

Internet Survey Summary For Owners

Q.1 Do you: Own Your Home
Rent

Homeowners =	580 or 93.4%
<u>Renters =</u>	<u>41 or 6.6%</u>
Survey Respondents =	621

Of the **owners** who responded:

Q.2 What is your opinion about establishing property maintenance codes for homes in Ames?

Don't know/Need more information	113	19.5%
Favor a property maintenance code	295	50.9%
<u>Oppose a property maintenance code</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>29.7%</u>
Total	580	100%

Q.3 What additional information would help you make a decision? (Dialogue Box)

Owner's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- What if owners cannot afford needed repairs? How to enforce/timeframe for compliance.
- I'd like to know why a committee established to form policy on rental housing is being allowed to set policy on all housing.
- Depends what's in the code.
- I am opposed to the current code mandating off street parking, but not allowing any parking in front of a house that does not lead to an attached garage. I think there ought to be some way to get sensible exceptions to this.
- Depends on how the code is written; some code is positive; some not.
- Depends on how the code is written; some code is positive; some not.
- Precisely what will be required and what exceptions exist.
- I think it is a great idea.
- **WITH THE ECONOMY SO BAD THIS IS LIKE A HUGE TAX INCREASE**
- I am somewhat worried that such a code if too encompassing might become more of a spy program than a helpful program. Certainly I would support a sanitation, safety reasoned code but not a code that measures grass or weeds found in gardens.
- Full code to read
- Another government control more expense to govern this code
- Would have to see specific proposal.
- Want to know specifically what the proposed codes entail - beyond the ITEM that could potentially be regulated.
- I would like to more about the composition of the committee that worked on this, specifically rental property owners versus simple homeowners
- Perhaps provide homeowners/landlords with an easy to understand manual of the main codes already in place relating to property maintenance.
- Would maintenance codes apply to all properties, or just rental units?

- I'm puzzled. I was not able to place my garage where it originally was and now have a very difficult to maintain three- foot strip of ground beside it and the driveway. I've heard sunflowers are illegal in Ames yards.
- Time frames of work to be completed.
- I don't want to approve a maintenance code without knowing exactly what it will cover. It concerns me that people will have to spend money to fix up the outside of their homes when they may be struggling paying their utility bills.
- How will it be enforced? What are the codes in place already that are not enforced? How restrictive are they? Does it mean all properties have to be in pristine order all the time? What about seniors that have a hard time with upkeep?
- The 'strictness' of the code
- What would be included/covered.
- What would be done to enforce the codes and how those who cannot afford to make changes would be assisted.
- PURPOSE; enforcement plan; cost
- What will be included in the code.
- Separate codes should be determined for owner-occupied AND for non-owner occupied properties
- Need more info on entire program!!
- Basic Laws and Rights of Property Owners, National, State, County, and Local.
- It depends on how far we take this...
- What codes, what about my rights
- WILL THE CITY BE INSPECTING ALL HOMES OR WILL THEY RELY ON COMPLAINTS BY RESIDENTS? WILL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BE OFFERED FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD THE REPAIRS, IF SO WHERE DOES THAT MONEY COME FROM? WILL THERE BE HEARINGS TO DECIDE ANY OBJECTIONS?
- I would only favor a property maintenance code if it were limited in nature as indicated by my selections for questions number 3.
- What codes are already established?
- I would like to see details of the proposed codes. The city has a history of passing overly ambitious and unenforceable codes.
- I would like more specific information about the proposed regulations.
- Information about how people will be helped to come up to code if they don't have the skill or money to do so
- What are the current property codes?
- Examples of other cities using them, good AND bad
- Want to know what and how specific the codes will be and how they will be enforced
- What the requirements were going to be--not just what items they cover.
- What would be the requirements?
- Exactly what is in the code. I favor small guidelines, but not invasive, homogenizing codes.
- Will requirements be flexible for different styles of homes - for instance those built with no gutters or with alternative foundations (wood)?
- Better definition of what is covered

- I support the city enforcing safety issues, but I'm quite leery about aesthetic issues. I'm also concerned about cost. For example, what if I have an unsafe garage, but can't afford to demolish or replace it?
- More specific guidelines
- HOW would it impact me?
- How restrictive? How enforced? What about costs, for low income people, how would they comply?
- Who sets the standards and covers the cost for improvements? Finances could be an issue.
- What is proposed and how restrictive will it be. How would the code be enforced. What type of penalties are proposed. Estimated cost to city or home owners.
- Enforcement procedures; how current code differs from IPMC

Owner's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- In the following categories, it's difficult for me to choose housing features or characteristics. I believe that a property maintenance code must relate to 3 things: property values, safety issues, structural integrity.
- Will NOT apply to owned homes
- The details of the code and how it would be enforced
- Knowing it would include all properties
- Who will decide what is acceptable, and will you be able to challenge the ruling
- Extend of the Code, cost of enforcement
- Equality between all types of properties and enforcement
- Good examples of poor maintenance and guides to how it's determined
- If we knew if all properties would be included
- you need to address other than appearance, i.e. pollution such as letting poison substances enter storm sewers etc.
- read summary of other codes from other cities
- Favor ... but within reason and if it's not overreaching
- fines and warning levels
- The Code would need to be consistently enforced.
- If owners who reside in their homes expect certain things from the owners of rental property around them, then surely this is simply common sense. Homes should be kept up for the good of the neighborhood. This code seems akin to the covenants which govern strongly favor with hefty fines and ENFORCEMENT
- I think it would keep property values equal in neighborhoods. Prevent rodent, rot, and weed infestation.
- What conditions would be forbidden? What would penalties be?

Owner's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Each property that is in disrepair is to be handled on a one on one basis
- the web site says this is for owner-occupied housing; it is typically rental housing that is not well-maintained.
- What are you thinking of as the details for each item below? I don't understand what all the categories involve

- I'm afraid the poor will be penalized. I am FOR maintenance codes that will get people to mow the lawn (NOT remove weed - bad for the environment) or for storing trash, but as much as I'd like a Stepford community, it would not be fair to the poor.
- some people don't have the money and need help. I need to know they can request and get help from volunteers
- What interest group is operating behind the scenes?
- How will city assist with compliance? (for free)
- Nothing
- We have too much government regulation the way it is.
- How many jobs will this create at the city level? Has the city studied the number of homes that are in violation of this proposed code and is a code needed for the few homes that would be in violation?
- The city is confusing protection of renter protection w/ owner occupied protection. The latter suffer the consequences of their own inaction. Landlords impose their inaction on renters.
- Nothing, it is very, very clear what these codes are trying to do.
- Who is going to make these codes and who is going to enforce them?
- seems to me in the current economy the extra burden could be a problem for owners
- Whose aesthetic judgement would decide? How would residents know that this panel could judge? (I teach art history, so this is a concern for me; tastes differ.)
- I oppose property maintenance codes unless they apply to equally to all properties both home owner and rental more complaints have been filled against owner occupied units than rentals
- Start enforcing existing city codes

Q 4. If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Detached garages, and sheds?

Don't Know	100	17.2%
Yes	332	57.2%
No	148	25.5%
Total	580	100%

Q.5 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior stairways, handrails and guardrails?

Don't Know	110	19.0%
Yes	304	52.4%
No	166	28.6%
Total	580	100%

Q.6 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Decks, porches, and balconies?

Don't Know	103	17.8%
Yes	310	53.4%
No	167	28.8%
Total	580	100%

Q.7 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Roofs, gutters, and downspouts?

Don't Know	122	21.0%
Yes	245	42.2%
No	213	36.7%
Total	580	100%

- Q.8 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Landscaping and grading?

Don't Know

Don't Know	130	22.4%
Yes	216	37.2%
No	244	42.1%
Total	580	100%

- Q.9 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Structural supports/Foundation walls?

Don't Know	138	23.8%
Yes	264	45.5%
No	178	30.7%
Total	580	100%

- Q.10 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Grass height and weeds?

Don't Know	85	14.7%
Yes	318	54.8%
No	177	30.5%
Total	580	100%

- Q.11 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Sidewalks and driveways?

Don't Know	116	20.0%
Yes	278	47.9%
No	186	32.1%
Total	580	100%

- Q.12 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exhaust vents?

Don't Know	194	33.4%
Yes	124	21.4%
No	262	45.2%
Total	580	100%

- Q.13 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior walls (painting/siding)?

Don't Know	111	19.1%
Yes	280	48.3%
No	189	32.6%
Total	580	100%

Q.14 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Chimneys, towers, overhangs, and decorative features?

Don't Know	158	27.2%
Yes	191	32.9%
No	231	39.8%
Total	580	100%

Q.15 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Exterior doors/Basement Hatchways?

Don't Know	142	24.5%
Yes	206	35.5%
No	232	40.0%
Total	580	100%

Q.16 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Disposal of garbage, waste, and outside storage?

Don't Know	86	14.8%
Yes	387	66.7%
No	107	18.4%
Total	580	100%

Q.17 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Hard surface off-street parking?

Don't Know	177	30.5%
Yes	185	31.9%
No	219	37.8%
Total	580	100%

Q.18 If property maintenance codes were established in Ames, should they include these exterior categories: Other (dialogue box)

Owner's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- homes look better, community 'pride'
- decorative features don't belong with others items in that category
- THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I AM IN SUPPORT OF ...
- trees that are dead or dying and could fall down
- These things should be covered by city inspection laws.
- Holds everyone to the same standards; civic pride/duty
- YOU DINT ENFORCE BAD SIDEWALKS NOW JOW DO U THINK TOU CAN DO ALL THE EXTRAS
- I thought that we already had off street parking codes.
- I don't know enough to answer
- trees, especially those that overhang property lines
- loud and unruly animals--do they count as property?

- I propose creating a city position of "negotiator" and this is all the person does. When there is a complaint about a property, this person can bring together all parties affected and get to the bottom of the issue and negotiate a mutually agreeable
- Cars should be moved to driveways, instead of parking on the street when snow is expected that will require a plow to remove the snow. This addresses parking allowed on both sides of the street and homeowners/renters parking extra cars on the street
- Exterior windows
- shovelling sidewalks
- Autos parked for long periods in the yard
- How would the code be enforced?
- The majority of categories listed are already covered or addressed in either established ordinances or codes. When any of these items becomes a threat to the public's health, safety, or welfare, and addressed under current codes and ordinances.
- none
- It would clean up some areas of town
- To keep property clean, and neat
- NONE
- YES TO SIDEWALK MAINT.; NO TO DRIVEWAY MAINT.; THE MAINT. REQUIREMENTS SHOULD FOCUS ON SAFETY, NOT AESTHETICS
- Roof Insulation requirements
- on street parking of vehicles
- drainage, soil erosion, mosquito breeding areas
- Tree ordinance, rain gardens,
- Prolonged storage of vehicles and/or junk on lawns and around houses
- water features like ponds; fencing, walls and other borders; tree maintenance
- The same criteria for all property owners
- Fencing
- yard ornaments/decorations
- Improve property value. Town appearance. Pride of ownership
- anything that 5 distinct households might find disturbing

Owner's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- homes look better, community 'pride'
- decorative features don't belong with others items in that category
- THIS IS NOT SOMETHING I AM IN SUPPORT OF ...
- trees that are dead or dying and could fall down
- These things should be covered by city inspection laws.
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- The same criteria for all property owners
- Fencing
- yard ornaments/decorations
- Improve property value. Town appearance. Pride of ownership
- anything that 5 distinct households might find disturbing

Owner's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- nothing
- Waste disposal, but not outside storage of, e.g. boats.
- Cleaner looking neighborhoods
- Will they be unreasonable (everything has to be perfect or else)
- may protect from accidents
- safety, not looks should be the main consideration
- NONE
- Dog pens, front porches, window coverings, exterior color, Sherman Williams or Ace brand paint?
- Design features, Size, Trees. Gardens, Clothes lines ...
- no to sprinklers in new residence homes. would not like \$1000's of water dmg vs a buzzing of a smoke detector if i burn my dinner.

- DISPOSAL OF WASTE, BUT NOT outside storage, e.g. of boats on my driveway or beside my home.
- Nothing.
- no
- That's the point: Once you start, where does it end?
- city should require side walks everywhere or nowhere
- Nothing. Gives a very few the right to interfere with the rights of the working poor and others.
- If you pass this stuff I will sell everything I own and move from Ames as soon as I can retire.
- Nothing
- NO ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES, NO GOVERNMENT CONTROL OR INTERVENTION, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
- Get off our backs!!!
- I don't like them. I think that the current code has sufficient enforcement for dangerous buildings and exterior maintenance.
- Walk ways clear
- old automobiles sitting around, or too many vehicles in one location
- NONE
- Cars parked on lawns should be forbidden. Abandoned or junk cars should be regulated.
- Rodent and fire hazards.
- should have a sidewalk access zone, 6" wider and 7' high.
- None
- none
- For example, if someone has a dead tree on their property, but this tree would most likely fall down on a neighbor's home, there should be some protection there. Also, homes should be maintained to some reasonable degree. how to judge reasonable???
- NA
- A minimum code could reduce blight, and the equivalent of trespass by slovenly neighbors.
- na
- Outdoor Pets - Dog Barking: How many total pets are acceptable?
- How about equal enforcement of lawn parking of cars, boats, and trailers, why is it okay for three houses on a city block to do it and an nearly identical rental house not be allowed the same privilege Wouldn't it be best if it were not allowed at all
- Snow removal from public sidewalks
- There are already requirements to handle the ones that I have marked. This is all that we need.
- growing of grass, shoveling snow, sump pump water

Q.19 What do you like about exterior property maintenance codes? (Dialogue box)

Owner's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- better maintained homes, esp. for renters
- I'm not sure I do, though I think rental housing should have some responsibility for maintenance and parking

- physical safety is important
- Nothing! the city needs to keep their nose out of our business!
- Protection of property values for neighbors
- Nothing
- THIS IS NOT SOMETHING OUR CITY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INVOLVED WITH ...
- nothing. Its just another way to fine someone for living in a home they fight to live in
- Nothing, just makes it harder.
- things that improve/maintain safety
- Big brother is looking over your shoulder-- Pride should guide the use of current regulations
- that can encourage the development of more beautiful neighborhoods and make sure landlords take care of property
- Uniform property that retains value for person & neighbor
- property values may improve
- The biggest thing is keeping a persons lawn mowed and keep junk out of the yard
- Nothing.
- Nothing, it is about time the city got involved.
- WILL FORCE WITTLE OLD LADIES / COUPLES OUT OF THERE HOUSES
- I thought that we already had codes that protected neighborhoods from becoming rat infested.
- Not very invasive
- makes ames look better and maintains adjacent property values
- I don't know enough to answer
- it protects neighboring property owners
- Adding sidewalks where there aren't any.
- It requires owners to be considerate of neighbors and others who have to come to their doors for lots of good reasons.
- solution to the problem depending on the circumstances. In once case, perhaps the owner is old and on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay someone to paint the house. Maybe the neighbors would offer to help paint it or perhaps the "negotiator"
- I am concerned that city codes are hard to enforce. They pit one neighbor against another. Parking on the street, cleaning sidewalks and other city codes are hard to enforce. Why make more. Grass length means chemical lawns which won't be good fo
- The code should be limited to rental units only, as the people living in rental properties do not have the same investment as an owner occupied home.
- helps keep neighborhood ho me values up.
- the fact that it is being addressed.
- I can see a need for some things, but how would it be enforced? Will there be fines?Will there be maintenance code police?
- I like the idea of a clean, safe city.
- increase safety, cleanliness, general appearance, esp. for renters
- Have not found anything yet
- Looks -value - should be done anyway
- The town will be tidy town

- Costs - economic times are harder than they have been in decades! How will people pay? Banks aren't even loaning money. Safety-related things are understandable. But most people don't have thousands of dollars laying around for new siding, etc.
- Appearance of properties in a neighborhood can affect property values in the area.
- Enhancement of city's looks and property values
- Treat everyone the same
- Tends to prevent property value from declining in a neighborhood
- Codes should be established based ONLY on health and safety issues
- would clean up the neighborhood. don't want the new code to be like the OLD TOWN AREACODE!!!!
- Nothing. People shouldn't pile up garbage, but SHOULD have the right to enjoy their own places.
- not appropriate
- Nothing
- Rather than develop codes, create a volunteer assistance program to aid property owners. We should all care about our community, and offer support and assistance to help clean or restore blighted areas and properties.
- Good intentions
- Try to make people do things to their home that they may not want to or afford to do, if the house needs paint but the owner can not afford or just does not want to paint it it is his choice, if there is an issue that makes something unsafe to OTHER
- GETTING SOME TO MOW THEIR LAWNS.
- Over grown lawns, piles of trash and rubbish
- I like these codes if they are in effect for the purpose of protecting the public and providing a reasonable and safe experience for those passing by or invited to the property (but no more).
- Give the City a legal reason to move against home owners who cause safety issues
- They do help a neighborhood to improve and stay somewhat stable
- Keep Landlords and "lazy" owners "in line"
- It would help with extreme cases of unkempt problem properties.
- If houses are too ratty it's bad. They should be just ratty enough to have character. Houses should not be uniform looking. Read Daniel Pinkwater's "The Big Orange Splot."
- limits junk
- PROMOTE REMOVAL OF SAFETY HAZARDS
- Safety and energy efficiency only, not 'aesthetics'
- They should require owners to keep property in decent condition.
- should be about neighborhood safety and health
- If not too restrictive, it could improve safety.
- Safety concerns are reasonable
- They benefit the neighborhood in value and esthetics
- Keep people responsible for the upkeep of their property so that it doesn't take away from neighbors property or view
- City pride. Protection from neighbor abuse.
- If implemented correctly will address major issues of safety and health
- Establishing and sustaining neat, attractive neighborhoods.

- Can control the maximum amount of deterioration in the neighborhood's appearance
- improved safety of properties and neighborhoods
- sets standards for safety and aesthetics
- Has the potential to avoid bad neighbors and bad neighborhoods
- Make sure they are applied equally to all
- Safety, appearance, jobs, dispute resolution.
- keep the neighborhood from being unsightly
- potential for empowering neighborhoods

Owner's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- maintaining of lawns
- Preserving value of property investment
- Keep property values up.
- They provide a city standard to hold property owners accountable.
- We're afraid there will be excessive codes.
- Accountability for maintaining properties
- The potential to enforce timely completion of construction projects and to disallow collection of rotten items that harbor rodents or termites
- It would protect neighbors from a few bad actors
- Protection for neighborhood property values, safety, structural integrity of home.
- They would help maintain safety and aesthetics of a neighborhood. They would help maintain property value.
- Will help get irresponsible landowners to fix problems
- I think they should mostly concern health & safety issues.
- Can help maintain neighborhood viability & integrity.
- it helps to maintain property values
- To eliminate potential issues between neighbors
- Keeps the city looking neater and less like a slum area
- Taking care of your property should be important. If your neighbor doesn't take care of theirs, it can greatly lower your property value, and the appearance of the neighborhood. Neighbor clutter can also blow or otherwise move into your yard.
- Improved appearance of city, maintaining property values
- helps neighborhoods keep more neat appearances
- Minimize health concerns, Resale values of my home
- It would give us a place to start when voicing concerns. Gives us some minimal standards.
- Help prevent health and safety concerns. Maintain attractive appearance of neighborhoods.
- it would protect my property value and enhance the beauty of the neighborhood
- Cost for repairs - some people don't manage money or make enough to maintain.
- I believe if you have a concern you are backed by a code.
- A minimum standard will help home values and appearance
- I like my property to look nice and be safe and hope my neighbors do, also.
- Keep neighborhoods looking good
- One property owner should not detract from the property values of an entire neighborhood.
- Improves property values

- Safety is most important (ex: sidewalks); aesthetic appeal, if it is reasonably enforced to allow for personal creativity
- helps control neighborhoods so our property values don't decrease
- Right now there is no way to force someone to keep up their property. My inlaws live next to a family that will not mow their yard.
- Provides a standard to help deal with disputes that are bound to occur in all neighborhoods.
- Provides a known standard for building maintenance and appearance.
- They influence the values of neighboring properties
- Keep the city clean & well-maintained, especially the older, more run-down areas.
- requiring certain upkeep of property
- Helps to present a better image of city.
- The value of your own home will be higher as long as the neighbors house and surroundings are in decent shape for resale value
- They prevent the development of blighted neighborhoods
- should eliminate eyesores
- it will keep homes from neglect
- keeps neighborhoods vital, protects property values
- They would establish a standard
- Would help protect/uphold property values of homes in potentially problematic situations
- It makes the city neighborhoods look nice to anyone driving through the city
- Neighboring properties hold value
- Homes not becoming an "eyesore" for neighbors
- They set a minimum "known" standard to follow.
- These can help ensure a safer and more beautiful city.
- appearance
- exterior properties must be maintained
- the neighborhood properties will be kept up EVEN if it is not owner occupied
- Ames properties will be kept in better condition, will be safer and neighborhoods will look better.
- gives some uniform standard
- it includes all properties
- Cleaner, Neater community
- Will help maintain Property values of nearby properties
- Neater community
- Guarantee a minimum standard of safety and prevent derelict properties.
- keep the city looking maintained
- Better able to address health and safety concerns.
- Not much-just the excess garbage or if it's in a state of disrepair that it's unsafe as a whole (not just the railings or one entrance-that's too nit-picky). Otherwise, it's intrusive government and going way, way too far.
- HOPEFULLY, NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCES WILL BE ENHANCED
- Sets up standards
- Hopefully will improve aesthetics of neighborhoods
- Provide public health and safety standards
- It encourages/forces homeowners to maintain their properties

- keeping junk to a minimum and structures in good repair
- It would help keep neighborhoods in check and increase property values.
- It may prevent an eye sore property in a nice neighborhood
- It would help keep neighborhoods and Ames looking nice
- Should set a minimum & really only be applicable to those in non-compliance. A neighborhood is part of the home price!
- Used within reason can be beneficial, just don't get carried away.
- Folks may be in need of help to do it - ie elderly, disabled, etc
- Residents would not be allowed to store trash and junk outside on their property
- Makes the city safe and inviting
- It will require at least minimal requirements to maintain the look of a property
- Keeps a town clean & neat and helps bring business and future residents and students to come live here.
- city-wide uniform rules
- Would enable action against residents whose behavior results in public health hazards.
- it will set a standard
- Keeps a town clean & neat and helps bring business and future residents and students to come live here.
- It enforces common-sense
- it keeps the city cared for
- there would be some recourse for ill kept homes
- It would set defined standards
- Improve overall aesthetic appeal.
- it allows the law to be the "hammer," rather than neighbors.
- I want our town to look nice, not like we have no pride. Don't want us taking a downward slide into a look of poverty in Ames.
- increase public safety, eliminate gross level of neglect
- helps keep Ames from becoming a slum with homeowners
- Protects neighbors property values, upgrades City
- Same standards for everyone
- Maintains value of our investment and respectability of our neighborhoods
- They would supplement covenants or provide direction if there are no covenants.
- It helps show pride in ownership. I don't like my neighbor having his grass 2' tall because he won't mow. I don't like his garbage piled up in the back yard. Maintenance codes will help retain property values. Most of these categories can be addressed
Assures that ones property value will not be negatively impacted by poorly maintained houses in neighborhood
- Improve neighborhood pride; won't hurt neighbor's property value when selling
- It is fair to include all property
- Will keep property values up
- they would help to maintain property values in the neighborhoods.
- Allows all neighboring property owners to increase value
- It would keep property values up.
- It enforces minimum socially acceptable standards to maintain a quality community.
- Improves property values & creates public respect for neighborhood.

- It keeps Ames looking beautiful
- It's a chance to help citizens make their properties more beautiful, safer and cleaner, less chance for vermin etc. to multiply
- Maintain quality of neighborhoods
- force people to keep their property in a condition that doesn't negatively affect those around it.
- Prevent health and accident hazards
- would help maintain property values in a neighborhood
- Protect property values and image of Ames by helping prevent an owner from letting thier property fall into a state of disrepair.
- Maintains property values for all
- beautification!
- Keeps property safe and neighborhood property values up.
- That we can have minimum standards (but don't some of these already exist, e.g., sidewalks?)
- Some factors such as sidewalks, etc. were put in by the city to start with; I feel the property owner should not have to bear the responsibility of that.
- Concerned only about public health issues or abandoned vehicles
- Codes should be minimal and cover public nuisances only
- It keeps our city looking clean and safe
- ability to assist community residents take pride in their properties and neighborhoods, assist with life safety and structural issues
- It gives some overall thoughts on what's appropriate.
- safety and beautification
- Forces property maintenance
- Public safety issues, affects crime levels (grafitti, etc), improves sense of community and overall community image
- If someone is struggling financially, could be a burden.
- It should result in a better looking city.
- the ability to keep some properties from just deteriorating.
- Maintains sustainability of neighborhoods; improves safety
- I think a reasonably written code would improve safety and appearance of housing and contribute to more cohesive neighborhoods. Enhanced property values would not be a bad outcome either.
- universal minimum standards
- clean city
- to have some legitimate grounds to complain if it's bad
- Some minimal standards would, I would think, help to make our neighborhoods and city a consistently attractive place for all of us, and would help us all to maintain our property values.
- would provide a more positive means of protecting the va
- safety for neighborhood residents, keeping up surrounding property values
- LETS PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS EXPECTED/ACCEPTABLE
- They can promote safety as well as aesthetics.
- No impact on rentals

- Clear guidance, help avoid/settle disputes
- Maybe it will make my neighbors clean up all the junk they have laying around.
- Motivation to do the right thing
- Keeps neighborhoods attractive
- I'd like to see the junk/garbage stored behind garages cleaned up - it attracts rodents, snakes and birds. I'd like to see dead trees removed because they pose a safety hazard to neighbors and adjoining property.
- Establishes consistent community standards and expectations for property maintenance. These types of standards serve to improve everyone's property values and enjoyment of their properties.
- They will keep neighborhoods clean and looking nice.
- Beautify the city
- common sense maint. of property by all
- Provides neighborhood residents with an enforcement option when property owners do not maintain property to the general standards of the neighborhood.
- It is not so much that I like the idea of codes. Unfortunately, without them some residents will not properly maintain their property.
- We need minimum standards for safety and appearance.
- They would allow property owners leverage to prevent the decline of their property value because of uncaring or absentee landlords
- better neighborhood appearance
- They create a better sense of community and shared responsibility, especially in a town with many student residents.
- These codes protect property values (aesthetics) and provide for a safe environment.
- Lax enforcement
- They provide a basis for enforcement
- I think they could lead toward a safer environment for all citizens, as well as protect property values within any given neighborhood.
- It requires slum landlords to fix up their properties.
- they help maintain the value of the home and those surrounding it
- It makes the city more attractive and therefore living here more enjoyable. It is a safety matter. It helps keep the property values from being lowered by a poorly kept neighborhood.
- helps create positive environment
- It will improve the appearance of properties in Ames.
- They improve the appearance of our city to neighbors and visitors. First impressions do count. Physical and emotional health are improved.
- Helps maintain the beauty of Ames
- recourse for those who blatantly lack consideration for neighbors' ability to enjoy their own home/neighborhood and to live peacefully among others
- perceived levels of degradation
- Maintains a safe and aesthetically pleasant environment for everyone
- Improve the city appearance
- Keeps neighborhood property values stable or improving
- helps to keep neighborhoods looking good

- Helps with property values and safety
- keep Ames looking well maintained
- would give a mechanism to enforce standards
- It keeps the neighborhood looking good.
- Ensures safety and a minimum standard of appearance - there has been a gradual decline in the appearance of many properties over the last five years
- They will help to insure that my neighbors and I (rental or owner occupied) will preserve the neighborhoods of Ames.
- demolition through neglect should be prohibited
- will improve appearance of city
- Keeps up property values and safety in neighborhoods
- Everyone should abide by the same standards - rentals and owner occupied
- Protect neighborhood property values
- maintain a standard for communities
- they keep our community clean and safe
- Maintains the property values for everyone in the neighborhood.
- Will keep the city looking like a desirable place to live
- keeps slob from creating neighborhood eyesores
- Helps maintain value of adjacent properties
- It would provide the incentive for this you neglect their property which lowers the property values and standard of living for surrounding neighbors
- If enforceable, would get owners to cleanup their mess
- It forces property owners to be responsible
- hopefully will make attractive neighborhood
- I assume that citizen input will be sought but ultimately the city staff working with residents should be responsible for developing maintenance codes.
- They increase property value and make Ames more appealing - we should take pride in our community!
- It give the public some standards to meet
- keeps market value for all homes consistent
- tall antennas on houses
- We don't need a Draconian policy.
- Making Ames more appealing and fostering greater homeowner pride
- Will help keep home values up and will make Ames an even better place to live!
- Such codes would make our town more pleasant in which to live.
- Gives city a better image. Nobody wants to live next to a dump.
- Defining uniform standards. Selective enforcement.
- Ames is a clean and quiet community to live in. Codes will instill this peaceful and beautiful environment. We all pay taxes therefore we should not have to look at run down property within our city limits. Ames is and should be kept a showcase!
- keep property value and clean up the town
- Improve property value, city appearance, pride of ownership
- They provide a minimum standard for everyone to meet so that our community gives the appearance of civic pride.
- accountability

- Provides some "teeth" for enforcing reasonable, but not excessive standards, to ensure health and safety, maintain property values in the neighborhood, and enjoyment of ones property.
- They should apply to rental and owner homes and provide a mechanism for correcting serious faults.
- They establish a "minimum" level of responsibility for property owners in order to keep Ames safe and beautiful
- children's toys left in yards...dangerous to mailmen and any utility employees
- maintains sustainable neighborhoods, holds property values, good look for the city
- Improves the look/feel of neighborhoods; addresses issues without causing potential conflict between neighbors

Owner's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- Nothing
- they can be a way to address negligent property owners
- Don't need more regulations - would cost \$\$ to regulate; timing is wrong
- telling people what to do, like the gestapo.
- Very little. Unless of course it will get rid of plastic yard flamingos and yard gnomes. Your last attempt at social engineering brought us a serious crime element from Chicago.
- Very little.
- I accept basic minimum standards and basic safety.
- Waste Disposal, but NOT outside Storage.
- Garbage and safety, to me, are reasonable requests from the city. If structures on the property are unsafe or if there is garbage around which could attract nuisance animals, that could be a problem that affects neighbors.
- In today's economy, it makes no sense to create rules that will increase the cost to property owners. Unless programs are included that will defray costs for lower income/senior citizens, etc., then a grandfathering process should be instituted if the co
- If they address specific public health or public safety issues, I would possibly support them.
- That they will be abused to penalize the poor. If they can't afford repairs, they can't afford fines AND repairs.
- invasive and expensive to enforce
- The city looks cared for
- Potential for prevention of serious accidents/injury
- Enhanced safety to guests
- they can't cause hardship to average Joe/Jane
- NOTHING
- Nothing--they are a violation of constitutional rights to property!
- It will provide new jobs to ensure that homeowners stay in line, and the fines for noncompliance will be an excellent revenue stream that we can use to pay our city employees better and fix potholes.
- Dick Hawes will have many more killer-bee editorials!
- Nothing
- Ames already has sufficient codes for dealing with many of the above items. I do not think exterior property maintenance codes should be applied to privately owned residences by government. Building codes, etc. already apply to renovation, etc.

- Nothing
- current or proposed?
- Uniformity
- Nothing - they restrict private property rights
- keep the neighborhood looking respectable, may be safer for the general public and may be environmentally friendly.
- Not a lot, unless they apply to absentee landlords who do not maintain their properties.
- I do think people should upkeep their property, so there's that, I guess.
- do not like
- I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THEM
- I see no real advantage to them.
- It sets up the city for lawsuits. If someone injures themselves and the property was okayed by the city, they could sue. 2. It fosters a negative relationship between neighbors, as they "tell" on each other for petty things that are not a crime.
- punitive to low income residents, undermines creative expression, lessens diversity
- I don't "LIKE" anything about them; I strongly favor a system that does not penalize those who lack the resources to comply; we need a better way of dealing with these issues.
- I actively dislike them.
- there is nothing to like, they inhibit property rights.
- nothing
- can't think of any good that would come from it
- i would only like them when and if they addressed a medically documented health concern
- NOT IN FAVOR OF THEM
- YOU CAN MAKE THE CITY MORE BEAUTIFUL
- Should apply to rental only
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- Not necessary.
- nothing
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- NOTHING
- Nothing.
- I don't like them. Inequitable. They will be an infringement on personal rights and property rights
- Ames has no code and it is far nicer than most towns so why subject us to this when we are already vastly superior to any Iowa town!!!!
- having a choice. One can choose whether or not to live in a subdivision with a neighborhood covenant. If you don't want a property maintenance code, you don't live where there is a covenant.
- Nothing
- Nothing.
- nothing

- Nothing
- Costs to enforce, more gov't regulation
- Nothing
- ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, NO GOVERNMENT CONTROL, WE ARE A FREE PEOPLE, WE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT WITH OUR OWN PROPERTY
- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- It's a misguided confusion of city responsibility with city becoming the busy body neighbor
- Safety issues only.
- they could help neighboring properties from looking bad
- Nothing. All this will do is increase the need for staffing and bloat the bureaucracy. A better question would be what services would the city be willing to cut to pay for this?
- Property values will plummet - who wants to have city hall regulate when I paint my home, reroof or landscape.
- safety
- theory is good, but how to enforce?
- Consistency, if they are so applied
- one more item for the city to be involved in
- Neighborhood group influences
- application to all property owners
- They can be used to address true hazards.
- I don't like them.
- Needed for rental properties, where the residents may have little contact with the owner. I feel it's a different issue with owner-occupied properties.
- nothing
- Unnecessary trash in peoples' yards can be easily removed, which is an easy step for a cleaner city and environment
- not a thing
- It would help clean up a few extreme cases
- Public safety
- Very little - I think the tools are already in place to deal with issues that become a public nuisance, and otherwise mandating property maintenance is an unneeded and costly intrusion by the city
- concern for physical safety.
- Reduce trash (which attracts animals)
- Nothing
- Help keep neighborhoods clean
- just weeds, grass and garbage in yard only!!
- escalating and unaffordable construction costs
- Cost to owners in current economy and government intervention
- Too much government interference, not to mention enforcement costs.
- We'd like for the idea to be shelved indefinitely.

- keeps things safe
- Not much.
- I am in favor of codes that directly and physically affect a neighbor such as smell from garbage, water that erodes neighboring property, weeds that cross over property lines
- Possible to clear up some hazards, especially trash piles
- nothing
- Nothing good can come of it.
- Not much, unfortunately we do need some minimum standards. The least government necessary is the best government.
- good if apply to only health and safety concerns
- helps with safety issues
- I don't like the proposed codes except listed above
- It keeps the neighborhood property values up.
- Very little
- That it could be used to ensure that those who do not properly care for their property nor give proper consideration to their property's effect on surrounding property would have consequences for their lack of concern and/or action.
- Junk laying around a yard should be cleaned up.
- If the purpose was to provide safe conditions or safeguard health, I would be in favor of property maintenance codes.
- if the issue involves safety, it's important
- Safety concerns
- increases safety

Q.20 What concerns do you have about exterior property maintenance codes? (dialogue box)

Owner's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- see #2-compliance/cost/legality/enforcement
- I have a 94-year old house that is being continually maintained as we are able to afford it. These proposed policies have me wondering if the city will come over and mandate instant and constant repairs on everything. I'm not drawing rent off my property whose sense of beauty do we cater to? the owner's I hope
- Overly restrictive codes. Making city workers go between in neighborhood disputes.
- It would have been nice if you had allowed enough room in #6 to complete the comment. Comment box too small.
- They subvert the freedom of the property owner to live how they wish.
- MY ONLY CONCERN IS THAT THIS IS BEING CONSIDERED ...
- financial burden to owners and red tape
- Problems with appeals and money that will be spent on stupid problems arising from it
- You don't care about the people that have trouble already with the current codes.
- Discriminate against the poor
- I am concerned that they will be one size fits all. I am especially concerned that it will be reactionary -- closely mowed lawns pitted against prairie or front yard vegetable gardens.
- when code goes too far with no relation to safety; for example specifying length of grass
- too many city regulations

- these are abused in other communities and target the poor. I don't care to get harrassed if I dont mow my lawn twice a week.
- They could increase resentment and dissention between neighbors.
- How about making sure everyone shovels their sidewalks.
- REALISTIC
- I thought we already had code that involved safety.
- No lawn/weed height requirements
- The city getting to involved in telling citizens how to live.
- lack of funds of property owner to fix the deficiencies. I'm afraid that some can not afford to fix things even tho they would like to. Will need to have a support system to help those who can not afford the fix yet the fix needs to be done.
- <----check this sentence again
- They will as poorly structured as the no furniture on the front porch for rental ordinance and the 200 dollar fine for no lid on the garage can ordinance.
- Is the City of Ames prepared to enforce additional codes?
- That citizens do not know enough and that the process used to start this discussion was improper.
- it could be very subjective, up to the inspector's interpretation
- Some people can't pay for these things.
- I am concerned more with safety than cosmetics.
- would propose local resources that could help, such as volunteer organizations, etc. I think taking the diplomatic route first is best...as is finding out why the property is in "trouble" before an appriate solution can be enacted. The number of
- our water system or clean air. I don't consider chipmunks a nuisance..
- If people want to live in a neighborhood that has covenants, thats where they can choose to buy their house. Retroactively applying beautification codes to all owner occupied homes violates a home owners property rights.
- My largest concern is that these codes will be used to enforce primarily cosmetic standards. I feel that safety issues related to structures and properties are already sufficiently regulated. The ONLY new areas of regulation I can get behind at thi
- I am concerned that eco friendly and water smart yards will be prohibited by heighth requirements for vegetation.
- More city interference in private matters
- costs, different codes ex. historical areas vs not historical areas, time frame to complete work, will there be restrictions to colors etc.
- Going to far with people having their on agendas, such as mine below concerning clearing snow off streets and what kind of time limits will people have to fix their properties.
- I am concerned about instituting codes at this time of economic instability. I would prefer to see help for property owners in need if such codes would mean they might lose their homes.
- they could create additional expenses for people who have different priorities/needs (especially elderly, ill, financially strapped persons)
- the ones expressed above. Rentals are a business and owners should have to meet codes to make money from their business. and keep the city in tune with the private homes.
- who really determines what needs to be done

- If the codes are too strict then those who are physically disabled, low-income, or old may not be able to meet the codes.
- They should focus mainly on health and safety issues.
- Thoughtless enforcement of certain codes
- Can't be too rigid so that it disallows creativity
- Most garbage, unused furniture, ice boxes and refers
- Codes should NOT be established based on aesthetic or value-based criteria
- Over regulation by the government(city)
- Too many harmful sprays are used on lawns and too much water is used up. What about all the conservation of water initiatives in the summer?
- too invasive
- There must be codes/laws on the books covering these instances. It's a matter of dealing with each case straight up. No need to punish the whole class for something little Billy does. Go to Billy and set him straight.
- City government imposing Draconian rules on private citizens
- Minimizes the individual property owners rights. If you want to live with these rules move to a neighborhood that has them.
- Infringement upon Property Owners legal rights. The use of the term "codes" carries legal meaning, who's responsible for enacting it. Some neighbors don't always get along with each other because of biases. What prevents frivolous claims?
- Infringing upon personal property rights
- Our house is 100 and we have put alot of money in the house but it has been over a 15 year time span. My house is far from perfect I don't think it is fair to have a code that tells me where to spend my money. What if I can't afford it?
- people then we should step in. I think this could becomg a slippery slope and take away some property rights we now have. If i pay for some thing and own it . I don't need some one telling me what and how to keep it
- **RECOURSE AGAINST SOME NEIGHBORS**
- That the city will go overboard. Some people just cannot afford some repairs.
- I have a strong concern that these codes could "go too far" in that they may place unreasonable restrictions on property owners.
- I would like to see the code address safety issues, not cosmetic issues.
- How will they be enforced?
- Many people do not have the time, money, skill, or physical ability to keep up with codes. Who will enforce them? Tickets will just add further financial burden on the poor.
- that they should be regulated and observed + determined that they do not meet the code by competent,trained city employees. Especially people who are experts in the areas concerned. This should not be a reported on by neighborhood complaintants.
- Being too strict; owners that may have limited income
- Too many codes or codes that are too stringent could be a burden on the elderly and people who are struggling financially.
- That they will be too strict, require too much conformity.
- sidewalks
- **FINANCIAL BURDEN ON LOW INCOME OR ELDERLY OR UNEMPLOYED OWNER-RESIDENTS**

- I think the strongest argument for a city code is that of public safety. Appearances are a matter of judgement, but if there are health and safety issues, then the code could serve a purpose.
- Too far reaching that they might dictate against wild flower/prairie grass gardens and institute more wasteful lawns or concrete surfaces that promote run-off and exacerbate flooding
- They might require too much uniformity; I would like to see varieties of landscaping, etc.; long grass does not concern me as much as junk and refuse being allowed to lie in front yards.
- should not become an approved planting list or approved paint colors
- If it is too restrictive, it will be oppressive and stifle individuality.
- They smack of forced conformity, neighborhood covenants, intrusive government, and running poor people out of town
- They will be too rigid and favor mowed lawns over gardens
- What all would be includede
- Case by case effort to work with abuse needed.
- Invasion of personal property and enforcement of cookie cutter style
- Making sure that codes are realistic and enforceable.
- Will be so controlling that you have to spend more money than you have to keep it perfect.
- DON'T mandate use of herbicides or length of grass or type of plantings. these are personal and ecological choices.
- judgment and enforcement
- They nay interfere with personal rights
- Could be too strict and cost to enforce the codes
- Rentals and owner occupieds need to have the same standards.
- Owner affordable, funding for enforcement, excessive control, future code changes.
- possible abuse in enforcement
- potential for empowering picky individuals

Owner's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- too much red tape by the city government for property updates or maintenance
- Too much regulation and enforcement is tough
- That they will not be utilized properly.
- Too expensive. City taxes here are already very high.
- Money should be available to help people who don't have the money to do the improvements.
- enforcement
- The inability to draw a clear line at that is/is not in violation and the potential costs involved if I find myself in violation of some part of the code.
- Fine line of Imposing on personal property owner rights and preferences
- Might impose excessive expense for poor people.
- I think it is very important to see some of these ideas
- Even enforcement throughout the city
- How will they be enforced.
- Proper balance with individual owner judgements.

- too restrictive - or subjective
- The codes must balance a particular property owner's rights with those whose property values will be impacted by what someone does with their property.
- that they will not be enforced
- Being too strict and/or creating a burden on low-income and elderly residents
- Too narrow of guide lines
- Things that are enforced must not require lots of money. People who have little money can still take the time to improve their property if it doesn't require lots of money. Lazyness should not be an acceptable excuse for poor maintenance.
- Possibly infringing on individual rights of property owners
- too many codes taking away individualism
- Landlords that don't care, The number of people to manage the program, never enough.
- I don't think we need "Big Brother" but we do need some common sense guidelines so that neighborhoods remain pleasant and not a health hazard.
- Lower-income people have fewer resources to maintain their homes but also are often the ones whose houses are older and more in need of maintenance. There need to be programs in place to help them make the needed repairs and improvements.
- How will it be enforced? And economic impact for owner.
- Neighborhood should be maintained - home owners should know that there are expectations for maintaining a property when they purchase it.
- The code must not be too expensive - it must be affordable for ALL homeowners
- Economically, some homeowners cannot to update their property
- Keep it simple and explicit. Concentrate on those items that affect the neighborhood.
- None
- Enforcement -- our guess is that some people with "code issues" will be people who cannot afford to make the change, and cannot afford to pay a fine; Also, this is mostly a subjective policy--who's to say what's a problem?
- garbage, unused cars, yards that look like dump yards
- Must fair and enforced properly.
- I'm concerned that maintenance codes won't be enforced. An analogous code is the requirement to remove snow from sidewalks - yet miles of sidewalks are not shoveled creating dangerous walking conditions.
- I hope landlords will be responsible for things their renters don't do.
- Who is responsible for labor & costs?
- concerned there may be too many requirements or requirements
- everyone can't afford all repairs
- People who can't afford to do the upkeep, whoever is written up finding out who turned them in and getting back at them some way.
- Hardship on the poor and those on fixed incomes
- what are the implications for enforcement--who will do it, at what cost?
- They might be difficult to enforce
- None
- That they don't get overly restrictive.
- That they may get out of control
- Hard to define; who will make judgements

- 5. Rules which would result in unnecessary expenditures for homeowners
- That they will not be enforced by the City of Ames or that enforcement will be paid for in the form of higher property taxes.
- What the city might consider "weeds" - native plantings are not weeds.
- cost to homeowners
- enforcement?
- unkept properties deteriorate our city face
- If there are current codes, they seem to be very seldom enforced.
- that somehow, certain property owners(especially landlords) will be able to skirt the issues, as they already are
- There might be too many complaints by neighbors.
- none
- enforcement
- it is too vague ,staff could treat everyone different
- Cost for low income families and elderly
- spite enforcement-not uniform
- Standards could be set too high, for example on grass height
- Difficulty for elderly or those in poverty
- That they would be create a city of look-alike properties.
- financial strains to those who can't afford expensive repairs
- Infringes on personal property rights; discriminatory. Poor timing because of economic downturn which will result in more and more citizens being unable to maintain property as well as they did in the past. One person's garden is another's weed patch
- Too intrusive on people's liberties w/ their own property. Also discriminates against low income/elderly who may not be able to upkeep.
- **MUST BE CAREFUL - DON'T GO TOO FAR**
- Could be used vindictively
- Where is the line drawn? i.e. Paint on houses. How much peeling is too much?
- Appearance issues are up to judgement
- Implementation. Will Ames actually implement its requirements? As an example, re: snow removal concerns, please visit the Lincoln Way bike trail/sidewalk from west Ames to campus any winter for the last 18 years for examples showing "no".
- These codes need to be fair, simply-worded, and enforceable. They mean nothing if they are all bark, no bite.
- over regulation, lack of common sense regulations since that tends to happen with government
- there should be some consideration for income levels and grants should be offered to those that can't afford major improvements.
- going too far and infringing on individual rights
- Don't want it to burden those that can't afford to fix their property
- Inconsistent enforcement. Financial problems for property owner
- Too rigid of codes or neighbors with a different opinion on beauty- especially "natural grass or landscaping" fitting into a grass height code.

- Ask the paperboys about how accessible peoples yards are. You can't even walk down every sidewalk. Add an element of assistance when needed ie the elderly. Give lists to church groups and community orgs in lieu of fines.
- I want the Codes to Be Keep to A minimum. And dont want neighbors to Beable to use it against each other, because they dont like how they decorate thier yard.
- Codes cannot be so restrictive that owners are not allowed to personalize their property
- People may not be able to afford to upgrade if they have let their property get run down.
- Enforcement-how? What cost? Will violators have their own funds to repair their violations.
- They can cause people to be over policed and cause financial hardships.
- cost of application and who will enforce
- Their application must be reasonable, to avoid a police state. Only those items should be included that clearly endanger public safety or public views. Tolerance is needed for people gone on vacation whose lawns grow long, etc.
- over enforcement
- Poor or elderly may suffer loss if assistance is not available
- Prairie restoration and other naturalistic gardening shouldn't count as "too tall grass"!
- not everyone agrees on what is the least acceptable
- spiteful neighbors reporting on others to harrass them
- Specifying grass height is not very good, but using a noxious weed standard is better - IE Bullthistle. Make weeds a requirement on anyone in the 2mile zoning rules outside of city limits.
- Might curtail peoples creative landscaping.
- keep focus on safety, not aesthetics
- That some people can't afford to make improvements and/or are not physically able. If people lived out of Ames and own here, they need to keep it up too.
- that they may be too picky, create too much expense for those on fixed income
- that they only crack down on rentals, and let the owner occupied run wild.
- Penalties if owners elderly or low income or disabled
- They should not punish people who are different such as those who have "natural" yards. They should focus on neglect, not difference
- None
- Garbage and cutting the lawn are easy to maintain, but what if the property owner simply can't afford fix eternal problems, ie; new siding, new concrete, etc. These are all expensive to do and not affordable to most.
- That unreasonable requirements will force people to spend more than they can afford and that they will not be able to landscape their yard in way that pleases them
- fair notice of violation; time consideration
- If not all properties are included
- Don't want them to become Gestapo codes
- I'm afraid, that like the limit on unrelated people in rental houses, this would just be one more ordinance that would be ignored by the city.
- perhaps being the godfather to some folks
- It could be a personal taste judgement call.
- The lack of enforcement by the city.
- There seems to be almost no enforcement.

- too strict: time after notice given for enforcement
- not sure right now
- The city might get too officious carry it too far. people have rights to express themselves as well as responsibilities to help take care of the city and their neighbors
- they can't be too severe or restrictive. Property owners still should have some latitude, but safety issues or properties that diminish property values or desirability of neighboring properties should be corrected.
- Possibility of overzealous restrictions/enforcement
- I don't want to impose the opinion of the majority concerning appearance that does not affect safety
- How will they be enforced?
- garages falling in? no siding on the house (like on Northwestern in 2400 block) all need to be fixed.
- ability to enforce
- Cost to taxpayers with the inevitable legal fights owners that are out of code will cause.
- None
- Educating homeowners and enforcement.
- Overreaching; don't allow for individuality; negative impact on low-income owners or elderly.
- Too much city regulation, everyone would not agree on standards
- Concern about excessive rigidity of rules
- Over zealous enforcement and/or selective enforcement
- I don't want to get a ticket for not painting my house, etc...
- enforcement is cumbersome and will require repetition, monitoring and staff time
- I'm concern about the degree to which some people will be able to meet the code. I can see the elderly and disable being negatively impacted.
- cost for individuals to meet codes
- Next door neighbor as garbage piled from the floor to the ceiling inside his house--could be a health hazard
- I don't want the city to over step their bounds, worried if too many codes are in place you won't have a say in what goes on on your property.
- How will enforcement be handled, ie only if a complant is voiced or will there be automatic inspections by City staff of all property. What is the impact on my taxes to cover this code?
- I'm concerned that there could be financial difficulties.
- Too many ordinances; no interior inspection
- They should not be unduly restrictive, and should allow for differences in personal taste. Property owners should be given ample time to address issues, and existence of a city code should not substitute for communication between neighbors.
- may become too restrictive/expensive
- there should be a certain amount of leeway for owner occupied
- costs (time, money) for enforcement; equitable enforcement
- NONE
- Why are rentals not included
- too much micro-management
- It will come down to judgment calls

- I do not like to have to report problems I would like inspectors to seek out problems
- Are there funds to enforce the codes or will they be ignored? A code is only as effective as the enforcement used.
- increased neighborhood appearance and property values
- that these be enforced, especially sidewalk maintenance
- Inconsistent enforcement or no real consequences for noncompliance. I also have a concern that unreasonable codes and enforcement would interfere with normal enjoyment of property by responsible homeowners.
- I hope the city will use common sense and not be too picky.
- Can't imagine that the City would go after little violations
- how they will be enforced
- Requires good faith among neighborhood residents and city staff for reasonable enforcement.
- The codes won't be enforced.
- That they not pose a hardship on poor people.
- I'm afraid that the city staff would not be able to enforce it. It seems like the current codes sometimes aren't enforced (campus town) parking on yards insufficient parking, etc.
- How well they would be enforced.
- Once passed, such codes need to be enforced; there may be too many codes that are not enforced unless a citizen complains. That should not be necessary where violations are extreme and/or potentially dangerous.
- Include list of property maintenance codes in monthly utility bill or explore other ways
- They are inadequately enforced already
- I would have some concern that they not be so strict as to become punitive for low income housing occupants.
- Situations where an elderly or low income owner could not afford repairs.
- The health of the people living in the house. Can they do the exterior work. maybe they need to hire it done, have neighbors help or move to an apartment.
- They need to be fairly enforced if enacted. They could be a financial strain for some families. It may be difficult to set standards such as how high is too high for grass, or how much paint peeling is too much, etc.
- that they be equitably applied
- None at this time
- Properties where there are problems now will be the ones to oppose the codes.
- that they won't be enforced
- they be for publicly viewable areas only (i.e. if a back deck is in disrepair in a fenced or otherwise obscured back yard it should not be required to meet proposed maintenance codes)
- That they be reasonable and allow for different ideas on landscaping especially.
- None
- lack of enforcement..trying just to be "neighborly"
- Need to be fair and reasonable
- enforcement of the codes
- there may be elderly, disabled or impoverished folks who cannot do the required repairs or clean up
- Uniform enforcement

- None - other than avoiding a completely uniform appearance.
- None really. Unless I needed to make a repair that I couldn't afford at the time.
- individual costs
- none
- none - It Helps maintain the property value and feel of neighborhood
- they should be fair and reasonable
- Residents who cannot afford such upkeep. Especially older folks on fixed incomes
- Poor enforcement
- May be difficult for some owners to keep up with expense.
- None
- they may get too rigid and turn enforcers into lawn nazis
- Impact of code on people with low income. Determining whether home owner is making efforts to maintain....or if the owner is choosing to ignore common sense maintenance/improvement because he or she wants to choose to be a problem.
- Inspection and enforcement of such a code/ordinance
- lack of enforcement
- They may be too strict - some are financially limited as to what they can do.
- none
- who is going to be oversight authority and enforcement?
- We need more city support on sidewalk clearing in the winter.
- Only that they will be enforced.
- That the codes will not be enforced consistently
- Consistent enforcement.
- will the city have the guts to enforce
- If they are not enforced.
- I am concerned about the ability for some in our community to pay for upgrading their property to bring it into compliance with current/future codes.
- none
- Costs of compliance for homeowners and cost of enforcement.
- Uneven application
- They must be reasonable. They must be enforced.
- neighbors trees that do damage to property not cleaning up after damage...not taking responsibility for repairs/clean up, and just leaving debris.
- must be uniformly enforced
- Ensure everyone is well-aware of codes and they are enforced

Owner's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- They restrict the rights of home owners. They impose costs on home owners which they may not be able to afford. They establish a precedent for requiring conformity to the tastes of influential persons.
- Standards vary from neighborhood to neighborhood. Its nice to have the variety. Its easy to over regulate this type of thing.
- WE ALREADY HAVE THE CODES WE NEED FOR THIS
- The loss of private property rights.
- Ames should consider joining the USSR

- they will be unfairly applied. What if I had a native wildflower garden? Who decides if they are weeds or not?
 - Adamant inspection supervisors
 - I don't mind keeping my front yard grassed and cut, but I feel that my back yard should be up to me. My back yard was in native Iowa plants when we purchased our home over 20 years ago and I want to keep it that way! I have Phlox, tiger lillies,
 - Enforcing and regulating are real concerns. Both would cost \$\$ that will come from where?
 - Excessive government involvement in my life.
 - Too totalitarian with possibilities for abuse. Could penalize individuals with insufficient funds to address problems particularly in the current hard times.
 - This is more Big Brother, nanny-state, social engineering only at the local level. What will come after this?
 - This could be very intrusive, could be used by neighbors who don't like each other for harassment, and the city does not have the personnel to enforce.
 - It's nitpicking and intrusive.
 - I do not want my neighbors informing on me, or my non-neighbors, and I do not like the idea of intrusive people from the city scrounging thru my home and property to determine if I am "legal"
 - Freedom!
 - don't need any more regulations
 - I am concerned that aesthetics are personal taste and cannot be mandated...what if I wanted to deliberately landscape my yard in "prairie" style with many long grasses and so forth? Would someone else see that as unkempt?
 - making it too expensive to own a home
 - This all started as a rental code workgroup that lost its focus. Rental properties are a business that require related business expenses. Residential properties are not businesses and should not be included at this time.
 - I do not believe the city should dictate to the private property owner; however, rental properties are a business & should be under stricter codes.
-
- codes already in place should be enforced
 - Some people are poor or elderly and need help.
 - Restrictions related to aesthetics rather than safety; aesthetics are too subjective
 - restrictive & wide-ranging
 - If I wanted this kind of meddling I would have bought a house in an HOA-controlled area.
 - Poor people and those living in older homes/neighborhoods will be automatically discriminated against (which I suspect is the main idea of this proposal). People that work full-time will also have problems.
 - Aren't we supposed to be celebrating diversity? If you want to live in a neighborhood where all the houses and yards look alike, then move to the sprawl.
 - Where do I start..... if a property doesn't meet the minimum acceptable standards, who is going to pay for the improvements? -- I don't know about you, but I don't exactly have any spare change these days. Heck, do my brand new asphalt shingles comply, or
 - Individual rights
 - A person's home should not be threatened by the city for aesthetic issues. There are developments for homeowners who require a certain look to their surroundings. Outside of

those "gated" type neighborhoods, is the real world, where people make improvement too much infringement of individual rights

- it is the business of the property owners/renters only to meet existing law/code
- Limit use and utility of property. There are plenty of laws in place...
- They infringe on private property rights
- driving up cost of living for fixed income or low wage residents.
- **NOTHING. CITIZENS OF AMES ARE FOR THE MOST PART COGNIZANT OF PROPERTY VALUES AND TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN. THE MAJOR EXCEPTION IS ABSENTEE LANDLORDS. IF YOU SELECTED RENTAL PROPERTY TO BE CODED, AND LEFT PRIVATE PROPERTY ALONE, THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD**
- This is an unwarranted infringement of property rights
- I know it's tough to put in code, but can the city provide a "dispute" court where the city helps neighbors bring up issues with their neighbors without anonymously calling the police. The former might foster relationships in the neighborhood, the latter
- financial burden to owners and red tape
- If you own your own home, you do not need the city dictating how you keep it up, the city should concentrate on the public places that we pay for and forget about playing big brother about how high your grass is. In other words, mind your business.
- **INCREASE COST OF ADMINISTRATION**
- This could potentially just create ill-will between neighbors--let's not legislate every little thing.
- It is up to each property owner to maintain their own house. It is not anyone's business to tell someone what to do in their own house that they own. This will devolve into "you can't paint that shade of blue."
- I understand the desire to keep property values up and ensure safety; but implementing codes that penalize those who cannot afford compliance or are too ill or elderly to comply is very very objectionable.
- They punish residents who are poor, ill and old. This is disrespectful to seniors.
- Another example of wasting taxpayer dollars to suit development agendas
- Codes will actually inhibit people from doing artistic and creative things with their property. If people want covenants, let them move to Northridge where you can't even hang out your laundry! Get the government off my back!
- They are another way to tax people; impossible to enforce; problems should be dealt with at the neighbor to neighbor level, not involving government; violate private property rights
- who gets to decide what is acceptable and safe. can a little old lady be kicked out of her home for not cutting the grass?
- It imposes some opinions on all properties. more rules means more to enforce. nit pickers would be in heaven, costly to residents not able to comply, property rights issues
- **TOO MUCH DISCRETION TO CITY INSPECTORS.**
- **THE NEIGHBORS WON'T ABIDE BY IT.**
- should apply to rental units only.
- There are already ordinances that permit the city to mow your grass and send you a bill. The city can already require you to correct conditions like most of those pictured -- or even condemn your property under extreme circumstances.
- Creating a police state.

- I don't want the city of Ames telling me how to take care of my property--it's too intrusive and paternalistic..
- Freedoms being taken away
- City staffing costs go up; pits neighbor against neighbor; another thing for citizens to argue about.
- Giving the City any more control than they already have.
- Property Owner's Rights/ additional rules / no fair way to enforce - subjective / City already can't enforce current rules such as clearing sidewalks of snow / provides a hammer for petty persons / no real value to community / forced urban renewal
- NOT FAIR TO PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING DURING THESE HARD ECONOMIC TIMES. SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST ABLE TO MAKE THEIR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS AND DO NOT HAVE EXTRA MONEY TO SPEND ON MAINTENANCE FOR THEIR HOME
- This is the worst idea we can hear right now.
- People are struggling just to get by. I am afraid it will be hard on those, me included, to have the money to do all the things that might need to be done. I have a 5 year plan. I can't make changes all at once.
- unfair
- They impose the will of a minority of white, upper-and-middle-class people onto everyone else. There are thousands of more important things in this community than what our property looks like, but not to some people.
- They impose the will of a minority of white, upper-and-middle-class people onto everyone else. There are thousands of more important things in this community than what our property looks like, but not to some people.
- EVERYTHING
- They impose the will of a minority of white, upper-and-middle-cla
- They will be unequally applied. I dare say the slum lords and alot of landlords in the city will never have to answer to them.
- Let people live as they choose Nobody likes a nosy nieghbor or a know it all gov.People should be allowed to live by there own standards as long as it does not endanger there nieghbors.
- It will limit my freedom to live on the property I own and pay taxes on.
- Old ladies and idiots complaining about property they don't like
- That it will ruin the character of the town
- more government intervention
- Aesthetic choices should be up to the individual, not the city.
- Unfair application, anonymous complaints, abuses by zealous individuals.
- I feel that the city government is overstepping its appropriate jurisdiction.
- PERSONAL RIGHTS ARE TAKEN AWAY,SOCIALISM, SUBJECTIVE,
- I think enforcement would be very difficult to implement fairly. The city does not have the resources to do this. Lawsw on the books already address health and safety issues, rather than matters relating primarily to visual conformity. A number of
- It is an infringement on personal property rights; an act of socialism. Aren't there alrady rules that take care of individual complaints such as un-shoveled side walks
- smacks of cookie-cutter regulations; discriminatory to people with limited money
- too much governmental intervention

- they go too far
- Arbitrary enforcement--who can judge when painting is done, or is it just when some disagreeable neighbor decides to harass you
- Overstepping boundaries.
- Infringement upon personal property rights
- a minority of unkept homes is causing the majority to be regulated. Unless a home is unsafe to the general public it should not be regulated by the city ordinance any more than currently done via building/city code permits
- Ames already has almost impossible-to-follow guidelines for basement remodeling and I fear the city will have ridiculously picky and overbearing rules that will hurt innocent people
- Codes should be for safety only. I have a real problem when people with recession proof government jobs want to trounce on the property rights of everyone else. You people obviously have too much freetime to dream up crap like this.
- This idea was inappropriately brought to the forefront by a committee that exceeded its delegated function - the regulation of RENTAL property. No home owners were consulted or allowed on the committee. This whole process needs to start from scratch wit I believe that property maintenance codes should be in place & inforced for rental property only. What I want to do to my privately owned home is part of the reason I purchased my own home in the first place - to have the freedom to what I want.
- I'm concerned that these codes will discourage in-city food production and innovation.
- cost to home owners, city and neighbors being over barren
- owner occupied applications along with rentals
- Inspector's judgment/inconsistencies
- consistency, enforcement, other priorities in the city
- Inspector's judgment/in
- consistency, enforcement, other priorities in the city
- They wouldn't be enforced evenly.
- They can become an instrument of harassment used against people who are different or odd.
- Uniform enforcement
- The codes have to be uniformly applied and enforced. Some people may not be able to afford needed repairs. Poorer residents should have some sort of low interest loans available for funding upkeep.
- Made a distinction between safety and appearance. Maybe I like my high grass because it provides wildlife habitat.
- picky neighbors and unnecessary complaints, mandating what does not need to be mandated
- Most of these categories are not items that pose a public safety issue. Attention should only be placed on only those conditions that affect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- Why should we force people who can barely support themselves and their family to spend extra money and time to fix up their homes? Let's not try to cover up our local poverty issues, instead, we should direct our resources to helping these people.
- Government interference in private property;requirements for the poor that they may not be able to afford
- facisism

- health and safety issues only
- You infringe on property owners rights to live the way they want.
- It would be used for more than just the most extreme cases...too much big brother...worried about the cost of this program...don't need another revenue source that pays for itself by issuing more tickets, thereby needing to ticket none extreme cases.
- loss of property rights and the additional cost for affordable housing
- CC&R's already cover many of the items listed above in newer neighborhoods in the city, and additional intrusion by the city government into private matters and private concerns is unwarranted and a costly waste of precious taxpayer dollars.
- Cost of enforcement
- The city will get carried away with their enforcement. Neighbors will use the code as a way to police their neighborhood and cause friction. Low-income people won't be able to afford mandated repairs.
- I am concerned they would disproportionally punish low income residents, and I think there are better ways to deal with these issues than codes that may be punitive.
- Too intrusive and can be subjective.
- Whos view of beauty do you cater to? the owners I hope.
- It will go too far--too conformist and narrow minded people in Ames and will enforce their will on others
- Government interference with private property rights
- Abuse for personal reasons. Terrible result by enforcing on those who want to maintain but can't afford yet.
- RV's should be allowed.
- Trimming overhanging shrubs & trees from walkways isn't enforced, so what's the point of adding more codes that won't be enforced?
- The essentials are already covered by neighborhood and development covenants, which are already not enforced.
- At a time when many homeowners are stretched to be able to make mortgage payments, we don't think now is the time to impose additional regulations that add to the financial burdens already being experienced.
- High cost of City mandated repairs for elderly and lower income homeowners
- Overreach of government
- I don't know who would decide. My landscaping is not like everyone elses. It's not just lawn, but it looks good. What if someone on the panel judges that my landscape is unacceptable? My plants could be someone else's "weeds."
- One person's beloved garden is another person's eyesore: it's subjective
- that disabled persons or folks on limited income would be hurt by them
- You've already made it hard enough for lower income people to afford to own a house. If you do all this, most of us will have to give up our homes because we won't be able to be "in compliance" with your elitist code.
- I don't think how a property looks should be in the code even though it may affect value of neighboring property
- I'm very concerned about 1) Forcing a landscaping esthetic on people, 2) forcing people to make repairs they cannot afford
- Rentals only

- I am very concerned with city officials and neighbors sticking their noses in issues that don't directly affect them. There is no direct harm to others that will come from neighbors' roofs, decks, exhaust vents, etc. The intrusion is not justifie.
- big brother telling me what my front yard should look like
- The CITY would have a tool to force people out of their homes if they do not conform to society's standards.
- The code should apply equally to owner occupied and rental property if we are serious about having our neighbourhoods looking attractive. There have been more complaints filed about owner occupied dwellings than rental units.
- I want to be able to express myself in my own unique way
- people not being able to afford upkeep or not having needed resources to maintain
- I feel that you will be forcing people that may not have the resources to try to repair properties.
- none
- Reduce private property rights
- Efforts would be made to force those who are not in a situation where they can not properly address the issues brought forth, i.e. an elderly person who's house is safe for living but unsightly to look at, would be forced to chose to spend money they
- I'm concerned they will not be enforced just as the existing codes are not enforced.
- The inspection department is trying to do too much.
- This situation seems to be a ruse by rental owners to derail the need for maintenance codes for rental properties. Enforcement of existing rental regulations is currently very lax as can be seen from the number of rental properties that have front yard p
- main concern is danger of imposing one esthetic and making it difficult for less wealthy or people with a different esthetic to live in community. (Also, would this create unnecessary work for inspectors?)
- Other peoples opinions on what is proper
- more expensive, increases conformity, decreases creativity

Q.21 Additional comments (dialogue box)

Owner's comments that answered "**Don't Know**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- home @ 627 7th St.historic district(?) unfinished paiting for years! Would city have grants/low interest loans for those willing to make improvements? Will landlords fight this?
- outside storage is not the same as garbage
- We have had poorly maintained houses in on Ridgewood. The owners were either elderly or had some emotional or mental problems. How will you address those issues? What happens when you fine a 90 year old person who is not able to fix up their house
- This is a really, really bad idea.
- outside garbage should be covered by other regulations
- Dont think its right to try and tell the public what the're person property should look like and try and get properties to be up to code is not right. no matter what city your in, making someone follow rules is not correct
- Parking is a real issue in this town. You should work with people to make it more convenient.
- help me understand why it would only apply to owner occupied property

- If laws are passed, they should not be actively enforced, but only enforced when complaints are received.
- DOMT BURDEN US NOW WITH ENPENSES WE DONT HAVE THE MONEY FOR
- I know we have code preventing refrigerators and couches from being left in yards.
- I doubt if this city council can come up with a common sense code in our lifetime.
- this is too short to leave adequate comments
- I would hope that codes would not be punative in a major way but w
- problem properties is really small; it seems unfair to burden all with extra rules when few people are causing a problem...not to mention, this is a very grey area...much about what is safe/unsafe and/or asthetically pleasing are personal opinions.
- I am very interested in participating in a focus group. Please contact me!
- i would support landscaping regulations designed to minimize run-off, but none that exist for "aesthetics". Do NOT prohibit outside storage of materials that are properly contained.
- I am really concerned at how nit picky some of the codes could become and set neighbors against neighbors not looking at individual's tastes, ethics, and needs
- as much as I want things to look nice, aesthetics should not be addressed in the code if we really want to be an "inclusive" community--there are just too many opinions on what looks good
- The city should be in the business of helping home owners not make things more restrictive.
- This could lead to discrimination against to people mentioned above.
- Rentals should look like owner occupied
- There should be a survey on renter-occupied properties and another on owner-occupied properties, but both need to be based on health and safety. Renters have no authority to maintain properties so owners should be required to maintain those properties
- Need more info about the proposed codes&inforcement of said codes
- The City should concentrate on fixing the streets. Nice homes on trimmed lawns are no good when all the streets are cracked. It's disgraceful. People should be able to have prairie areas...we don't need every yard a carbon copy of all.
- Not convinced of the real need for maintenance codes
- Defeat this issue
- What are other communities inacting and is there a true benefit for more codes. I'd question the use of the term codes, and I would change it quickly, because what you would be establishing are ordinances.
- Depending on how far reaching this code is, (siding, windows, foundations, etc), I suggest adding a long compliance period for new homeowners whom occupy a previously dilapidated building. We don't want to punish people who are helping the city.
- THIS COULD UGLY FOR AMES. WHY DID THEY PUT HOME OWNERS IN WITH THE INNITIAL STUDY?
- Need to control trash issues so as not to provide a harbor for rodents.
- As a homeowner I certainly understand the desire to have a well kept neighborhood and even concerns about property values. However, being a lifetime Ames resident and planning on being so in the future, I would prefer to see Ames tell its residents how t
Some of the existing codes already go too far, in my opinion (no sofas on the porch, etc.). Trying to force people to paint their houses every few years, and similar things, is a

hopeless attempt, any way. You couldn't even force people to install sidewalk
Don't you have something better to do?

- I'd strongly prefer that the city work with churches, civic groups, student groups, etc. to get them involved in helping to voluntarily improve properties. I do not want to see the city make many mandates except ones which are safety-related.
- If there are currently codes for "grass height and weeds" of rental properties, no one has been enforcing the code for the rental duplex across our back fence.
- It was a terrible thing that the city forced the American Indian professor to either change his grass or move away a few years ago. His yard was the best looking one in that neighborhood.
- Hi, Susan! Thanks for the cookies!!
- AMES PROPERTY TAXES ARE ALREADY A BURDEN FOR MANY HOME OWNERS, MANY OF THE CATEGORIES OF POTENTIALLY MANDATORY FEATURES OF THE CODE SEEM TO ADD GREATER FINANCIAL BURDEN FOR AESTHETIC AND NOT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS.
- Things that I can think of are garbage that is attracting pests or structural features that could injure someone.
- Please use caution in truly targeting the problems (as illustrated by the photos on your informational page) without overstepping onto personal choices around alternative groundskeeping. For example, we use recycled rain barrels that may be banned by
- I want the emphasis on safety and proper upkeep rather than uniformity.
- I'm glad we're having this discussion, but it also frightens me.
- There will be much opposition from libertarians
- Basically think people should keep their homes and property in good condition
- Ames has always placed high importance on the individual and I am concerned that in order to implement a group idea we will forget about the uniqueness necessary to retain individual satisfaction.
- This survey is hard to take on line because the answers are so far away from the question. Should have put the answers to the immediate left of the questions.
- People should be allowed to naturalize their yards rather than be required to mow, edge, water and fertilize. I want to be allowed to be an earth friendly homeowner.
- Who makes the decision for warning or action?
- Same rules needed for all.
- We often hear that we do not have the resources to implement and enforce the ruling. This should apply to apartments.
- My position is for a "neighborhood complaint driven system" within which defined property maintenance codes could only be brought to the City by neighborhood organizations. No individual should be empowered to call in the authorities. If no neighbo

Owner's comments that answered "**Favor**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- They should be based on health and safety rather than appearance. Landscaping safety issue, no issues about grass. I cannot think of any issues regarding landscaping unless it caused a safety hazard.
- I have already answered the survey and would like to add what I forgot to be what I think would be an important code. Garbage cans left at the curb site for days after pickup.

- The rules in Ames are less strict than many other communities. We shouldn't go over board, but we need to provide more protection for neighbors.
- I think a major problem is rental unit parking. We lived next to a rental house on a small circle drive where there were seven cars from the one rental house - most of these cars were parking on the small circle.
- Many of these issues are already addressed by other ways. I received a letter telling me to trim my trees that overhung the sidewalk. I trimmed mine, but I didn't see many changes anywhere else in the neighborhood.
- Instead of a "code", perhaps a better solution would be parameters and guidelines. If a resident is deemed to fall outside the guidelines he would be notified along with surrounding neighbors. If the neighbors don't object, then the city shouldn't
- It should leave some room for personal expression.
- far too many people are failing to keep up with routine maintenance
- Who will enforce the program??
- Too many rules and too strict an interpretation can ruin the unique aspects of a house, lot, or neighborhood. The focus should be on health and safety concerns. Fixing those will improve the aesthetics. But don't focus on the aesthetics.
- Seems that the "basic" concepts of property ownership are not being met in some neighborhoods, things that affect safety such as grass mowing/snow removal and sanding. These things need to be enforced! Why should some have to and others not?
- No to grass, yes to weeds; no to driveways, yes to sidewalks; yes to grading pertaining to impact on neighbors (ex: grading in my yard does not cause problems for neighbor; yes to disposal of garbage within a reasonable time frame;
- I would like to be part of a focus group but we are wintering in FL and won't return till late March.
- The city must identify an effective approach for enforcement.
- rental units only
- I am pleased that you are proposing this property maintenance code. Hopefully it will be enforceable and enforced
- our neighborhood has a majority of homes that are well kept, but you can tell which ones are rentals...the exterior maintenance is nonexistent, and they continue to run down with no apparent concern by the "owners of the property"
- How would it be determined when a private property is too messy, needs repair, or dangerous. How would a fine or penalty be determined? I am interested in this issue but will be in MN babysitting during both city meetings.
- I have lived next door to a homeowner that leaves garbage out and does not maintain his dwelling on a regular basis
- should apply to all or none
- not a weapon against low income residents
- Don't want to see these codes become stringent "covenants".
- The city already has codes that cover most of what is listed above. Unless there is a health and safety risk these items should not be regulated by the city.
- Health and safety should be the only criteria.
- This initiative is a very controlling and at the same time socialistic and elitist. It is not government's business to tell a homeowner if their grass is too high or how much peeling paint is too much.

- Keep very basic minimal standards
- You should start by enforcing (i.e., issuing citations) for current code violations, particularly in regards to snow removal from sidewalks and lawn mowing.
- Should Apply to Rental Propertys As well.
- I hope we can find a reasonable balance, I am not dead set in my answers, it's just a starting point.
- My motivation for responding is a neighbor who leaves hoses on their sidewalk, sprays high-pressure water across the sidewalk, and has tree branches dangling at eye level above the sidewalk. I've complained twice to the city, but yet no action.
- Property codes should be enforced for rental property
- Should be concentrated on significant and safety related, not I don't like 20% peeling paint, etc. Make it like the snow ordinance - complaints drives enforcement.
- I know our neighbors thanked us after we moved into our house and mowed, painted and repaired. They didn't like having to look at before. I don't blame them. This survey is very difficult to follow across the lines to answer. just so you know.
- for low income homeowners, have people serve their court imposed community service time helping them bring their homes up to code.
- as much as i would like for all homw owners to maintain their property my experience on the P&Z a long time ago, when we tried the same thing, was that combining rental and private homes will be the kiss of death. I recommend separating the two into
- On the east side we have some terrible dumps that should be cleaned up, but we also have some who have well managed "wild" yards. Try to see the difference and not punish those who are actively different.
- Please make this happen.
- WE WANT THIS!
- should be all or no properties
- I have lived around the United States and, honestly, was quite shocked that a forward looking community like Ames did not have exterior codes.
- I am aware of a few properties that have been cleaned up with encouragement from the city staff. The improvements have made a positive improvement in the neighborhoods.
- Continued parking of motor homes, snow mobiles, boats in front yard & not enclosed in fence
- I think we all should be able to keep up our houses so as not to be a drain on the neighborhood. There is a house on Duff that has been for sale for sale for a long time. The house next door has lots of peeling paint, does that impact the salabilty?
- I am proud to live in this community and think efforts such as this to keep it a great place to live are a good idea.
- New homeowners, especially if they have never owned a home, need to be made aware of the code.
- Most people do a good job on keeping things looking good; it's the few that do not do their job that need to be addressed.
- who decides what is excessive peeling paint for example
- If a building or parts of it is falling down, then city should have a method to address this, and already does. Vents, chimney's,etc. do not effect the public directly in it's incidental interaction with the property.

- need to clearly define categories to reach the real issues and not encourage nit picking among neighbors. Congratulations to City staff and elected officials for taking on the uncomfortable issues with a comprehensive process.
- I would hope the city would take the initiative to help find funding, through grants etc., to help owners that may be on a fixed income and might not have the resources to identify those types of funds.
- education and help to form plans for people if needed
- I assume that similar standards would be applied to rental properties as well. That would be very important to us.
- Trash is not picked up in front yards and public areas
- Large size house/apt numbers - not script - need to be on each residence - for safety reasons.
- none
- Code should apply to all properties (residential, rental & commercial). Codes need to be clear as to minimize disputes as to what constitutes a violation. The code also needs to be clear as to consequences for violations (i.e. City will mow the lawn aft I live in a great neighborhood now but my previous residence on Melrose Ave. had one property where the residents parked in the yard and created a muddy mess, had broken fencing, a mailbox hanging crooked, trees that needed trimmed, etc. Extremes
- none
- Safety is the most important criteria. Standards that prevent property devaluation also should be met.
- Neighbors making a report should not be the only avenue for action. City employees should be able to act on non-comforming properties that they notice.
- Interiors may be important for the safety of inhabitants, but more important are codes governing externals because the general public is affected.
- Please add trees and bushes overhanging sidewalks
- I think it's long overdue and I appreciate all the work that has been started.
- If properites are not being maintained because the owner-occupants cannot afford it, perhaps there could be an opportunity for a volunteer group to help our and/or some funds available to help with the repairs. IThe city should take the lead in rep
- Property values stay high in cities/towns where property neglect is not tolerated.
- Should be limits on number of vehicles associated with one residence- both inoperable and operable vehicles
- I support this effort
- There should be a source of funding established
- Well maintained properties will keep values up
- My neighbors put in a shed that isn't even level. It ruins the look of our neighborhood. It is in our covenant that people can't have sheds, but nobody enforces it.
- We have lived between two 'owner-occupied' homes that haven't been 'lived' in for some time. It is frustrating to worry about how the upkeep will or would be handled.
- Good for the community - reflects caring - neat and clean
- Sidewalk safety is an issue for me because I walk dogs daily. Mud from failing or non-existant retaining walls, branches, twigs, wet leaves, walnuts, acorns, etc. are something I have to navigate on a daily basis. Mud from higher front yards is worst.
- We need a code to deal with abandon property

- It is a difficult issue but has needed to be addressed for sometime. We currently have @ least three properties in our block that are becoming a nuisance. It is a shame to see a neighborhood deteriorate due to a few irresponsible property owners.
- warnings should come soon after an infraction and allow for special circumstances
- We will be in the market to sell our home within the year and this will not be possible until our neighbors to the east clean up their back yard. It is filled with junk, weeds, and overgrown young trees. What a mess!!!!
- Ames definately needs an exterior property maintenance code
- We need more city support on keeping brush trimmed back off of sidewalks.
- I live across the street from a man that owns a construction company and he has various construction tools, used materials, and large pick up truck and trailer that he parks in the street. I believe that the exterior property maintenance would cover
- Excellent idea. Benefit city and residents.
- none
- I attended the meeting on Feb. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and listen (I didn't speak).
- I moved to Ames 3 years ago. Newcomers see things that old timers overlook. We were appalled at the shabby houses, yards, stores, shops, garages, collections of junk and vehicles stored on commercial and residential properties.
- Although not current concern in recent months, we have had a neighbor from across the creek who has used Wilder Blvd. for dead storage parking. The vehicle owners have rotated different vehicles in replonse to Ames Police ticket warnings.

Owner's comments that answered "**Oppose**" whether they want a property maintenance code:

- It would be better if the beauty of our city came from pride of ownership rather than the threat of legal sanctions.
- There is a thing as TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT - this could add financial burdens to many homeowners and the cost to the taxpayers for implementation and managing this seems too burdensome and unnecessary.
- Not nearly enough information is given.
- black eyed susans, and bluebells which I enjoy. My yard stays green and cool while my neighbors yards are hot and dried out in late summer!
- The timing of this action is a concern. It appears somewhat frivolous in light of the seriousness of the economic downturn in the economy. I would rather see time and funds expended for other endeavors that would result in more jobs for many.
- I think we have laws on the books aready to enforce most of the things we need to enforce.
- You don't know how good you've got it here. I used to live in Ottumwa where the properties pictured were very near the average. You're discriminating against the few poor we have.
- If I wanted to live in a suburb with restrictive covenants I would move into a subdivision. I believe government should NOT be writing life-style laws.
- Aren't there more important things for the city to address?
- This is a BAD idea. Who generated this. PLEASE ANSWER ME. BERNIEGERSTEIN
- City should encouraging reuse of items and/or decreasing household waste. A lot of good items are tossed as "garbage" is tossed at the end of semesters, and those who are needy could use these items. A city-sponsored freecycle for usable items?

- I don't agree with the make-up of the committee formed to address this issue-the main concern should have been rental properties.
- I think safety should be the priority. And encouragement or help to clean..
- Any code should focus on prevention of unsafe situations only
- Asdfa
- It comes to bean-counting: how much is too much waste in the yard? It'd be better if the City puts out what more specific items: like grass above 8" from ground etc; so we know what we're voting for.
- As long as it does not present a clear threat (e.g., fire or vermin) I could care not care less whether my neighbors' downspouts leak or their yard is a giant mud puddle or whatever
- You want to police exhaust vents and downspouts, yet the city can't even enforce something that really matters, like keeping sidewalks passable in the winter. Ames has bigger fish to fry than overhangs, chimneys, and decorative features, like improving ou
I forgot to mention another thing in the survey I just submitted, so I am doing another one.
- Who is going to establish what is and is not acceptable? Middle class whites? Lower income minorities? Homeowners that live in Northridge, campus-town, or Old Town? Christians? Muslims? Ex-hippies? This is bogus. What is the baseline? -- Pottery Barn? Tr
The garbage picture at the beginning of this survey is opinion swaying. I am offended that the city is asking for opinions with such a picture leading into the survey.
- save tax money-quit wasting it
- there are already codes in place to ensure safety and stability of structures
- Probably need fewer laws.
- Please do not enact an additional property maintenance code. This type of code violates individual property rights.
- The city needs to evaluate what the proper role of government should be.
- WHO GENERATED THIS IDEA? PLEASE ANSWER ME AT berniegerstein@aol.com
- Maybe next time it would be nice to have more than this short one line to put any comments.
- WE HAVE TOO MUCH GOVT ALREADY
- The system in place is working: there was a run-down property on our street, and neighbors worked with the city to get the problem resolved. I.e., don't fix what isn't broken.
- This is a silly way to waste tax dollars at a time when it is least appropriate. If I'd wanted to live under a HOA I would have bought a house under one.
- I would encourage the city to take a step back and think about how to develop a plan that avoids penalizing those who lack the resources to comply with such codes.
- I would rather that the city come up with strategies for helping people maintain their property.
- Let property owners make their own decisions.
- Sounds like one more way to create city government jobs and spend tax money.
- is this such a serious problem now that additional laws need to be passed?
- It would give me something to call the city on about both my neighbors, but they may see something they could about my place, and what kind of way to live is that? i would rather get curtains!
- By far the places that need it are rental properties. The committee that was setup went too far beyand what they were were charged with doing.

- Do older people whose nest eggs have taken a hit want the city to make them fix a sagging porch? This is a power play by rich people -- probably fussy, meddling ones too. Shame on you.
- Why increase city costs, are we trying to create jobs? If yes, then put police in the schools to protect our children.
- I will campaign hard against this idea
- The country is entering hard economic times.
- I believe people have different ideas of what a lawn should look like. I have a neighbor who likes the diversity of different plants and lets them grow. I like the fact he can do that. I feel we should have this freedom.
- If the city has the authority to mandate standards or have codes relating to parking (area between street and side walk) then city should be required to maintain them!
- Who is going to approve/enforce it? A bigger, more expensive, more bottle-necked city government bureaucracy? It will end up costing us all a lot of money just to make a few property owners conform.
- Who is going to approve/enforce it? A bigger, more expensive, more bottle-necked city government bureaucracy? It will end up costing us all a lot of money just to make a few property owners conform.
- What a time to start this crap--major recession, unemployment, coming layoffs. It just augments the beliefs about who the city is listening to.
- Even if I approved of the concept I would not trust that Brown guy to be fair or reasonable
- We didn't move to Ames because of the way the property is maintained, and that's not what is keeping us here.
- Ames is already too expensive to live in and you want to create a program that will cost more tax money and will be hard to enforce fairly. For God's sake get a grip....
- I personally love the wildflower yards
- Basis of need on supposed danger to property values has not been proven. Current problems can be addressed with ordinances already on the books.
- During the past 5-10 years the city has imposed more and more regulations and ordinances on its citizens. I feel that it is getting too involved with citizens' personal rights.
- NOT MUCH SPACE HERE TO COMMENT, TOTALLY AGAINST ALL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODES, TOO FEW PEOPLE IN CHARGE, ENFORCING WITH TOO SMALL OF A VIEW, CLOSED MINDS, I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO TELL ME HOW & WHEN TO SPEND MY MONEY,
- housing areas, i.e., Somerset, already have housing covenants covering many of the "ex-P.M. Code" issues. People truly concerned about appearances can choose to live in one of these areas.
- Am against this proposed code.
- The city council should drive around the state of Iowa and see how nice our owner occupied homes are. I doubt that you will find 2 homes on the same block that need a replaced roof or have huge piles of trash.
- the plan is overreaching. look out for renters within limits. Have fire codes, protect people. Don't try to define "pretty," that's arbitrary and capricious
- What safety and "nuisance" laws are on the books now

- This is America, and despite some advantages in a few rare cases, these rules are not needed and would simply limit the freedom of Ames' citizens to live their lives the way they want
- My suggestion would be that if someone doesn't like peeling paint on someone else's house, then they should be willing to pay to upgrade it. Otherwise you are imposing on other people's freedoms.
- Are there not laws or sections of code in place currently to cover things like this? I would find it very hard to believe that there are not.
- Compost piles should be allowed, not in an enclosure
- I like a neat and tidy property, but if there owners of the property its fine. Rental properties are another matter. If you want codes then move to a live in a gated community or a place that has Bi-laws already.Do to the Economy,we don't need codes.
- Maybe the city should have a POTHOLE and STOPLIGHT deletion program. People wouldn't know how your house or yard looks if they weren't sitting at a stoplight every other block. And you can't take your eyes off of the potholes to see peeling paint.
- Don't let the complainers control the conversation!
- continued expeditu might preserve what should be replaced
- Maybe instead of property maintenance codes, it should be dealt with on an individual case basis with the city and neighbors and "violation" all involved in working out a solution.
- It is our property. We should be able to landscape and maintain our own property as we want unless it becomes a health or safety issue.
- I would be interested to know how much the city has already spent and the cost of any proposed program/maintenance code enforcement.
- People do not have money to pay for more enforcement
- At the very least we should make distinctions between rental property and owner-occupied homes.
- If the structures are "broadly" safe and sound and are not a breeding ground for rodents are a fire/safety hazard, then aesthetics should be left to the "eye of the owner."
- Disposal of garbage etc. is a health issue.
- Don't do this! I've experienced the ramifications of this type of policy in a trailer park. That was bad enough. If there really is a problem, current law can cover it.
- Perhaps we need a provision for absentee landlords that requires them to designate a local person to oversee/maintain property if they can't be here themselves.
- Unnecessary.The majority of Ames residents now purchasing or who own their homes take pride in maintaining their property. Judging by the number of homes for sale in Ames, we think some concentration on retaining and/or attracting home owners would be a Would be hard to enforce without hiring full time inspector's. City already has to large of budget and people will not complain about their neighbors.
- I think that there's room for the city to alert clearly delinquent homeowners using current laws. But what if someone thinks that they guys who painted my house did a bad job (they did do a bad job). Money is gone; can't do it again for a long time.
- Ordinances can be used for personal vendettas
- think city should give folks a break on major repairs or grants.
- I think the city should err on the side of not regulating things about which there is doubt and/or contest.
- Why can't we all just accept others choices on their homes appearance.

- should only apply to rental properties
- only in favor if restricted to major safety issues and common space like sidewalks and streets
- Most of the properties in Ames that are in dire need of repair are the rentals. Have the landlords and tenants clean up these properties and this town will clean up nicely.
- I am very concerned about the changes in codes and permitting for owners and investors. Less power grabbing and more reasonable approaches are warranted. Too much expense will drive owners and investors from our affluent-only community
- Poor maintenance of rental properties affect the value of surrounding owner occupied housing. There is a lack of responsibility shown by a considerable number of rental property owners. Owner occupied housing usually involves pride in ownership and thus keep focus on safety
- Perhaps city could set SUGGESTED STANDARDS