

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: NONCONFORMING HEDGES

The City Council recently adopted amendments to Chapter 17.52, Fences, Walls and Hedges and Chapter 17.70, Nonconformity Uses, of Title 17, Zoning of the Foster City Municipal Code through Ordinance 589. Please see the FAQs below for more information:

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. ***My hedge does not conform to the City Codes that were recently adopted. What can I do?***

The changes that were recently adopted by the Council address existing nonconforming hedges on private property. The new code creates a process to "grandfather" existing hedges that do not conform to current city regulations.

2. ***What is the process to grandfather my hedge which currently does not meet City Codes?***

Property owners can simply register their nonconforming hedges with the City by providing photos and information about them on a City-provided form or online on the City's website. Hedges that are registered may remain at the height shown on the photographs submitted and review by the City.

3. ***What are the criteria for grandfathering existing nonconforming hedges?***

Hedges may be grandfathered by registering with the city provided:

- Hedges located within 5 feet of a driveway do not exceed 40" in height from back of sidewalk for a distance of 5 feet.
- Hedges on corner lots not controlled by all way stop signs comply with the height and set back regulations of the code.
- Hedges do not create public safety issues by blocking street light poles, fire hydrants, water meters, utility boxes, street signs, stop signs, traffic control signs or sidewalks.

4. ***Is there a deadline to register my nonconforming hedge?***

Yes, you need to register your hedge by January 1, 2016.

5. ***What if I miss the deadline to register my hedge?***

If you miss the deadline to register your hedge, you need to either prune the hedge and bring it in compliance with city codes or apply for an exception with the city.

6. ***What is an exception?***

It is a process by which the community development director may grant an exception to the configuration/height of nonconforming hedges that meet city regulations.

7. ***Is the Ordinance pertaining to Hedges available online?***

Yes, the ordinance pertaining to Chapter 17.52, Fences, Walls and Hedges is available online at: <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/FosterCity/>