WATSON'S GOOD NEIGHBOUR GUIDE

Watson is a thriving, close-knit community. This makes Watson a great place to live, because of our residents.

So what makes a good neighbor?

A good neighbor builds friendly, trusting and respectful relationships with those around them. They do their part to help keep their neighbourhood and community safe, clean and beautiful.

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The Good Neighbour Guide offers an overview of Watson municipal bylaws that govern town neighbourhoods. Should you require additional information not covered in this guide, visit www.townofwatson.com or call 306 287-3224.

Around Your Property

A homeowner's general responsibility is the property in and around their lot. This includes boulevards, sidewalks, and alleys connected to their property. As a homeowner, it is important to keep in mind that property maintenance plays an important part in being a good neighbor.

Untidy Properties

Maintaining your home's exterior and lawn to the same level as the rest of the neighbourhood is part of your responsibility as a good neighbor. Your relationship with your neighbours can be affected by how your home looks outside. Additionally, by keeping your home tidy, it will enhance the value of your property.

Landscaping

Lawn Care

Regular mowing, watering and fertilizing helps keep your lawn green and healthy. When you maintain a yard care routine, your neighbours will likely notice and be encouraged to do the same.

Overgrown Grass & Weeds

Property owners, including those with vacant lots, are responsible for keeping grass and weeds in check, ensuring that they do not grow higher than 20 cm tall (8 inches). Overgrown grass can eventually dry out and become a fire hazard. Tall grass and weeds can also attract insects like mosquitos.

Have a concern? Before filing a complaint, look to see if the vegetation is over 20 cm (8 inches) high. Also be sure that your neighbor has not intentionally planted tall vegetation – it could be a vegetable or perennial garden.

If you believe there is a problem, with overgrown grass or vegetation in your neighbourhood, call the Town Office at 306 287-3224.

Landscaping the Boulevard Outside Your Home

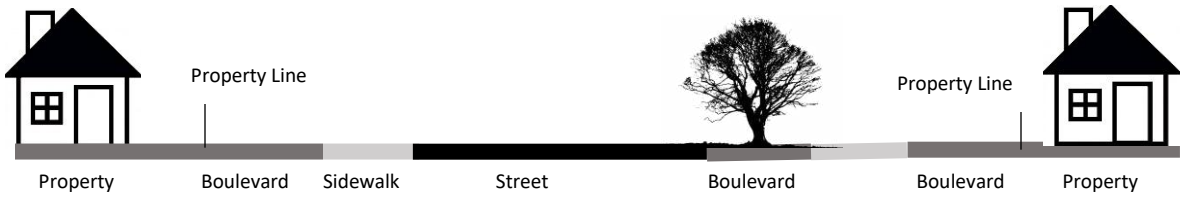
As part of your regular yard maintenance, it's appreciated if you maintain the boulevards adjacent to your house.

Not a fan of mowing grass? Intentionally planted vegetation such as shrubs, perennials or vegetable gardens are acceptable alternatives to grass. Good options for perennials include, days lilies, haskap, iris and peony. Native plants, decorative boulders and mulch can create an attractive, low maintenance xeriscape.

Avoid significant damage to your property by calling Sask 1st at 1-866-828-4888 or email beforeyoudig@sask1stcall.com 48 hours before you dig to locate all utility lines. To make changes to your boulevard, contact the town office 306 287-3224 as any planting requires permission from the town.

What is a Boulevard?

A boulevard is the strip of land between the curb and the property line.



Did you know?

Owners of new homes are required to landscape their front and side yards within the first two years of possession. Landscaping can include a variety of options such as plants, trees, grass or rocks. Your chosen landscape material must allow water to easily flow through into the ground.

Did you know?

You should never transport firewood into Town as pests could be catching a ride.

Tree Maintenance

Pruning

Trees, when mature, should have a strong straight trunk and a full crown with well-spaced branches. Pruning helps achieve this growth pattern.

Pruning depends on the age of your tree:

- Newly planted tree: Only prune dead or broken branches since the tree needs all of its branches and leaves to grow in its new location.
- Year 2: Prune branches to develop a strong central leader. If present, prune and remove co-dominant leader.
- Year 3-4: Begin regular pruning.
- Years 5-7: By this time, your tree should be healthy and shaped properly from previous pruning to stay healthy, regularly remove dead or damaged limbs. Keep the tree's outline tidy by pruning back long branches. If you wish, you can remove bottom limbs if you want to walk underneath the tree.

Elm trees should only be pruned in the fall to prevent beetles like emerald ash borer and elm bark beetles from spreading.

Drainage

Lot Grading

Proper lot drainage directs stormwater runoff from snow, rain or hail away from homes and garages to public roadways, landscaped areas, or drainage swales where runoff can flow into storm drains.

As a homeowner, be sure downspouts and sump pump flows are properly directed, eavestroughs are regularly cleaned of leaves, swales are kept clear of obstructions, and shallow depressions or settlements have been filled.

Ensure water flows from your property are not directed to or won't impact your neighbour's property.

Did you know?
In September 2022, the Town of Watson passed a Bylaw for Sump Pump Drainage. Homeowners are encouraged to seek advice and services from skilled professionals for lot grading activities outside of their knowledge and skill ability.

Flood Prevention

Downspouts

Downspouts, also known as a waterspout or drain spout, are an essential tool in your home's fight against water damage prevention. They carry rainwater and melting snow from rain gutters on your roof to the street and into storm drains. Protect your home by fixing leaking or cracked downspouts and ensure all downspouts drain at least 1.0 metre away from the foundation and to the front or back of the house. In some cases, you may need to replace damaged downspouts to prevent water from pooling on your rooftop or flooding your basement.

Flood Protection Tips for your Property:

1. Ensure gutters and downspouts are cleared of leaves and debris
2. Extend downspouts and sump pump hoses at least six feet away from the foundation
3. Point downspouts towards lawns and gardens

Use these additional flood prevention tips to protect your home.

Outside the Home:

1. Clear snow at least six feet away from the foundation.
2. Remove any debris or snow from any window wells.

Inside the Home:

1. Test sump pumps and backflow prevention valves to ensure they are working properly. If you do not have either of these, consider installing them.
2. Remove items that are blocking the water drainage pathway to the floor drain.
3. Store valuables in watertight containers or raise them off the basement floor.
4. Store hazardous materials in watertight containers or remove them from the basement.
5. Raise electronics off the basement floor.

Did you know?
Treated pools and hot tub water should be drained into the wastewater sewer line in your home (bathtub, floor drain). Avoid draining treated water in Town parks, storm drains or into neighbouring properties.

Waste Management Service

Curbside Garbage and Recycling Collection

REACT – Automated or Tag A Bag

On collection day, place your carts on even ground on the street or in the back alley before 7:30 a.m. After your carts are collected, roll them back into secure location on your property to avoid cluttering the streets and alleys and to minimize the risk of spilled waste littering the neighbourhood.

Leave at least one metre (three feet) of space between other objects such as parked cars, power poles, utility boxes, fences, downspouts and garages. Roll your empty cart back to a secure location on your property or against your fence after it has been collected. Make sure your carts do not block traffic.

Remember:

- Keep cart lids closed and don't let them overflow
- Don't place additional waste beside carts
- Make sure not to pack material too tightly

If your cart was not collected on your scheduled day or if your cart is broken, contact the Town Office 306 287-3224

Did you know?
The Town provides curbside waste collection services to approximately 333 single-family households.

Garbage

Garbage is collected weekly.

When disposing your garbage, make sure to:

- Bag or bundle all waste items
- Double bag animal waste, dust particles and powdered materials

If you require an additional garbage cart, you may request one by calling the Town Office 306 287-3224 and pay a fee on your utility (water) bill.

Recycling Center

Recycling helps increase the life of the Landfill and protects our environment for future generations.

Remember:

- Do not bag or stack items
- Keep recyclables loose in bins

Not sure how to dispose of an item?
Contact REACT Waste Management 306 682-1955 or visit their website www.reactsask.ca

Watson Transfer Station

Yard Waste

Place your leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, pumpkins, branches and more in a clear bag and will be picked up Thursday afternoons to be composted. This convenient and free service helps keep this valuable material out of our Landfill. This program runs through May to November.

Treecycle

If you put up a real Christmas tree, take advantage of the free Treecycle program. Drop your trees off at the Transfer Station. Please remove all lights, decorations and tinsel. Treecycling helps to reduce your environmental impact over the holiday season.

Household Hazardous Waste Days

Keep hazardous materials out of your garbage, recycling and drains. Drop off your hazardous items for free to be recycled or disposed of in an environmentally-friendly manner at our Household Hazardous Waste Days in the spring and fall.

Big Blue Bins

The recycling Blue Bins are located along Railway Avenue. Be sure to keep our community clean, and don't leave recyclables outside the bins. Big Blue Bins are emptied regularly, but if it's full when you arrive, please try another bin, or try again a few days later.

Wastewater System

Residential Sewer

Every time you flush the toilet, take a shower or wash the dishes, you send wastewater down the drain to the sewer system. This network of underground pipes, through gravity and a series of pumping stations carries the wastewater to the lagoon.

Only flush the 3P's – pee, poo, paper (toilet paper). Flushing anything other than the 3P's can damage your home's sewer system, increase utility costs and impact the environment. Items like wipes, paper towels, diapers, feminine-hygiene products and cottons balls should be in your garbage.

Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)

Pouring fats, oils and grease down your sink, toilet or shower can cause blockages in your home's sewer system resulting in sewer backups and costly repairs.

What are fats, oils and grease?

* *Butter or margarine*
* *Lard*
* *Salad dressings*
* *Cooking oils*
* *Milk and cream*
* *Sauces and gravies*
* *Meat fats*

Before washing pots, pans or dirty dishes, wait for the FOG to harden, then wipe with a paper towel and place in the garbage.

Storm Drains *Wastewater and Storm Water Bylaw*

The Town of Watson uses above and below ground storm sewer pipes to collect rain and melting snow for proper drainage to protect against flooding.

Report a Blocked Storm Drain

To report a blocked storm drain or an area with poor drainage to be inspected, provide the location by street address or nearest intersection to the town office 306 287-3224

Did you know?

The Town has two sewer systems – sanitary sewer and storm sewer. The sanitary sewer transports wastewater from the home (drain, toilet, sink, etc) to the lagoon to be cleaned before being released into Iron Spring Creek.

Everything that enters the storm sewer through storm drains goes directly into Iron Spring Creek untreated. Household products that enter the drains can affect the health of our creeks, rivers and the land surrounding them, as well as the health of wildlife and fish that rely on them.

Water Meters

The Town installs water meters in every house to track water use for billing purposes. When below-freezing temperatures continue over a few days, water pipes and meters close to cold air may freeze. Frozen water meters and water pipes can stop water service and can be expensive to repair or replace.

Prevent frozen water meters and pipes:

- Allow warm air to flow around your meter. If your meter is in a separate room, leave the door open.
- If the meter is outdoors, check to see the cover fits properly and that it has no cracks for cold wind to blow into. Pipes, valves and the meter itself should not touch concrete walls.

If your water meter malfunctions or you need to install a new meter, call the town office 306 287-3224. For all other issues, including concerns with the shutoff valve, call a certified plumber for assistance.

Did you know?

From 2020-2022, the town upgraded its water meter technology to provide enhanced water consumption information to both the Town and to utility customers. The new technology collects faster and real-time information for water consumption and leak detection.

Firepits *Fire Bylaw*

A warm evening fire in the yard is a great way to spend time outdoors. When used safely, firepits can provide hours of enjoyment. Outdoor firepits are permitted in enclosed burners, providing they meet all regulations. Bonfires and other open-air fires are not allowed without a Town permit.
When lighting a firepit, consider what you would expect as appropriate behavior from your neighbours and act accordingly.

Here are some safety and community ground rules to keep in mind:

1. Do not light firepits between the hours of 1a.m. and noon.
2. Firepits must be located a minimum of three metres (10 feet) from any combustible material, buildings, property lines, porches, sheds and decks.
3. The only permitted fuels are charcoal, seasoned wood or manufactured fire logs.
4. Firepits must be supervised by an adult at all times.
5. In the event the Fire Chief issues a Fire Ban, the use of firepits is prohibited.

A Fire Inspector or operational fire crew is on call 24 hours a day to respond to public complaints made to the Town at 306 287-3224

Did you know?
Upon inspection, if the Fire Inspector determines your firepit is not being used properly, they can order that the firepit immediately be made to conform to regulations or be extinguished. The Fire Inspector may also issue a $300 fine for failing to comply with the Town Bylaw.

Back Alleys

In Watson, alleys are shared neighbourhood spaces. That means property owners maintain the alley right-of-way behind their house. Maintenance includes keeping weeds mowed, trees, bushes, vegetation and shrubs trimmed, and litter picked up.

Alley enforcement is both complaint-based and proactive by officers in the field. When complaints are received about garbage in the alley, an officer will inspect whether the debris is private or public.

If the debris is on private property, the homeowner will be required to remove it. If there is significant debris build-up on public property, Town crews will be sent out to clean the area.

Fences

Before putting up a fence, there are a few things to keep in mind. First, if your fence is shared, talk to your neighbours and give them a heads-up that you are considering building a fence. In some cases, you can share the cost.

Second, contact the Town Office before construction. A building permit is not required to build a fence. However, your fence must comply with all Town regulations and Bylaws. If you live on a corner lot, make sure that the sightline triangle is not obstructed.

The Town does locate property lines, but this is only an estimation of your property lines. Only a Legal Land Surveyor can provide exact locations.

Third, avoid significant damage to your person or property by contacting Sask 1st Call at 1-866-828-4888 or email beforeyoudig@sask1stcall.com at least 48 hours before you dig to locate all utility lines.

Decks

When it comes to outdoor living, nothing beats a barbeque on a beautiful deck. Besides the comfort a deck provides, it is also a great way to add useable space to your property without breaking the bank.

Both a building permit and development permit are required for an uncovered deck more than 30 cm (1ft) high and for all covered decks. Regardless of size or height, ensure your proposed deck does not encroach upon any easements on your property.

Home Development

Building Permits

Most renovation or building projects require permits, an important first step towards a successful plan.

What Requires a Permit?

- Garage or accessory building
- Decks/sunrooms/porch
- Basement development, secondary suite or foundation repair
- Inground pools
- Demolition, repair, alteration or addition to an existing building or structure

Visit townofwatson.com to find information on applications, fees and conditions before you build. Permit applications can be submitted to the Town Office.

Did you know?

A Private Swimming Pool Permit is required to install an above or inground pool that is 600mm or deeper or to remove an inground pool.

Parking

Parking on Private Property

From November 1 to April 1, recreational vehicles can't be stored on your front driveway. Keeping recreational vehicles stored away from front yards and front driveways makes it safer for pedestrians and drivers to access the road and walkway. Recreational vehicles are allowed to be parked in your side and backyards all year long, provided you have no more that two on your property.

A recreational vehicle includes portable structures and watercraft that can be towed, hauled, carried on a vehicle trailer, or driven and are designed to used for travel or recreation. A recreation vehicle includes but is not limited to a motor home, travel trailer, fifth-wheel trailer, tent trailer, truck camper, boat, canoe, kayak, all-terrain vehicle, jet ski, or similar vehicles.

Residential Parking

No parking on residential streets Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m when road maintenance is scheduled or a snow event.

Noise *The Noise Bylaw*

Neighbours can be easily annoyed by loud noises, especially when it's constant. Watson's Noise Bylaw provides sound regulations to address noise levels during the daytime and at night. All homeowners and residents are responsible for ensuring that activities on their properties fall within the appropriate sound restrictions and do not disturb neighbours in the adjacent properties.

If you plan to host a party, talk to your neighbor about your plans beforehand. They might be more understanding and tolerate the noise if they know the reason for it. Better still, why not invite them?

To report a noise complaint, contact the Town office at 306 287-3224.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Animal Bylaw

Dogs and Cats are valued family members.
As a responsible pet owner, it is important to
ensure all pets wear their licensed tags at all times.

If your pet is lost, contact the Town Office at 306 287-3224.

Pet Licensing

Pet owners are required to renew their pet licence annually or a one time fee. Licensing your pet helps to identify and protect your pet in case it becomes lost. Pet licences may be purchased in person at the Town Office.

Pets in Public Spaces

Off-leash dog areas provide an opportunity for dog owners and their dogs to exercise, play and socialize. Our dog park is located in Mel Molle Park. Dogs may only be off-leash in designated areas and must wear a current Town of Watson dog licence. When you take your pet off your property, you are entering a public shared space. Remember to keep your dog on a leash and clean up after your dog.

Pet Waste

Picking up after your dog is part of responsible pet ownership. Whether it's on your private property or in public, immediately dispose of your pet's waste. Allowing pet waste to accumulate on your property to the point where it is reasonably likely to annoy or pose a health risk to others is not a neighbourly thing to do. When left exposed, pet waste can transmit disease, attract rodents and invite swarms of undesirable pests such as flies. Noncompliance could result in fines ranging from $100 to $300.

Livestock

Your backyard is not a barnyard. Chickens and other livestock will need to stay on the farm. Consult the Bylaw for all relevant requirements. To report a Bylaw violation, contact the Town Office 306 287-3224.

Sidewalk Snow & Ice Removal

Winter Maintenance Policy

Snow and ice removal on residential sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner/resident. It's important to keep your sidewalks shoveled and sanded to help pedestrians walk safely and efficiently. Snow from residents' driveways and walkways should be stored on private property, not on the streets, sidewalks or boulevards.

Residential Snowplow

Residential streets are only plowed after substantial snowfall (25 cm of snow from a single event) and when weather and time permits. If the Town intends to plow residential streets, public announcements will be made on Facebook.

On your snow days, do not park on the street between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. As a homeowner, you can help crews by parking in your driveway or garage after a snowfall. Avoid parking along the curb as it can hinder the efforts of equipment trying to plow the streets. When possible, be neighbourly and offer to share your driveway.

Did you know?
Graders use a flipper or snow-gate blade to minimize snow ridges across alley entrances, intersections and driveways to reduce the height to approximately 30 cm. Snow ridges will be left along the curb and around vehicles left parked on the road.

Street Sweeping

When spring comes around, Town crews freshen up Watson neighbourhoods by clearing away leaves, sand and debris from roads.

On your scheduled sweep day, park off-street to help crews sweep the entire roadway. By moving your vehicle, you are helping sweepers get as close to the curb as possible to make it smoother and cleaner for everyone to enjoy.

Know when your street will be swept with Facebook or our website www.townofwatson.com

Did you know?

Street sweeping not only preserves roads, sidewalks , and boulevards, it also reduces water pollution by preventing these materials from entering our stormwater system.

Making a Bylaw Complaint

Bylaw Enforcement's role is to promote, facilitate and enforce general compliance with the provisions of Town Bylaws that pertain to the safety and security of the community.

Suspected Bylaw violations can be submitted to the Town Office by calling 306 287-3224.

The information contained in this guide was accurate at the time of printing August 2022

Town of Watson
PO Box 276
Watson, SK
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This guide is intended to provide an overview of the most common concerns with the Town of Watson. To read the full description of each Bylaw, please visit www.townofwatson.com

WATSON