



MOWING POLICY

April 4, 2022

Goal

Provide mowing in designated areas within the City of Independence.

Objectives

Define areas that will be mowed within the Right-of-Way and on designated City-owned property.

Provide the appropriate level of Right-of-Way mowing during each growing season within the defined areas.

I. Definitions:

Public improvement means any project undertaken by the City, or its agents, contractors, or subcontractors, for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or repair of any public infrastructure, and including without limitation, streets, alleys, bridges, bikeways, parkways, sidewalks, sewers, drainage facilities, traffic control devices, street lights, public facilities, public buildings or public lands.

Public lands means any real property of the City that is not Right-of-Way.

Right-of-Way means generally property vested in the City in trust for the citizens, in fee or easement, to which the public has a right to access and use for the purpose intended by the dedication, including but not limited to, the area on, below or above a public roadway, highway, street or alleyway in which the City has an ownership interest, but not including:

- A. The airwaves above a Public Right-of-Way with regard to cellular or other non-wire telecommunications or broadcast



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- service;
- B. Easements obtained by utilities or private easements in platted subdivision or tracts;
 - C. Railroad rights-of-way and ground utilized or acquired for railroad facilities; or
 - D. Poles, pipes, cables, conduits, wires, optical cables, or other means of transmission, collection or exchange of communications, information, substances, data, or electronic or electrical current or impulses utilized by a utility owned or operated by a Governmental Entity pursuant to chapter 91, RSMo, or pursuant to a charter form of government.

II. Mowing Level of Service:

The Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department or its authorized representatives shall perform Right-of-Way mowing in designated areas within the Right-of-Way in order to assist landowners with Right-of-Way maintenance. The areas mowed by the City will be agriculturally zoned properties unless these properties fall into Category 1, 4, 5 or 6 listed in Section III. This will not remove the obligation of adjoining landowners to mow those portions of the Right-of-Way which are under their control. Mowing frequency will fall under one of the following four levels of response and will be determined by visibility, traffic volumes and land use.

- 1. Level A - Mowing frequency occurs every 7 to 10 days (approximately 21 to 30 times per growing season).
- 2. Level B - Mowing frequency occurs every 14 to 21 days (approximately 10 to 15 times per growing season).
- 3. Level C - Mowing frequency occurs every 21 to 28 days (approximately 7 to 10 times per growing season).
- 4. Level C - Mowing frequency occurs every 6 to 8 weeks (approximately 3 to 5 times per growing season).

The Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department or its authorized representatives shall perform mowing on designated City owned property in order to comply with City weed ordinance policy.

III. Specific Areas:

As areas are rezoned from agricultural to a higher use, Right-of-



Way mowing will become the responsibility of the abutting property owners.

Six categories will be used to define mowing. A current list of designated mowing areas in each of these categories will be updated by the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department and included on the mowing layer in the GIS system.

1. City-owned property

These areas will include mowing on designated City-owned property that is owned and maintained by the City of Independence.

2. Rural Right-of-Way Mowing

These areas will include rural Right-of-Way that is zoned agricultural or is in agricultural use.

3. Designated Right-of-Way Mowing

These areas will include Right-of-Way mowing on designated arterials.

4. Excess Right-of-Way

These areas will include Right-of-Way that has been acquired for future planned capital improvement projects.

5. City-created Barriers

These areas will include portions of the Right-of-Way on arterials and collector streets where the City has made improvements and where the grade or limited access prevents the resident from having direct access to the Right-of-Way.

6. Special Circumstances in Right-of-Way Mowing

These areas will include portions of the Right-of-Way on arterials and collector streets in which another governmental agency is unwilling or unable to maintain the Right-of-Way on



a regular basis. In order to reduce blight and improve the visual appearance along key gateways to the city, the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department may voluntarily mow these areas.

I. Administration and Authority:

The Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism or designee is responsible for administration of this policy and as such will determine the areas that will be mowed within these six categories.