

**ROSEVILLE**  
**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: January 9, 2023  
Item No.: 10.1

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Adopt Resolution in Support of Less Mow May

**BACKGROUND**

At the November 28, 2022 City Council meeting, City staff presented information to the Council about supporting No Mow May again, similar to 2022. In April 2022, the City Council supported a council member-initiated item to support residents who wish to participate in No Mow May. Local ordinances pertaining to lawn maintenance were temporarily suspended until June 1, 2022. City Council also approved a resolution declaring Roseville as a Pollinator-Friendly Community on June 19, 2017.

Some of the items discussed at the meeting included the following:

- No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, but which is gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators.
- Benefits of not mowing in May:
  - Lets early spring wildflowers bloom to provide food for emerging and migrating pollinators. Most wildflower seed mixes don't flower early enough to provide early season nectar and pollen resources.
  - Yards not treated by herbicides are more likely to foster "spontaneous growth" of common flowers like dandelion and white clover.
  - Reduces usage and emissions of gas lawn care equipment.
  - Turf grass grows deeper roots and becomes more drought-resistant when mowed less frequently.
- With the environmental benefits of not mowing in May, Community Development staff saw an increase in lawn driven complaints. A few of the issues they faced from No Mow May 2022:
  - Complaints about yards not being mowed, and weeds spreading to neighboring properties.
  - Increased costs to mow properties in late June that were non-responsive after the end of No Mow May.

Council discussed the program and was in support of the No Mow May concept, but recommended staff update the resolution to reflect the less mow May concept that was presented. Council agreed that the mowing ordinance should only be exempted during the month of May. Discussion was also held on educating the public on best practices that can be used to support this initiative.

32 **POLICY OBJECTIVE**

33 The City of Roseville 2040 Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9: Resilience and Environmental  
34 Protection. The goal for Environmental Protection is to protect, preserve, and enhance Roseville’s  
35 water, land, trees, and pollinators for current and future generations. One of Roseville’s strategies  
36 for pollinators is that the City shall undertake its best efforts to communicate to all Roseville  
37 property owners, residents, businesses, institutions and neighborhoods the importance of creating  
38 and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat, and will encourage residents and businesses to use the  
39 pollinator-friendly practices.

40 **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

41 There are no budget impacts associated with this resolution.

42 **RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT SUMMARY**

43 This policy should have no equity impacts since the resolution allows all residents to voluntarily  
44 participate in not mowing lawn areas by exempting portions of the City Code for the month of May.

45 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

46 Approve resolution Supporting a Temporary Exception to Section 407 of City Code, Nuisance, in  
47 support of “Less Mow May.”

48 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

49 Motion to adopt a resolution Supporting a Temporary Exception to Section 407 of City Code,  
50 Nuisance, in support of “Less Mow May.”

Prepared by: Ryan Johnson, Environmental Manager  
Attachments: A: Resolution



34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Roseville recognizes Less Mow May  
35 to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator  
36 emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging  
37 opportunities; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the duration of the month of May, the City of Roseville  
39 shall suspend the enforcement of City Code, Section 407.02, NUISANCES AFFECTING  
40 PUBLIC COMFORT OR REPOSE, and voluntarily delay homeowner lawn care practices until  
41 June, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbs to establish,  
42 which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions; and

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the month of May, the City of Roseville shall not  
44 issue citations or abatement actions for excess grass height.

45 The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member ,  
46 and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: , , ,  
47 , and Mayor .  
48 and the following voted against the same: .

49 WHEREUPON said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted

