

Resolution designating the month of May 2022 as "No Mow May".

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse desires to develop and implement a program to create and expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, by encouraging citizens to implement direct and meaningful friendly lawn-care practices on their own properties; 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 grass-mowing; and

WHEREAS, insects play a large role in a variety of critical ecosystem services that shape and maintain natural and urban landscapes and there is increasing recognition that their conservation is vital in light of trends of global insect declines, which affects the entire global wellbeing of this World.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse recognizes "No Mow May" to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence and pollinator-supporting habitat in the early spring.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that registered participants of the program will not be issued an Order to Correct in violation of the current ordinance and be eligible to delay lawn mowing practices through the month of May; and be allowed a grace period until June 14, 2022 to bring their lawn into compliance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse shall suspend the enforcement of the City of La Crosse Municipal Code Sec. 30-4 for the duration of the month of May, 2022 and the period June 1 – 14, 2022.

Sec. 30-4. – Destruction of noxious weeds and cutting of grass.

- (a) It shall be the duty of every owner, possessor or occupier of land within the City, or of every person having charge of any such lands, to cut or causes to be cut or otherwise destroy all noxious weeds, grass or other growth detrimental to the health of safety of the citizens of the community growing thereon, as often as may be necessary to prevent such grass or other detrimental growth from blooming or before they grow to a height of more than eight inches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Parks, Recreation, Forestry and Buildings and Grounds and Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director hereby authorize City staff to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.