

City of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF MAY AS
NO MOW MAY & SUSPENDING THE ENFORCEMENT
OF CHAPTER 8.36 – NOXIOUS WEEDS**

Presented: March 29, 2022

Adopted: March 29, 2022

Resolution No.: 22/047

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, bees are an essential part of ecosystems and the City of Sun Prairie wishes to increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices, empowering citizens to make a direct and meaningful impact on their own properties; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, is free or nearly free of pesticides, is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields, fallen trees, and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering, and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species which depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing; and

WHEREAS, No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by Appleton WI and other communities in recent years that encourages property owners to limit their lawn mowing practices during the month of May to provide early season foraging resources for early season pollinators, especially when floral resources are often limited in urban areas; and

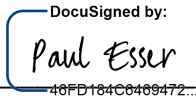
WHEREAS, the Sun Prairie community has expressed great interest in the city providing education and resources related to environmental conservation, with No Mow May logistics being discussed by the Sustainability Committee to create a balanced pilot plan; and

WHEREAS, exploring No Mow May allows the City of Sun Prairie to meet its commitments to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, consider a future commitment to Bee City USA, while also realizing several benefits in our community and our environment along with measurable benefits to participants including reduced gasoline use, water use, and noise pollution in neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Sun Prairie, Dane County, Wisconsin, hereby recognizes the month of May as No Mow May in the City of Sun Prairie to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, and encourages all citizens to support these voluntary efforts to protect our pollinators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for the duration of the month of May, the City shall implement a No Mow May pilot program to suspend the enforcement of Chapter 8.36 – Noxious Weeds, regulation of length of lawn and grasses, or any other section that regulates the length of grass to allow pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions and weed growth.

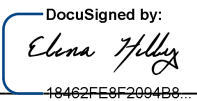
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as part of the pilot program, residential properties will be invited to participate and must follow all pilot guidelines including advanced registration with the City of Sun Prairie, interested businesses and organizations may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and; following the month of May, enforcement of Chapter 8.36 – Noxious Weeds will resume on June 1, 2022.

APPROVED: 
Paul T. Esser, Mayor

Date Approved: March 29, 2022

Date Signed: March 30, 2022

This is to certify that the foregoing Resolution was approved by the Common Council of the City of Sun Prairie at a meeting held on the 29th day of March, and was submitted for signatures on the 30th day of March 2022.


Elena Hilby, City Clerk