

# Property Maintenance & Bylaw Enforcement

During the Local Area Planning process, the Exhibition area advised that property maintenance issues in their community typically relate to maintenance of properties: derelict yards, not shoveling driveways/sidewalks, unkept back lanes and concerns over causing conflict by making complaints about neighbours.



Property Maintenance refers to the overall upkeep of a property. Bylaw Enforcement promotes, facilitates and enforces general compliance with the provisions of city bylaws that pertain to the safety and security of the community.

Saskatoon has bylaws relating to zoning, fire prevention, property maintenance, business licensing, graffiti, noise, drainage, parking, snow clearing, street use and a wide variety of other matters.

**Citizens have an important role in bylaw enforcement. Citizens observing and reporting bylaw violations is the most common way issues are brought to City Administration's attention.**

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Property maintenance issues can affect the image of an entire block or area. The perception and image people have of an area can influence how they behave in it. Even a few derelict properties can have a negative affect on how people feel about and treat an area, which makes it important to deal with property maintenance issues in a timely and effective manner.

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## What We Heard:

- Approaching neighbours regarding property maintenance concerns can be difficult.
- Support from City Administration is needed to mitigate neighbour to neighbour disputes.
- Illegal storage in front yards can be a problem throughout the neighbourhood.
- Better back lane maintenance and upkeep (including storage of garbage/recycling bins) is needed from residents.
- Snow removal needs to be improved along sidewalks.
- The complaint process can be difficult and isn't always clear.

## Possible Opportunities:

- Share information on regulations and rights regarding property maintenance and how to report a property maintenance infraction.
- Support how to deal with property maintenance concerns with neighbours (good neighbour policy, how to talk to your neighbour document, etc).
- Undertake a property maintenance sweep of the neighbourhood to look for the most obvious infractions.
- Investigate improvements for how and when notification of bylaw infractions are shared with residents and property owners.
- Communicate responsibilities for putting out/removing garbage/recycling bins in back lanes.
- Organize community clean-up for back lanes/properties.
- Review options for dealing with repeat offenders who do not maintain their property in the neighbourhood.