



Date: February 7, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Grace Hancock, Sustainability Manager

Subject: Resolution No. 2023-12: No Mow May Initiative 2023

Executive Summary

As part of their 2023 Commission work plan, the Energy & Environment Commission developed and approved a draft Resolution of Support for a No Mow May Initiative in 2023 and asks City Council to adopt this Resolution for a second year of No Mow May.

The Resolution temporarily suspends enforcement of portions of the City Code relating to Turf Grass and Weed management, allowing participating residents to refrain from mowing their lawns from May 1 until June 15, 2023, without penalty. This temporary suspension applies only to residential lawns, not business or City-owned greenspace. Reducing mowing by one month can increase pollinator habitat during a critical seasonal transition time while decreasing fossil fuel emissions.

Like 2022, a registration portal will be created and managed by the Parks Department through Edina Parks' BetterTogetherEdina community engagement platform, to track registrants and avoid enforcement where participation exists. The Communications Department will initiate an education and promotion campaign about pollinator friendly landscapes and how to participate in No Mow May this year.

Information / Background:

In May, 2022 Edina hosted its first No Mow May thanks to an EEC proposal and requests by residents. It was a success. 1,200 households registered to participate, 600 lawn signs were distributed and there were zero complaints about long lawns during the month, allowing Parks staff to perform essential spring duties like tree planting and natural areas maintenance.

Foundational to the success was a robust communication and education campaign, which will be continued and enhanced this year with additional resident workshops to learn about topics such as "how to create a resilient lawn," "how to care for a pollinator-friendly yard," and – thanks to many resident requests last year – an opportunity to learn more about home lawn soil health and the state of Minnesota's "Lawns to Legumes" program.

Supporting Material

- Resolution 2023-12 Support for No Mow May Initiative 2023