

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Krista Billerbeck , Natural resources coordinator
DATE: December 5, 2022
SUBJECT: Resolution to support No Mow May initiative
ITEM NUMBER: 10.b
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Resolution No. 22-91 supporting No Mow May initiative.

INTRODUCTION

The council, residents, and the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) have expressed interest in participating in the No Mow May initiative. Staff are coordinating this effort to participate in May 2023 and are asking the council to support the program by adopting Resolution 22-91.

The No Mow May initiative encourages property owners to refrain from mowing their lawns during the month of May in order to increase habitat and food available for early season pollinators. The resolution temporarily suspends the section of city code related to lawn height, allowing residents to let their lawns grow for the month of May without violating code.

DISCUSSION

The No Mow May initiative has been growing across the country in response to the ongoing threats to pollinator populations. Many insects overwinter in the ground and in leaves or other plant material. As they emerge in the spring, they are in need of food and habitat. Reducing mowing during this time increases available food and habitat, promoting the survival and increased diversity of many insect species.

In addition to the specific benefit to many insects, the initiative also raises awareness about pollinator populations and encourages residents to reconsider lawn spaces. Traditional lawn care often involves maintaining grass at short heights and treating with pesticides. These practices lead to a lack of habitat and harmful impacts to insects from chemicals. There are many ways to improve this space for pollinators and other wildlife, from mowing less frequently, to reducing chemical use, to planting more native plants. Converting lawn or portions of a lawn to native plantings eliminates the need for mowing and provides improved food and habitat.

Residents interested in participating in No Mow May are encouraged to do so. There is no registration required. The enforcement of City Code 211.060(C) will temporarily be suspended for the program, specifically that 'grass plots and lawn areas, including any contiguously abutting street boulevard areas, shall not exceed nine inches in height.' The program will run

from May 1st through June 10th, allowing residents the first part of June to begin mowing again and come into compliance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the council adopt the attached resolution supporting the No Mow May initiative and temporarily suspending enforcement of City Code 211.060(C) from May 1st to June 10th.

ATTACHMENTS

[Resolution 22-91](#)

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA
HELD DECEMBER 5, 2022

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Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota, was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said City on DECEMBER 5, at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present:

and the following members were absent: .

Member introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-91

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT NO MOW MAY INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, pollinator populations are threatened due to many factors, including habitat loss and pesticide use; and

WHEREAS, pollinators serve a necessary role as pollinators of many plants, including agricultural plants such as many fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

WHEREAS, early season food sources are necessary for pollinators; and

WHEREAS, reducing the amount of mowing during the early growing season can increase available floral resources for forage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreview encourages the use of pollinator friendly lawn care practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreview became a Pollinator Friendly Community in 2018; and

WHEREAS, No Mow May is an initiative that encourages property owners to limit lawn mowing during the month of May.

office and the same is a full, true and complete transcript there from insofar as the same relates to approving the No Mow May initiative.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such Manager and the corporate seal of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota, this 6th day of December.

Brad Martens

City Manager

SEAL