



RUNNING BAMBOO

Champaign City Council adopted an ordinance banning running bamboo within the City limits during a regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Running bamboo can become an invasive nuisance through the aggressive spread of underground rhizomes resulting in the emergence of new bamboo culms far from the plant. Running bamboo can grow to a height in excess of 30 feet, often blocking natural sunlight or interfering with overhead utility lines. Running bamboo left unchecked can leap from yard to yard, block sidewalks, and potentially cause property maintenance concerns.

The ordinance bans running bamboo on both the parkway and private property. Property owners with existing running bamboo prior to the effective date of the ordinance (February 15, 2015) may keep the running bamboo provided it is maintained within guidelines established within the ordinance as to prevent encroachment onto adjacent public and private properties. Some of the key provisions in the ordinance include:

- No running bamboo is allowed to grow on the parkway
- No future planting of running bamboo on private properties
- A one foot buffer zone must be maintained between running bamboo and the property line
- A barrier is required to be installed if the running bamboo is within two feet of the property line (contact Neighborhood Services for specific barrier installation guidelines)
- If running bamboo dies or is otherwise removed, it cannot be replanted
- Violations of the ordinance will be processed in the same manner as other nuisances, however property owners will be given a 30 day compliance period
- Repeat offenders will be required to remove the running bamboo in its entirety

For additional information regarding running bamboo, contact Neighborhood Services at (217) 403-7070.