



Park/Open Space Management – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the City’s mowing guidelines for parks and open space?

A: The City mows irrigated and non-irrigated parks. The City also mows trail edges and some select areas of open space properties through the weed control program. To read more about the City’s weed control program, read the [Weed Management and Herbicide Guide](#). Homeowners are allowed to mow up to 10 feet adjacent to their property, creating a buffer next to open space owned by the City.

Q: What happens if I mow beyond the 10-foot buffer?

A: Homeowners who mow beyond the 10-foot buffer are subject to a written warning from the City. Failure to follow rules and regulations may result in a fine of up to \$2,650 per Section 1.28.010 of the Louisville Municipal Code.

Q: How do I stop weeds from spreading to my lawn?

A: Mowing weeds at the wrong time can actually spread certain weed species. The City monitors weed infestations in parks and open spaces and relies on selective control (hand pulling or herbicides) to eliminate them. City staff is available to work with residents to provide education on best removal methods and timing for removal of specific weed species. You can contact us at 303.335.4742 for more information or to volunteer.

Q: Do the City’s open spaces pose a wildfire hazard?

A: Many of the City’s open spaces are surrounded by homes, have power lines across or railroads adjacent, or other types of infrastructure in close proximity. As a result, a wildfire could spread from the open space and impact surrounding structures. Open spaces provide fuel for wildfires, but simple mitigation activities around private homes can reduce their extent and impact.

Q: What can I do to reduce the risk of a wildfire?

A: It is each homeowner’s responsibility to mitigate the wildfire risk on their property. You can do this by reducing fuels and minimizing yard debris. Evergreen trees and other planted vegetation can often carry fire starting on open space directly to the home. Action should be taken to reduce the continuity of fuels from the property boundary to the house. This may include mowing (but not on a red flag or a dry and windy day), irrigating lawns, pruning trees up to a height of 10 feet, limbing trees, trimming shrubs, cleaning gutters, and replacing specific species (like junipers) with less flammable ones. Fencing materials should also be evaluated by homeowners and older fences should be replaced. Additionally if painting your fence, you may consider adding a fire retardant to reduce the likelihood of fencing materials catching on fire. The following link provides homeowners with many resources to reduce their risk: <http://www.firewise.org/wildfire-preparedness.aspx>.