

Horseshoe Bay Mowing Program for Vacant, Undeveloped Lots Beginning Soon

As many residents of Horseshoe Bay may know, the City's ordinances require that owners keep vacant lots trimmed in a neat, attractive condition. However, many people who own lots in Horseshoe Bay do not reside in the City full-time, creating an inconvenience for both the owner and their neighbors when grass and weeds become unruly.

The City of Horseshoe Bay offers an affordable program to owners of vacant, undeveloped lots, which provides mowing twice per year. The program assists owners of vacant lots with remaining compliant with Horseshoe Bay's ordinances regarding tall weeds and grass, fire safety, and nuisance animals.

How to Qualify for the City Mowing Program

There are currently 4757 lots in the mowing program. Qualifying lots must be vacant, previously cleared, and within areas that the City has an agreement. Lots re-platted with homes or that have landscaping do not qualify.

Most eligible lots are privately owned. Lots owned by the LCRA, PEC, POAs, and Horseshoe Bay Resort are not included in the program nor are they the responsibility of the City.

Lot owners may either sign up for city mowing or self-maintain their lot. The current cost for city mowing is \$95 per lot, charged twice per year, for a total of \$190 annually. Lot owners wishing to sign up may contact the City at lotmowing@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov or (830) 598-9972.

Lots signed up for city mowing are mowed twice per year, once in the spring and once in the fall. Though rain sometimes creates a burst of growth after the scheduled spring mowing, the City's contract does not allow for repeat mowing. It is the responsibility of lot owners to monitor and maintain any growth of foliage out of compliance with ordinances between the scheduled mowing dates.

City Mowing Program Process and Schedule

The City hires private contractors, who start mowing in one area of the City and move on to next as each area is completed. Contractors mow where possible and weed eat areas they are unable to mow, for example around trees, cactus and rocks.

It may come as no surprise that in Horseshoe Bay's rocky terrain, lot mowing is often mostly weed eating! It can be a difficult task that is cost prohibitive for many lot owners; however, the City's mowing program can help lot owners keep costs down.

Mowing completion depends upon weather, grass height, and number of contractors. For these reasons, precise completion dates and specific schedules are not available.

Spring mowing begins after the bluebonnets go to seed. Fall mowing typically starts around October 1, depending on high temperatures and fire danger. This year, mowing will begin in Horseshoe Bay West on Monday, September 29.

The City also adheres to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Milkweed is the sole host plant for monarch butterflies, where butterflies lay their eggs and caterpillars feed exclusively on its leaves. If a lot is dedicated as a "milkweed lot," mowing occurs after June 16.

Residing in a mostly rural area, there are seasonal challenges, including drought. It is vital that the Horseshoe Bay Fire Department monitor humidity and temperature and the potential for fire danger. The Fire Marshal determines if contractors may use mowers or string weeders only, or stop mowing altogether, which may ultimately affect the mowing schedule.

What the Program Does Not Include

Clearing of dead trees, limbs, cactus, and debris is not included in the lot mowing program, but can be submitted by formal complaint to Code Enforcement at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/code.

When high grass/water retention creates a mosquito infestation, a resident may manage the issue on his or her own border property. The City does not provide insect management or spray hazardous materials.

Learn More

For questions, please contact the City of Horseshoe Bay Lot Mowing Program at lotmowing@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov or (830) 598-9972.