



# Village of Rochester

Incorporated in 1869

## FAQs

Below are some commonly asked questions. If your question does not appear below please feel free to contact us at the Village Hall Office (217) 498-7192.

### **When do I need a building permit?**

You must have a building permit for structures or structural changes including but not limited to the following: new buildings, roof replacements, siding, fences, storage sheds, and alterations to the electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems. Decorating such as painting and wallpapering do not require a building permit.

### **Do I need a building permit to replace my roof if I do the work myself ?**

Yes, a building permit is required to replace a roof. That includes do-it-yourself or contract projects. You may make minor maintenance repairs such as patch a leak or replace missing shingles without a permit.

### **Do I have to maintain the ditch across my property?**

Every person owning property through which a watercourse passes, or such person's lessee, shall keep and maintain that part of the watercourse within the property free of trash, debris, excessive vegetation, sediment and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate, or any way retard the flow of water through the watercourse. RVC Section 32-1-11

### **Can I build in a drainage/utility easement?**

You may **NOT** build or construct any type of fence or other structure including a portable building in any Village easement. Variances are allowed provided they show that the use of the easement by the Village is not in any way negatively impacted. The Zoning Board reviews variance requests and makes a recommendation to the Village Board.

### **How do I request a variance?**

Complete and submit a Request for Variation form and the \$75.00 fee to the Village Office. When you submit the completed form you will be given the date that the request will go before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

### **I am putting up a fence. Do I need a building permit?**

Yes. You must have a building permit for most structure, structural change, or fence. You must call J.U.L.I.E. to have your utilities located before doing any digging. J.U.L.I.E. is a free locator service and can be reached at 1-800-892-0123 or you may call 8-1-1.

### **Is there a leash law in Rochester?**

There is a leash law. The owner or keeper of a dog shall keep the dog under restraint at all times. Restraint is defined as controlled by a leash, within an enclosed vehicle being driven or parked on the streets; or within the property limits of his owner or keeper. The village has a contract with Sangamon County Animal Control house. If your dog is picked up you will be responsible for all animal control costs associated with your dog.

### **Can I park across sidewalk?**

You are not allowed to stop, stand or park a vehicle: on a sidewalk, alongside a mailbox or in front of a public or private driveway. RVC Section 23-6-4.

### **Can I park a vehicle along the street if the vehicle does not run?**

Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. RVC Section 29-3-12

### **Can I have a burn barrel?**

**No.**

### **What am I allowed to burn on my property?**

All open burning shall occur between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday beginning March 1 and continuing through April 30 and beginning again on September 15 and continuing through December 31 each year; provided however, all fires must be extinguished by sunset and may not be left to smolder; and open burning is permitted after dusk for fires maintained in suitable vessels or structures for the cooking of food and for fully supervised "recreational" fires. (see Ordinance 16-07)

### **Can I have recreational fires?**

Open burning is permitted after dusk for fires maintained in suitable vessels or structures for the cooking of food and for fully supervised "recreational" fires. RVC Section 29-9-3

### **When is my utility bill payment due?**

Utility bills are due the on the 15TH OF EACH MONTH. The Village Office has a drop box for your convenience on the west end of the parking lot east side of their building in the drive-thru. All returned checks will be assessed a fee.

### **Can I put our portable basketball hoop on the street?**

Portable basketball hoops and trash containers are not to be placed on village streets or right-of-ways.

### **Can I skateboard on the sidewalk?**

No person shall operate any skateboard or motor vehicle on or over any sidewalk, except in crossing the same to go into a yard or parking lot. RVC Section 34-2-7

### **Can I landscape around my water and electric meters?**

Landscaping can be done around meters. HOWEVER, NO landscaping or coverage of meters may be done which blocks the view or access of your water or electric meters. All landscaping must be kept pruned at all times. All landscaping is subject to removal for maintenance on the meters.

### **Who do I call if I am having sewer problems?**

If you have a sewer problem (backing up, etc.) call the Village at 498-7192 and we will check to see if it is a Village problem or the homeowners. The village will assist you in determining the problem. However, the property owner is responsible for maintenance and repair of the service line.

### **I have a swimming pool to fill but I don't want to pay the sewer fee?**

The Village does not provide a special water meter or adjust sewer charges for filling swimming pools. Another option is to use a water hauling service to fill the pool.

### **Does the Village offer an equalizer plan for water/sewer bills?**

The village does not offer an equalizer plan for water/sewer payments.

### **Does the Village offer a Senior Citizen Discount on bills?**

The village does not offer a Senior Discount on water/sewer bills.

### **I trimmed the trees in my yard; will the village pick up the limbs?**

The village does not pick up tree limbs or trimmings. Residents may drop off tree and landscape trimmings at the village disposal site adjacent to Community Park. The site is open from between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Saturdays from April 1 through October 31. Residents may pick up a key at the village office to access the brush site during the week.

### **Can I have my water/sewer bill withdrawn from my bank account?**

A Direct Debit Option is available for paying your water/sewer bill. The bill amount or your water/sewer bill can be deducted from your designated bank account on the 15th of each month. More information and the required authorization forms are at the village office.

### **Can I pay my bill with a credit/or debit card?**

The village does not provide the option of paying with a credit or debit card.