

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2024-035
A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LESS MOW MAY INITIATIVE 2024

- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield recognizes that bees and other pollinators are integral to the pollination of plants in order to grow a wide diversity of essential foods including fruit, nuts, and vegetables; and
- WHEREAS, pollinator populations are threatened due to habitat loss, neonicotinoid use, pathogens and parasites; 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, pollinators and floral resources have a positive relationship, where the increase in pollinators can increase the amount of flora and vice versa; and
- WHEREAS, “Less 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 Council finds it is in the public interest and consistent with adopted City policy for the City to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of initiatives that help increase the pollinator population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

To continue its efforts to become a pollinator-friendly City by ensuring best management practices for management of vegetation, and

To continue to identify actively maintained areas that could be converted back to vegetation favorable to bees and other pollinators, or left natural to promote nesting areas for bees, and

To proclaim May 1st -31st, 2024 as “Less Mow May”, and encourage all residents of the city who wish to participate in this initiative to register with the City and refrain from mowing their lawns in the month of May to provide vital early spring flowers for bees that emerge from hibernation, and

To temporarily suspend enforcement for Less Mow May registered participants of Northfield City Code requirements in Sec 86-1, specifically that “Any weeds or grass growing upon any lot or parcel of land, including the lands between the curb line of the street or alley and the property line of private properties, that have grown to a height greater than one foot or are about to go to seed are declared to be a nuisance and dangerous to the health” from May 1, 2024 to June 10, 2024, while continuing to enforce the Minnesota State Mandate regarding the management of noxious weeds, and

To continue enforcement of the above City Code requirements for any properties not registered for Less Mow May, and

To develop a registration portal online for those interested in participating in this initiative, where participants will be required to register and where interested parties can learn about the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator friendly landscape.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 2nd day of April 2024.

ATTEST

City Clerk

Mayor

VOTE: ___ POWNELL ___ HOLMES ___ NESS ___ PETERSON WHITE
 ___ REISTER ___ SOKUP ___ ZUCCOLOTTO