# Abandoned Vehicles

**A vehicle may be deemed abandoned if:**

- It is located on public property illegally.
- It is on public property and has not been moved for three (3) days.
- It constitutes a hazard or obstruction to the movement of pedestrian or vehicular traffic
- It is located on private property without the consent of the owner (or person in control of the property) for more than forty-eight (48) hours.
- The engine, transmission or differential has been removed or is otherwise partially dismantled or inoperable and has been left on public property
- It is at least (3) model years old, mechanically inoperable, and left on private property (publicly visible) for more than 20 continuous days.
- It is located on public property without license plate.

## Department Procedures

1. Once an inspector deems a vehicle abandoned, a tag will be placed on the vehicle (establishing a set time period for removal).
2. The inspector will reinspect the vehicle after the time period has passed.
3. If the vehicle is still present and not moved, the car may be towed.
4. To reclaim a vehicle that has been towed, the owner needs to contact the towing contractor. Please call 311 for the towing company's contact information.

**See www.municode.com/library/in/south_bend/codes/code_of_ordinances for full ordinances, additional ordinances, restrictions and information or dial 311 (574-233-0311).**

# Why It Matters

Routinely driving and parking on grass has many negative impacts. They include:

- contaminated soil from hazardous liquids like: air conditioner refrigerant, gas, and motor oil
- a reduced amount of green space
  - ⇒ kills grass
  - ⇒ creates ruts
  - ⇒ causes mud
- curb and/or sidewalk damage when driven over repeatedly
- possible lowered property values over time
- danger for children and pets
- undesirable aesthetics - no one likes looking at it!

## Contact Us!

**227 W. Jefferson Blvd.**
**South Bend, IN 46601**
**Phone: 574-233-0311 (or dial 311)**
**Email: CodeEnforcement@southbendin.gov**
**Website: https://southbendin.gov/department/code-enforcement**

# Parking Guidelines

**Code Enforcement**
**City of South Bend**

# Parking Violations

- parking on vacant lots
- parking on yard or tree lawn (i.e. grass)
- parking on sidewalks
- locking alleyways
- parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- parking inoperable vehicles on public property
- improper storage and parking
- parking commercial vehicles (trucks) in residential zones

**Sec. 14-42 Parking prohibited in residential lawn areas; limited exceptions.**

(a) It shall be unlawful to park a motor vehicle in a front yard, in a side yard, or in a rear yard which abuts a street of a lot zoned for a residential use or dwelling, except that parking shall be permitted on a hard-surfaced driveway or approved parking space.

(b) Parking of any motor vehicle in violation of the regulations set forth in this article is deemed a public nuisance.

(c) The owner of a motor vehicle parked in a residentially zoned area where a permit has been issued under section *14*-54 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

(d) The owner of a motor vehicle parked in a residentially zoned area where a permit has been issued under section *14*-55 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

# City Ordinances

**Section 14-56: Game Days & Special Events**

If someone wishes to allow temporary yard parking in a residential zone they must:

1. Obtain a permit for conditional one-day parking
   a) Complete and file an application with City Clerk's Office
   b) Pay nonrefundable fee
   c) Provide proof of residency
      - Indiana driver's license
      - Copy of property tax bill
      - Copy of signed lease AND letter from landlord approving lawn parking request
      - Copy of real estate purchase agreement
2. Post permit in a visible location on an inside front window of the residential building
3. If you plan to have 10 or more vehicles parked, you will need to provide a lot survey, site plan or similar legal document

There are a maximum of twelve (12) calendar days authorized per year per property for special event parking.

**Sec. 14-43. - Parking prohibited on sidewalks or curb areas.**

It shall be unlawful to park a motor vehicle over any part of a sidewalk or curb that is parallel to the street adjacent to a lot.

Any portion of a motor vehicle which protrudes over or onto a sidewalk or curb shall be considered a violation of this section.

# City Ordinances

**Section 21-07.03 Vehicle Access and Parking**

**(I)(1) Large Vehicles.** No tractor, trailer, tractor-trailer combination, or vehicle...equal to or in excess of one and one half (1 ½) tons capacity, or which has a bed more than 8 feet long, may not be parked overnight on any land or premises except in a C, I, or U district. However, the foregoing shall not apply to school buses used for the transportation of school children to and from school or to and from a school sponsored activity

**(I)(2) Parking, Storing, Maintaining, or Keeping of Any Recreational Vehicle or Recreational Trailer.** Parked or stored recreational vehicles shall not be occupied or used for living, sleeping, or human habitation... no recreational vehicle or recreational trailer shall be parked, stored, maintained... unless in compliance with the following: (A) Recreational vehicles or recreational trailers may be parked or stored: i. Inside an accessory building or garage; or ii. Outside in such a manner that no part of the recreational vehicle shall project into any minimum required front, corner, or side setback for a primary building or any minimum required rear setback for an accessory building. (B) Not more than a total of two recreational vehicles or recreational trailers shall be permitted to be parked or stored in the open on the same lot at any one time.

**(j) Parking of Vehicles – General**

(1) Unless otherwise provided for in this Ordinance, the parking of motor vehicles on a lot without a primary building is prohibited.

(3) ... the parking of any vehicle within the required minimum front setback shall not be allowed unless the parking is on a legal, properly hard-surfaced driveway or parking space which has a durable and dust free surface.