



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Dave Perrault, City Administrator
SUBJECT: No Mow May Discussion

Budgeted Amount: N/A Actual Amount: N/A Funding Source: N/A

For Council Consideration

Council may direct Staff to bring back further information on No Mow May.

Background

Last year, the City Council indicated a desire to discuss No Mow May for 2023. No Mow May is a trend among cities to allow for longer than typically allowed grass in May to benefit pollinators. Here is a blurb from Bee City USA’s website:

Why mow less in the spring?

The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerging native bees. Floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing lawns to grow longer, and not applying pesticides to flowering plants in your lawn, you can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive. Mowing less is just one thing we can do protect pollinators.

The full information from Bee City USA can be found here:

https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/#:~:text=No%20Mow%20May%20is%20a,forage%20for%20early%20season%20pollinators

A number of other cities in the area did No Mow May in 2022, these include New Brighton, Vadnais Heights, Mounds View, and Shoreview passed a resolution to do No Mow May in 2023. I did receive feedback from the other cities that there were unintended consequences, such as, an influx of lawn waste in June, some residents never quite coming back into conformance with the ordinance (i.e. higher code enforcement complaints in June) and difficulty for Public Works Departments to “catch up” with City maintained areas. The City’s current ordinance restricts vegetation growth in excess of eight inches.

Should the City want to consider No Mow May, it will need to consider the following:

- Will this include City maintained areas, parks, fields, boulevards, etc.?
- Will the City provide signage for residents participating?
- Timing of approval, if Council wants to move forward it should approve this at the first meeting in March to allow for inclusion in the City's March newsletter for communication.

The memo and resolution approved by Shoreview is attached for reference (see attachment A), we would need to adopt something similar if we move forward with No Mow May.

Budget Impact

N/A

Attachment

Attachment A: Example of No Mow May Agenda Item and Resolution (Shoreview)