**Front Yard and Lawn Parking is Prohibited!**

Do you know where your front yard starts and ends and that you cannot park a vehicle in the front yard or on the lawn? Most of us know where our front yard is but probably don’t know the definition and that corner lots have a front yard and a reverse corner side yard. According to the City of Tomah Code of Ordinance a front yard extends the full width of the lot. If you live on a corner you have a corner side that faces another street, which is considered a reverse corner which is substantially a continuation of the front yard. In short, any yard in front of the house that faces a street is a front yard. Please see the Yard layout Diagram listed below.

There is also a section of the Code, Section 52-116 (4), Off Street Parking Requirements, that states “all off-street parking areas shall be graded and surfaced so as to be dust-free and properly drained”. This prohibits parking anyway on the yard, lawn or property that has not been graded and surfaced to be dust-free and properly drained according to an approved permit.

So please, park only on approved designated parking areas such as a driveway or parking slab and not on the front yard or lawn.



Yard Location Diagram

**Definitions.**

Yard means an open space on the same lot with a structure, unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward.

Yard, corner side means a side yard which adjoins a public street.

Yard, front means a yard extending along the full length of the front lot line between the side lot lines.

Lot, reversed corner means a corner lot, the street side lot line of which is substantially a continuation of the front lot line of the first lot to its rear.

**The Ordinance and Fine.**

1. Sec. 52-206. - Parking in front yards.

No front yard of a lot in any residential or business district upon which a dwelling unit is located shall be used for parking of motor vehicles nor shall motor vehicles parked on any other front yard be permitted within five feet of the right-of-way line of a street. The enforcement of this section shall be the responsibility of the building inspector, or any other code enforcement officer. The fine is $98.80.

1. Sec. 52-116. (4) - Off Street Parking Requirements.

All off-street parking areas shall be graded and surfaced so as to be dust-free and properly drained. Any parking area for more than five vehicles shall have the aisles and spaces clearly marked, and shall be sufficiently screened in the form of a solid fence or shrubbery to protect adjacent residential uses. Any lighting used to illuminate off-street parking areas shall be directed away from residential properties and public streets in such a way as not to create a nuisance. However, in no case shall such lighting exceed three footcandles measured at the lot line.

The Penalty is covered in Code Section 52-278. - Penalties.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter, including those provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin Administrative Code or other materials that are incorporated by reference, shall, upon conviction thereof, forfeit not less than $20.00 nor more than $500.00 and the costs of prosecution, together with the penalty assessment imposed by Wis. Stats. § 165.87, where applicable, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and the costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned in the county jail until payment of such forfeiture and the costs of prosecution, but not exceeding 90 days for each violation.