

## Why is Back Lane Maintenance Important?

Poor back lane maintenance has been an issue in a number of the completed Local Area Plans. Poorly maintained back lanes can increase the opportunity for crime to occur and decrease peoples' feelings of safety in the area.

Back lanes are often used for household and yard waste pick-up, utility access, resident parking, and alternative walking or biking routes. The City of Saskatoon and property owners are responsible for keeping the back lanes safe and maintained.

The City of Saskatoon, and other utilities, keep trees away from service lines. Property owners, business operators, and residents are responsible for trimming trees and shrubs that are overhanging the property line or that 'volunteer' from existing plantings.

Keep the back lane area around your property free from waste, abandoned furniture, bikes, or other household items, and overgrown weeds, trees, and shrubs. This will help you do your part in keeping your neighbourhood safe to live, work, and play.

*Well maintained back lanes decrease the opportunity for crime to occur.*

***Keeping your back lane tidy and your trees trimmed is just one way to keep your neighbourhood a safe place to live.***

For more tips and information on how you can improve the safety of your home, family and community, check out the City of Saskatoon's Safe at Home Booklet available at:

[www.saskatoon.ca/go/neighbourhoodsafety](http://www.saskatoon.ca/go/neighbourhoodsafety)

or contact:

City of Saskatoon

Planning and Development Branch

222 – 3rd Avenue North

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 0J5

Phone: (306) 975-3340



***Back Lanes:  
Maintenance & Safety***

## Eliminate Hiding Places in the Back Lane

How can you eliminate hiding places in the back lanes of your neighbourhood?

- Be aware of potential entrapment zones - hiding areas with only one entrance/exit in or around your property.
- Large items (i.e. couches) should not be left sitting in the back lane. These items can be taken to the landfill or picked up by trash/junk hauling organizations.
- Take sightlines into consideration when landscaping.
- Clear sightlines in the back lane enhance the perception of safety and reduce the opportunity for people to loiter unnoticed in the area.
- Walk through your back lane regularly.



## Back Lane Tree & Shrub Trimming

Back lanes are often used by pedestrians and cyclists. Natural sightlines must be preserved so users of the back lane feel safe.



- Avoid letting trees and bushes overhang into the back lane, reducing visibility.
- Tree branches and shrubs should be trimmed to keep the back lane right-of-way clear. Volunteer trees and shrubs from your property should be regularly removed.
- Trees and shrubs growing within the property lines are the responsibility of the home or business owner and should be trimmed when growing beyond the property.
- The City of Saskatoon will trim trees and shrubs in the back lane right of way if they interfere with service vehicle circulation or pose a safety concern.

## Property Maintenance

A well maintained back lane creates a positive image of the area and indicates a sense of ownership and community.

- The back lane is not a dumping ground.
- Regular community cleanups, like the Broadway BYOB (Bring Your Own Broom), can improve the appearance of the back lane and improve community spirit.
- Treat the sidewalk and back lane as an extension of your property.
- Graffiti vandalism on your own property should be recorded (take a picture), reported to Police (call Saskatoon Police Service at 975-8300), and removed within 48 hours. The faster graffiti vandalism is cleaned up the less likely it is to reappear.
- Graffiti vandalism on property other than your own can be reported to the Fire Department at 975-2828.



## The Property Maintenance and Nuisance Abatement, Bylaw 8175

This bylaw has useful information on untidy and unsightly property, building standards, and enforcement. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with this bylaw. The Property Maintenance and Nuisance Abatement Bylaw 8175 is available at [www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca) (look under 'B' for Bylaws).

Questions and concerns should be directed to the Safety and Property Maintenance Hotline at 975-2828 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).