

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. This section of the code of ordinances allows The City of Houston to issue a "Natural Area Permit" upon receipt of a proper application. The application will be reviewed and a response (permit or explanation of permit refusal) will be sent within 30 days of receipt. Permits will be valid indefinitely unless revoked for non-compliance with Natural Area rules and regulations. There is no requirement that a "Natural Area Permit" be obtained prior to the creation and maintenance of a "natural area". However, the existence of such "Natural Area Permit" and compliance with it can be a defense to a complaint or prosecution for violation of this ordinance. (reference chapter 10 section 10451b10)
2. Area must be maintained and managed so that no weeds or debris are allowed to accumulate and create an imminent hazard to health or safety.
  - a. Debris is further defined as but not limited to non-organic manufactured items such as plastic, paper, metal, glass trash, tires, hubcaps, retired indoor furniture, carpets and indoor appliances.
  - b. Weeds are further defined as any noxious, invasive or undesired plants. Weeds shall include but not be limited to those that appear on the City of Houston Weed & Invasive Plant List. ([www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org))
3. Within 5 feet of public roadway and within 2 ½ feet of a public sidewalk, vegetation must be maintained at a height of 2 feet or less so as to prevent uncontrolled growth and shall not encroach the sidewalk area. Plants in medians are subject to requirements of the tree and shrub ordinance (reference Chapter 33). Vegetation growth shall not impair visibility in the public right of way.
4. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations as stated above will place the property in violation of City of Houston Ordinance No. Section 10-451: Nuisances, Generally.
5. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to supersede any lawful provisions of covenants and restrictions on private property. A Natural Area permit will not supersede property deed restrictions.
6. To apply for a Natural Area permit, complete the Natural Areas Permit Application and submit to:

**Natural Area Coordinator  
Grounds Maintenance Division  
Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
2999 S. Wayside Drive  
Houston, TX 77023**

<b>TITLE</b> <b>NATURAL AREA ORDINANCE (AMENDED)</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER</b> <b>1730.1</b>	<b>PAGE 3 OF 5</b>
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