

**EXHIBIT A**  
**CHAPTER 553**  
**Managed Natural Landscapes**

**553.01 PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS**

The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the use of vegetation throughout the City to maximize ecological and aesthetic benefits while respecting existing community values regarding landscaping to include well-maintained yards, preservation of sight lines, compatibility with existing structures, and public safety. Ecological benefits of “managed natural landscapes” include enhancement of pollinator support habitat, stormwater management, carbon sequestration, and preservation of biodiversity.

- a) “Managed natural landscape” means a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, ferns, sedges, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plants.
- b) “Rain garden” means planting designed not only to aesthetically improve an area, but also to reduce the amount of stormwater and accompanying pollutants from entering the watershed.
- c) “Meadow vegetation” means herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation of grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, excluding noxious weeds.
- d) “Noxious weed” means any plant that has been identified as being harmful to the local natural environment and included in the list promulgated by the City Manager or his or her designee; or as listed in Sections 901:5-30 or 901:5-37 of the Ohio Administrative Code, same being incorporated herein by reference.
- e) “Ornamental plant” means grasses, perennials, annuals, and groundcovers purposefully planted for aesthetic reasons.
- f) “Turf-grass lawn” means a lawn comprised mostly of grasses commonly used in regularly cut lawns, intended to be maintained at a height of no more than five inches.

**553.02 RIGHT TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A MANAGED NATURAL LANDSCAPE**

- a) An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances, install and maintain a managed natural landscape.
- b) Managed natural landscapes that are free of noxious weeds with a setback of no less than 5’ from the public right-of-way and 5’ from side and rear property lines and site buildings shall be excluded from the operation of subsection (a) of Chapter 551.02.

- c) The 5' of setback from the public right-of-way and side and rear property lines are to be comprised of turfgrass lawn or low groundcover vegetation not exceeding five inches in height.
- d) Managed natural landscapes shall not include exclusively turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state without further management action.

### **553.03 NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS**

No owner, occupant, or person having the charge or management of any lot or parcel of land situated within the corporate limits of the City, whether improved or unimproved, vacant or occupied, within five days of a written notice served upon such person and the owner by the Municipality, shall fail to cut or mechanically or chemically destroy or cause to be cut or mechanically or chemically destroyed, any noxious plants on the list promulgated by the City Manager or designee upon any such parcel of land to a height not exceeding twelve inches, in order to prevent the same from blooming or going to seed.

### **553.04 REMOVAL BY CITY AUTHORITY**

In the event any owner, occupant or any other person, firm, or corporation that is subject to the provisions of this Chapter fails to comply with the requirements of the notice provided in Section 553.03, then the City Manager shall have the authority to have the offending vegetation trimmed or mechanically or chemically destroyed or removed and assess the cost thereof against the real estate.

### **553.05 ASSESSMENT OF COSTS BY MUNICIPALITY**

In the event the City Manager shall have caused the abatement of any noncompliance as provided in Section 553.03 of this Chapter, then, after completion of such work, the Municipality shall give fifteen days' notice, by regular mail and by U.S. certified Mail, return receipt requested, to the owner of such lot or parcel of land, at such owner's last known address, to pay the actual cost of such trimming or chemical removal, plus an administrative fee in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) which notice shall be accompanied by a statement of the amount of said costs incurred and fee added. In the event the same is not paid within forty-five (45) days after the mailing of the notice, such amount shall be certified to the County Auditor by the Law Director or his/her designee for collection the same as other taxes and assessments are collected.

### **553.99 PENALTY**

See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.