

FIRST READING 03/25/2026
SECOND READING 04/08/2026
THIRD READING 04/22/2026

CITY OF STRUTHERS, OHIO
Ordinance

NO. 26-020

***AN ORDINANCE CREATING § 1397.17 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRUTHERS TO PERMIT
AND REGULATE FRONT YARD GARDENS.***

WHEREAS, Council for the City of Struthers seeks to promote public health, sustainability, food security, neighborhood beautification, and resident self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, Council recognizes the value of allowing residents to grow fruits, vegetables, herbs, and other edible plants on their property, including within front yards, when properly maintained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Struthers, Ohio, $\frac{3}{4}$'s of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1: § 1397.17 of the City's Codified Ordinances is hereby created to read as follows:

§ 1397.17 FRONT YARD GARDENS

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to permit and regulate Front Yard Gardens in residential districts within the City while ensuring that public safety, visibility, and neighborhood character are maintained.
- (b) Definitions. As used in this § 1397.17, the following definitions apply:
 - (1) Front Yard. The area of a lot extending from the curb to the front wall of the principal structure.
 - (2) Front Yard Garden. An area of land in the Front Yard used for the cultivation of Edible Plants.
 - (3) Edible Plants. Plants grown for human consumption, including vegetables, fruits, and herbs.
 - (4) Owner. The person or entity that has legal title to, or any kind of ownership interest in, real property within a residential district within the City according to the official records of the Mahoning County Recorder. If more than one person or entity owns the real property, "Owner" refers to each person or entity that has legal title to, or any kind of ownership interest in, the real property according to the official records of the Mahoning County Recorder.
- (c) Permitted Use.
 - (1) Front Yard Gardens are permitted as an accessory use on real property in a residential district within the City.
 - (2) Front Yard Gardens include:
 - (A) In-ground planting

FIRST READING 03/25/2026
SECOND READING 04/08/2026
THIRD READING 04/22/2026

CITY OF STRUTHERS, OHIO
Ordinance

NO. 26-020

- (d) Design and Maintenance Standards
- (1) Height Restrictions.
- (A) Plants shall not exceed four (4) feet in height, except for trellised plants, which may not exceed six (6) feet in height.
- (B) Front Yard Gardens shall not obstruct sight lines at intersections, driveways, or sidewalks.
- (2) Setback. Front Yard Gardens shall be set back a minimum of eleven (11) feet from the curb and shall not encroach onto neighboring properties and/or public property, easements, and/or right-of-ways.
- (3) Raised Beds. Raised beds shall be constructed of safe, durable, and non-toxic materials and shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in height.
- (4) Front Yard Gardens shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition.
- (5) Dead plants, excessive weeds, and refuse shall be promptly removed from Front Yard Gardens.
- (6) No accumulation of water is permitted in Front Yard Gardens.
- (e) Prohibited Activities. The following are prohibited within Front Yard Gardens:
- (1) The cultivation of illegal plants under state or federal law.
- (2) The use of junk, scrap materials, or debris as garden structures or borders.
- (3) The storage of tools, compost piles, or fertilizer in a manner that is visible by normal unaided vision from a public space.
- (f) Enforcement.
- (1) This section shall be enforced by the City's Code Enforcement Officer or his/her designee.
- (2) Whenever the Code Enforcement Director determines that a Front Yard Garden is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this section, the Owner may be issued an administrative citation pursuant to Chapter 1309 of these Codified Ordinances.

SECTION 2: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any section, paragraph, sentence, or clause hereof shall be declared illegal, unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such illegality, unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance and it hereby is declared the intention and purpose of this Council that this Ordinance would have been enacted without such illegal, unconstitutional or invalid provision.

