

Kevin P. Watson
City Administrator

651.204.6010 Phone
651.204.6110 Fax
kevin.watson@cityvadnaisheights.com



Memorandum:

TO: Mayor Krachmer and City Council

FROM: Kevin Watson, City Administrator

DATE: April 4, 2023

SUBJECT: No Mow May Resolution

Background

Similar to 2022, the City will support No Mow May or Low Mow May on private property through the month of May. We will not cite any violators of our 10 inch height requirement for tall grass/weeds.

We would educate and promote the concept to ask residents and private property owners to NOT mow their grass during the growing season in May. This would allow pollinators to reestablish themselves after a hard winter hibernation.

With regards to our City mowing needs, staff will evaluate opportunities to not mow or low mow. However, it will be less than in 2022. We will mow most manicured spots in the community that require the early season maintenance and to reduce complaints during the summer. That said, to some degree we already don't mow parts of public property, but can be more thoughtful in our mowing practices next month.

Attachment:

- Resolution waiving code violations

**CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. #23-04-_____

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO SECTION 22-2 OF
CITY CODE, PUBLIC NUISANCE, IN SUPPORT OF 'NO MOW MAY'**

WHEREAS, the City of Vadnais Height is supportive of a temporary exception to City Code, Section 22-2, Public Nuisance, allowing homeowners to grow grass in their backyards taller than 10 inches during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, insects, especially bees, serve a significant and critical role as pollinators of plants including agricultural plants; and

WHEREAS, the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is one comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species that depend upon them occurs in late spring and early summer as they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and

WHEREAS, ""No Mow May" is a community science initiative that encourages property owners to limit lawn mowing practices during the month of May to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring, especially in urban landscapes when few floral resources are available; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vadnais Heights would like to increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices on their own properties for the month of May during this formative period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Vadnais Heights recognizes No Mow May to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the duration of the month of May, the City of Vadnais Heights shall suspend the enforcement of City Code, Section 22-2, Public Nuisance, and voluntarily delay homeowner lawn-care practices until June, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbes to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions, and; that during the month of May, the City of Vadnais Heights shall not issue citations for excess grass height.

This Resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the Mayor and attested to by the City Administrator this 4th day of April, 2023.

Attest:

Mike Krachmer, Mayor

Kevin Watson, City Administrator

(SEAL)