

1.20 Nuisance and Abatement

Any use of land, building or premises established, conducted, constructed, altered, or maintained contrary to the provisions of this Code is declared to be unlawful and a public nuisance.

1. Activities that affect the quality of life within the Town, alter or unreasonably disturb the residential character and the peace, quiet, and safety of the neighborhood or are frequent, continuous, excessive, or unlawful in nature shall be considered a nuisance and are prohibited. Examples include, but are not limited to abandoned vehicles; trash; rubbish; plant matter; out of control weeds that present a fire hazard; activities that disburse environmental pollutants and/or liquid and solid wastes (i.e. sewage, oil, chemicals); create excessive noise (i.e. barking dogs ([see Chapter 12.15](#)), loud music motorized equipment) and/or vibrations; result in unnecessary lighting and/or light trespass; and/or use mechanical or electrical equipment that creates and distributes dust, odors and/or noxious fumes, etc. Agricultural uses are excluded from being considered a nuisance.

a. Prevention of Noise, Nuisance or Trespass

- i. Creating noises that by reason of time, nature, intensity, or duration are out of character with noises customarily heard in the surrounding neighborhood.
- ii. Disturbing the peace of the surrounding property residents by engaging in, without limitation, shouting, fighting, playing of loud music, racing of cars or recreational vehicles on the streets and roads, recreational shooting, engaging in outdoor recreation activities between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., or other activities that affect the quiet enjoyment of surrounding properties.

Daytime	Evening	Nighttime
7:00 am to 8:00 pm	8:00 pm to 10:00 pm	10:00 pm to 7:00 am
90 dBA	60 dBA	50 dBA

- iii. Interfering with the privacy of surrounding residents or trespass onto surrounding properties.
 - iv. Bright lighting that interferes with dark skies regulations.
 - v. Allowing pets or animals to create noise, roam the streets, trespass on neighboring properties, or create a mess that is not cleaned up by the owner or custodian of the pet or animal.
 - vi. Engaging in any disorderly or illegal conduct, including, without limitation, ~~illegal~~ recreational shooting of firearms and illegal consumption of drugs and alcohol.
2. Activities that negatively impact farming and/or livestock operations as well as the disturbance of wildlife are considered a nuisance and are prohibited.
 3. The landing or takeoff of aircraft within Town limits (except for recognized government emergency personnel for rescue/emergency purposes) is considered a safety hazard and a public nuisance and is prohibited.
 4. Out of control weeds deemed a fire hazard by the Town, shall be removed within two (2) weeks following notification of the landowner by certified letter. If the weeds are not removed within the required time frame, the Town shall have them removed and the costs incurred by the Town in doing so shall be billed to the owner of the property and shall become a debt owed to the Town of Rockville which the Town may collect by maintaining civil action in its own name.

5. All activities or conditions that are prohibited or are in violation of, or contrary to, the provisions of the Rockville Land Use Code shall be removed or remedied following notification of the landowner by certified letter. The Planning Commission shall determine an appropriate required time frame for termination of the prohibited activity or condition and shall provide that information in the certified letter.

If the activity or condition in violation has not been removed within the required time frame, the Town shall take appropriate action to restrain or terminate such uses. All costs incurred by the Town in doing so shall be billed to the owner of the property or structure and shall become a debt owed to the Town of Rockville which the Town may collect by maintaining civil action in its own name.

The following schedule sets forth the fine and bail amounts for violations of Section 1.20.

Offense Code Violation	Description	Default Severity Class	Suggested Fine /Bail Amount	Mandatory Court Appearance
Rockville Ordinance 1.a(i)	Loud Noises	Infraction	\$100 + \$50 for each quarter hour additional	No
Rockville Ordinance 1.20(1)(iv)	Bright Lights	Infraction	\$50 + \$25 for each quarter hour additional	No
Rockville Ordinance 1.20(4)	Out of Control Weeds	Infraction	\$50	No