

SAMPLE #1 - Backyard Only

RESOLUTION NO. 1376

**RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO
SECTION 102-121(B)(1) OF THE CITY OF FORT ATKINSON MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO
VEGETATION, ALSO KNOWN AS "NO MOW MAY"**

WHEREAS, City of Fort Atkinson residents require food to sustain their lives and one of every three bites of food consumed requires pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the City has a strong public interest in and duty toward the continuing survival of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the pollinators whose activities generate our food include bees, butterflies, moths, birds, as well as many others, and these pollinator species are in decline due to pesticide treatments and mowing, urban sprawl, habitat loss, disease, and parasites; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment and nourishment of pollinator species occurs in late Spring and early Summer upon emergence from hibernation, and at the same time supporting plants emerge and blossom, offering them habitat and forage opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recognizes the necessity of protecting pollinators by establishing a "National Pollinator Week" proclamation for the week of June 20-26, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pollinator foraging and development is reduced by leaf removal and mowing of grass.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Fort Atkinson recognizes and supports the "No Mow May" initiative for promotion and education about this critical period for pollinator emergence and survival, allowing for the creation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early Spring foraging opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the rear yards of residential properties and on designated City-owned properties, from May 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022, the City of Fort Atkinson shall temporarily suspend enforcement of Section 102-121(b)(1) of the City of Fort Atkinson Municipal Code relating to the prohibition of grass and weeds over eight inches tall on improved, unimproved or vacant properties.

RESOLUTION 2023-08
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT “NO
MOW MAY” BY NOT ENFORCING ORDINANCE
10.08(2) DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

WHEREAS, insects, especially bees, serve a significant and critical role as pollinators of plants including fruits, nuts and vegetables; 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 initiative that encourages property owners to eliminate or limit lawn mowing practices during the month of May in return providing early season foraging resources for all pollinators that emerge in the spring, especially in urban landscapes when few floral resources are available; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clintonville would like to encourage all interested residents 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clintonville Mayor and Common Council 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 the City of Clintonville Council directs staff to not enforce ordinance 10.08(2) for long grass and weed violations during the period from May 1st, 2023 until May 31st, 2023, permitting all residents to voluntarily delay lawn care until June 1st, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbes to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions.

ADOPTED on this 11th day of April, 2023.

ATTEST: _____
(Signature of Clerk)

The governing body of the City of Clintonville has authorized the above resolution by Resolution No: 2023-08. dated April 11, 2023.

Steve Kettenhoven, Mayor

Date Signed

SAMPLE #3 - Rear Yards

RESOLUTION 2023-03

AUTHORIZING “NO MOW MAY”

WHEREAS, City of Marion residents require food to sustain their lives and one of every three bites of food consumed requires pollinators; *and*

WHEREAS, the City has a strong public interest in and duty toward the continuing survival of its residents; *and*

WHEREAS, the pollinators whose activities generate our food consists of bees, butterflies, moths, birds, as well as many others and these pollinator species are in decline due to pesticide treatments, mowing, urban sprawl, habitat loss, disease and parasites; *and*

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment and nourishment of pollinator species occurs in late Spring and early Summer upon emergence from hibernation, at the same time supporting plant emergence and blossom, offering them habitat and forage opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recognized the necessity of protecting pollinators by establishing a “National Pollinator Week” proclamation; *and*

WHEREAS, pollinator foraging and development is reduced by leaf removal and mowing of grass;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Marion to recognize a “No Mow May” initiative for the promotion and education about this critical period for pollinator emergence and survival, allowing for the creation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early Spring foraging opportunities, and that in the rear yards of residential properties or as designated on City owned property by the Director of Parks and Recreation, until June 1, 2023 the City of Marion ***shall temporarily suspend enforcement*** of Section 481-3 “Regulation of length of lawn and grasses” Part of subsection (b) as follows: “...any nonagricultural lawn, grass or weed on a lot or other parcel of land which exceeds eight inches in length is hereby declared to be a public nuisance...” .

SAMPLE #4 - ORDINANCE REVISION

ORDINANCE NO. 22-1000

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO REGULATION OF LENGTH OF LAWN AND GRASSES

SECTION 8-1-6

The Common Council of the City of Verona, Dane County, Wisconsin, does ordain that Section 8-1-6 of the Code or Ordinances of the City of Verona are amended to read as follows (~~language added~~/~~language deleted~~):

Sec. 8-1-6 Regulation of Length of Lawn and Grasses

- (a) **Purpose.** This Section is adopted due to the unique nature of the problems associated with lawns, grasses and noxious weeds being allowed to grow to excessive length in the City of Verona.
- (b) **Public Nuisance Declared.**
 - (1) The Common Council finds that lawns, grasses and noxious weeds on nonagricultural lots or parcels of land, as classified under the Zoning Code, which exceed eight (8) inches in length adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that they tend to emit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard and a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interfere with the public convenience, and adversely affect property values of other land within the City. For that reason, any lawn, grass or weed on a nonagricultural lot or other parcel of land (including all terraces) that exceeds eight (8) inches in length is declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain area or wetland area or where the lawn, grass or weed is part of a natural lawn pursuant to Section 8-1-5 above.
 - (2) All unimproved lots or parcels of land which have a stockpile of soil must seed, mulch and maintain the stockpile within the parameters of this Section. The stockpile of soil must be graded with no greater than four-to-one (4:1) slopes. Failure to comply with this Subsection (2) is declared a public nuisance.
 - (3) All unimproved lots or parcels of land shall be cleared of box elder, cottonwood, honeysuckle, buckthorn, dogwood or any woody vegetation. The failure to clear unimproved lots or parcels of land of box elder, cottonwood, honeysuckle, buckthorn, dogwood or any woody vegetation is declared a public nuisance.
- (c) **Nuisances Prohibited.** No person shall permit any public nuisance, as defined in Subsection (b) of this Section, to remain on any premises owned or controlled by such person within the City.
- (d) **Inspection.** The Weed Commissioner or his or her designee shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises and places within the City to determine whether any public nuisance, as defined in Subsection (b) of this Section, exists.
- (e) **Abatement of Nuisance.** If, during any April 1 through October 30 period, an owner of a nonagricultural lot or parcel permits or allows any lawn, grass or weed on the lot or parcel to exceed eight (8) inches in length, the Director of Public Works may provide written notice to the owner directing that the lawn, grass or weed be cut so as

to conform with this Section and with Sections 8-1-4 and 8-1-5 no later than fifteen (15) days following the issuance of the notice. The notice may be hand delivered or mailed to the last known address of the owner of the property. The notice shall state that the City may, during the remainder of the April 1 through October 30 period, and without further notice, cut any lawn, grass or weed on the lot or parcel that exceeds eight (8) inches in length, that the cost of such work shall be charged to the owner, and that the cost of such work may become a charge against the parcel or lot. If the owner fails to cut the lawn, grass or weed within the time required by the notice, then the Director of Public Works may cause the lawn, grass or weed to be cut. If a property owner has received at least one (1) written notice pursuant to this Section during an April 1 through October 30 period, and has permitted a lawn, grass or weed on a parcel or lot to exceed eight (8) inches in height, then the Director of Public Works may cause the lawn, grass or weed to be cut without further notice. In all circumstances, the cost of cutting the lawn, grass or weed shall be charged to the owner, and may be assessed against the lot or parcel pursuant to Sec. 66.0627, Wis. Stats.

- (f) **Remedy From Notice.** Any person affected by a notice issued pursuant to Subsection (e) of this Section may, within ten (10) days of service of the notice, apply to the circuit court for an order restraining the City from abating or removing the nuisance, or be forever barred. The court shall determine the reasonableness of the order for abatement of the nuisance.
- (g) **Exemptions.** For the duration of the month of May each year, the City shall suspend enforcement of Section 8-1-6, regulation of length of lawn and grasses, or any other section that regulates the length of grass until June 1. This exemption will allow pollinators species to emerge and early flowering grasses to establish, which may result in groundcover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions and weed growth. Enforcement of this section will commence on June 1 of each year. This delayed enforcement only pertains to items listed in above b (1).

All other sections shall remain as previously adopted.

The foregoing ordinance was duly adopted by the Common Council of the City of Verona at a meeting held on January 24, 2022.

CITY OF VERONA

(seal)

Luke Diaz, Mayor

Holly Licht, City Clerk

ADOPTED: 1/24/2022

PUBLISHED: 2/3/2022

SAMPLE #5

RESOLUTION NO. 23RS 004

A resolution designating the month of May 2023 as No Mow May

WHEREAS, bees and other insects are an essential part of agriculture and our environment, pollinating plants that are vital food sources for wild animals and include many of the cultivated foods people eat, directly impacting our food security; and

WHEREAS, bees have been experiencing population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticides, disease and climate change; and

WHEREAS, more than half of bee species in North America are in decline with 1 in 4 species at risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat Is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, is free or nearly free of pesticides, is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood for nesting and overwintering; and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator insect species occurs in late spring and early summer when pollinator species emerge from hibernation or suspended animation and when supporting plants emerge and blossom, offering crucial life cycle habitat and forage opportunities; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf litter removal and grass mowing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Viroqua 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, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the duration of the month of May 2023, the City of Viroqua shall suspend the enforcement of Municipal Code Chapter 8.32 - NOXIOUS WEEDS AND REGULATION OF LENGTH OF TURF GRASSES, permitting all residents to voluntarily delay lawn-care and litter removal practices until June 5, 2023, allowing pollinators to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbs to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions, and; that following the month of May 2023, the City of Viroqua shall not issue citations for excessive weed growth for an additional grace period until June 5, 2023.