

**VILLAGE OF WALDO
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05**

WALDO NUISANCE ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Village of Waldo is committed to maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and to preserving the aesthetic quality of its properties; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of weeds, overgrown grass, rubbish, and debris on private properties can present a hazard to public safety, health, and general welfare, as well as reduce property values; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish clear regulations to address and prevent such nuisances within the Village, and to ensure that property owners are held accountable for the condition of their properties; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Village to promote the well-being of its citizens by encouraging property maintenance and preventing the proliferation of nuisances;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Waldo, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title and Purpose.

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Waldo Nuisance Ordinance." The purpose of this ordinance is to protect public health, safety, welfare, and the aesthetic quality of the Village of Waldo by regulating the condition of properties, including the maintenance of weeds, grass, rubbish, and other debris that create a nuisance.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions apply:

- **Weeds:** Any uncultivated plant growing in a manner that obstructs the proper maintenance of property, or which may pose a hazard to the public health or safety.
- **Grass:** Any herbaceous plant growing to a height that, if not controlled, presents a public nuisance.
- **Rubbish:** Any discarded or abandoned material, including but not limited to refuse, trash, garbage, debris, or any waste materials not properly disposed of in a legal waste facility.
- **Nuisance:** Any condition that creates an unsightly, dangerous, or unhealthy situation for the public or neighbors and is detrimental to the enjoyment of property within the Village.

SECTION 3. Maintenance of Weeds and Grass.

1. Property owners within the Village of Waldo shall maintain their property by cutting, mowing, or removing weeds and grass so that the height does not exceed six (6) inches.
2. Weeds and grass shall be kept trimmed and free of overgrowth, such that they do not create a fire hazard or harbor rodents, insects, or other pests.
3. Property owners shall remove any weeds or grass growing within the boundaries of their property, including but not limited to any weeds or grass growing in gutters, along fences, sidewalks, or adjacent rights-of-way.

SECTION 4. Rubbish and Debris.

1. No person shall allow rubbish, trash, or debris to accumulate on any property within the Village.
2. Property owners shall ensure that their property is free from:
 - o Broken appliances, furniture, and other discarded household items.
 - o Abandoned vehicles, tires, and other materials that may pose a health or safety risk.
 - o Unkempt piles of leaves, tree branches, or other natural debris that obstruct views or contribute to nuisance conditions.
3. All refuse and trash shall be properly contained in a container, receptacle, or dumpster that is covered, secure, and does not overflow.

SECTION 5. Enforcement.

1. The Village Code Enforcement Officer or other designated personnel are authorized to inspect properties for violations of this ordinance.
2. If a violation of this ordinance is found, a written notice shall be sent to the property owner, stating the nature of the violation, the required corrective actions, and the time frame for compliance (usually seven (7) days from the notice date).
3. If the property owner fails to comply with the notice within the specified time, the Village may take corrective action to remove the weeds, grass, rubbish, or debris at the property owner's expense.
4. Any costs incurred by the Village for cleanup and maintenance shall be assessed to the property owner and may be placed as a lien on the property.

SECTION 6. Penalties.

1. Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$100 per violation.
2. Each day a violation continues after notice is given shall constitute a separate offense.
3. In addition to the penalties provided in this section, the Village may seek injunctive relief or other legal action as necessary to abate the nuisance.

SECTION 7. Exemptions.

This ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Agricultural properties actively used for farming, livestock grazing, or similar agricultural uses where weeds and grass are not a hazard to public safety.
2. Properties subject to special exemptions for historic preservation or other designations under applicable laws.

SECTION 8. Severability.

If any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted this 9th day of June 2025.

VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF WALDO

By: 

Travis Thomas, Village President

Attest: 

Lisa Gillette, Village Clerk/Treasurer