall be collectively referred to as "overgrowth" for purposes of this section. Overgrowth shall be unlawful if any one or more of the following applies:

- (1) The overgrowth obstructs the view of address numerals on buildings or mail boxes;
- (2) The overgrowth blocks or obstructs pedestrian or vehicular traffic on public rights-of-way;
- (3) The overgrowth obstructs the view of oncoming traffic at intersections or for vehicles exiting a driveway;
- (4) The overgrowth obstructs access to emergency escape and rescue opening points, as defined by Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, or path of travel from any street to the primary entrance of any primary or accessory structure;
- (5) The overgrowth is growing into or on primary or accessory buildings in a manner that is detrimental to the building or has caused damage to a building.

- Written notice provided, 7 days to correct
- One notice issued per property per year, then action taken can be automatically if re-occurring violations occur
- Lien and civil penalty of \$50 initially, up to \$200 for subsequent

**Allows the County to investigate conditions existing on any real property in the County at any time**



**Owner, or person primarily responsible for the property, must receive written notice of the violation**



**Violation notice gives owner/responsible party 7 days to rectify the violation**



**If owner/responsible party fails to comply, the County will abate the offending condition and bill the property owner for the work**



**If the property owner fails to pay the bill within 15 days, the County Treasurer will place a lien against the property**

# Points of Discussion from February Meeting

- 7-day abatement period-too short?
- Dead trees/downed trees on a building
- Decorative ivy
- Concern with enforcement costs



# The County spends an

Enforcement staff investigates an average of approximately **100** tall grass violations per year

and  
a

**Average  
of \$575.72**

**Median of  
\$348.75**

Compelled to hire a landscaping company to mow private properties an average of **16** times per year

**per property on mowing**



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Amendments apply to occupied or vacant *developed* real property



Amendments do not apply to undeveloped property



# Code of VA, Section 15.2-901

Provides authority to:

- Adopt provisions to address overgrown shrubs, trees, and other noxious weeds and ivy
- Establish provisions dealing with violations and penalties

