

Neglected-properties crackdown gains steam

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Last year, the city remediated 155 properties and charged the owners for the cleanup on their tax bill -- up from 101 properties in 2011 and 68 the previous year.

The spike in enforcement comes as Winnipeg officials crack down on repeat offenders who refuse to get rid of trash or weeds in their yard.

Peter de Graaf, the manager of Winnipeg's community bylaw enforcement division, estimates between 30 and 40 per cent of the people ticketed for deficient property standards are residents who have repeatedly flouted city bylaws.

Winnipeg's neighbourhood livability bylaw stipulates property owners must ensure their yard is well-kept and free from things such as garbage or debris and noxious weeds.

Bylaw enforcement officers respond to complaints received through 311 and try to work with the property owner to fix the problem within a certain time frame. If owners don't comply, they will receive a notice to appear in court and could be fined up to \$1,000, depending on a judge's ruling.

For more on this story, [click here](#).

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