

**FAQ's**  
(Frequently Asked Questions)

**Q:** Does this ordinance also apply to my boat and/or trailer?

**A:** Yes. The ordinance applies to campers, motor homes, trailers, cars, trucks, boats & boat trailers.

**Q:** Where else can I park if I can't park in the front yard?

**A:** You can construct a parking surface on your lot in the side or rear yards (non-shaded areas on the illustrations) as long as it meets certain conditions.

**Q:** What are the conditions you mentioned and can I park on the grass in my yard?

**A:** No. Parking vehicles in the grass is prohibited. It creates muddy ruts and the grass is difficult to maintain. The location where you park the vehicle or trailer must be paved with asphalt, poured concrete, or brick/concrete pavers. Also the total area of paved surfaces and surfaces covered by the buildings cannot exceed 55% to 75% of the total lot area depending on the zoning district.

**Q:** If I'm trying to sell my car can I park it on the front lawn?

**A:** No. Other than the EXCEPTIONS listed in this pamphlet, parking on the front lawn is prohibited.

**Q:** Most of the driveways in my neighborhood are gravel, can I use gravel instead?

**A:** Yes, but only if it is requested and approved by both the Planning Office & Public Service Departments.

**Q:** Can I park my car on the street?

**A:** No. Parking is not allowed on streets from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.



**Attractive Neighborhoods Build Strong Communities**

Please keep in mind that we need and want our neighborhoods to look nice. The storage of vehicles, motor homes, trailers or junk in our yards does not fulfill this goal. Consider storing those items in commercial facilities so that your approved parking areas will be available for things used every day.

**Code Enforcement Office**  
316 N. Capitol Ave., Suite C-1  
Lansing, MI 48933-1238  
(517) 483-4361  
**Fax:** (517) 377-0100

*Visit Us On The Web @  
[www.cityoflansingmi.gov](http://www.cityoflansingmi.gov)*

# Front Yard Parking

## What You Should Know



Economic Development  
& Planning  
Office of Code  
Enforcement

*Ensuring Safe Housing through  
Education, Inspection and  
Compliance*

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The City of Lansing Zoning Code, Chapter 1286, prohibits parking in the front yard in residential and office districts.

This code serves to:

- Protect the appearance of residential neighborhoods and property values;
- Enhance public safety; and
- Promote the public welfare

## DEFINITIONS

The ordinance applies to any motor vehicle, trailer or watercraft.

**Front Yard:** The front yard is that yard which is between the front wall of the house and street right-of-way. Interior lots have one front yard, but corner lots may have two front yards (see Illustrations A & B).

## Illustrations

The illustrations on the following panels show examples of homes in a residential neighborhood and where parking is prohibited. Typically, parking is permitted only on an approved driveway or a paved surface that is located behind the building setback line.

In the front yard area, a driveway can be up to twelve (12) feet wide or as wide as the approach to the garage door (whichever is greater). A typical two-car garage door is sixteen (16) feet wide. This means that a driveway in the front yard can be up to sixteen feet wide if it is in front of a sixteen foot wide garage door.

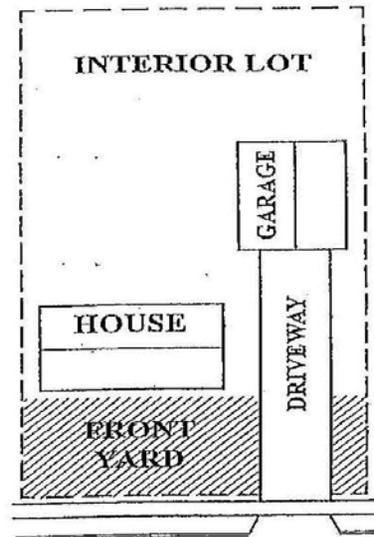
## EXCEPTIONS

The only exceptions that permit parking in the front yard are:

- If prior to 1974, a front yard parking area was approved in conjunction with a building permit, or a front yard parking area was otherwise legally established\*;
- If the vehicle has a valid handicapped parking permit\*;
- Engaged in actual loading or unloading.

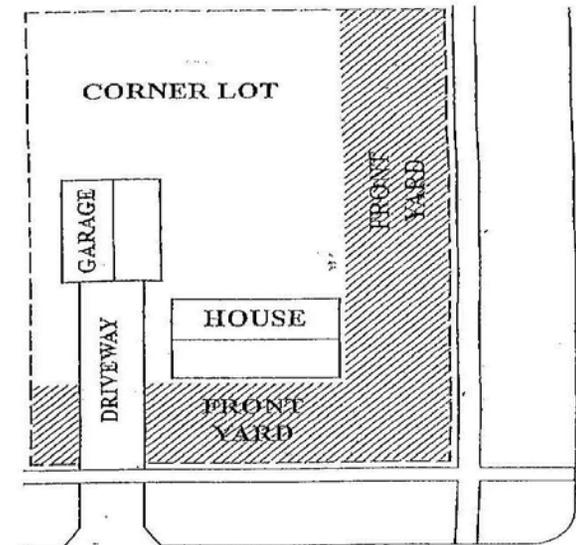
*\*Vehicles must be on an approved surface. Please note that paving portions of a side or rear yard for parking may conflict with other portions of the Zoning Code or subdivision regulations. Subdivision regulations are private rules that help regulate improvements in particular subdivisions and are not regulated by the City of Lansing*

**Illustration A**



**Parking prohibited in shaded area**

**Illustration B**



**Parking prohibited in shaded area**

## NEED ASSISTANCE?

If you wish to discuss options, a particular situation or require clarification, call the Zoning Office at (517) 483-4085. You can fax a survey or property sketch for zoning review to (517) 483-6036. You may also come in during regular office hours (8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday) at 316 N. Capitol Ave., Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933.

## APPEALS

If, because of a hardship or practical difficulty, you believe that front yard parking is a necessity, you may seek relief from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

## STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need additional information about the enforcement process, please call the Code Enforcement Office at (517) 483-4361 or contact your neighborhood Code Enforcement Officer.

## **IMPLEMENTATION & ENFORCEMENT**

This is a coordinated effort between the Lansing Police Department and the Code Enforcement Office using the following process:



WARNING placard is applied to the windshield of the vehicle. Vehicle must be removed immediately. A letter will also be sent to the occupant of the structure explaining front yard parking



Further violations of the same vehicle are subject to being towed



Repeated offenses may be subject to fines of \$150, \$250 and ultimately \$500.