

Legal Junkyards

MnDOT is required to identify legal junkyards for inventory purposes. State law does not regulate junkyards operating in industrial zoned areas. However, not all legal junkyards visible from state highways are neat in appearance. MnDOT encourages local units of government to improve the appearances of these junkyards

Work with Cities and Local Government Units to Require Screening of Legal Junkyards

Screen New Junkyards

Encourage local government units to adopt zoning ordinances that require screening of all new legal junkyards.

Reduce the Visibility of Legal Unsightly Junkyards

Encourage local government units to adopt zoning ordinance requirements and land use plans that minimize the visual impact of junkyards on motorists and the surrounding community, and require screening for all properties receiving a junkyard permit.

Transfer of Title Requirement

Encourage local government units to adopt zoning ordinance requirements that require screening of legal, unsightly junkyards when they are sold or the title is transferred.

Enforce Existing Zoning Requirements

Encourage local government units to enforce existing zoning requirements for legal junkyards.

Work with Local Government Units to Improve the Appearance of Unsightly Legal Junkyards along Trunk Highways

Funding Considerations

Landscaping, screening and removal of legal junkyards are projects eligible for funding under the Federal ISTEA, Transportation Enhancement Category: "Landscaping and other Beautification." ATPs can make junkyard removal and screening higher funding priorities by providing additional points, in the ATP review process, for projects that clean up or screen unsightly legal junkyards. Local government units can develop local programs to fund this effort.