



COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: July 27, 2026

TOPIC Request from Michael DeLuca for Amendment to Noxious Weeds Ordinance to Permit No-Mow May

BACKGROUND BRIEF:

Council is scheduled to continue discussion on resident Michael DeLuca's request for an amendment to the Village's noxious weeds ordinance to eliminate enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance during the month of May each year to enable No-Mow May activities. Attached is Mr. DeLuca's correspondence from May 29, 2026. Mr. DeLuca's property was the subject of code enforcement action as a result of failing to properly maintain his lawn and yard during the month of May as currently required by ordinance.

On June 8, 2026, Council considered Mr. DeLuca's request and requested that Administration investigate a potential permit or waiver process under the Noxious Weed Ordinance to accommodate participation in "No Mow May" and to return with recommendations for Council's consideration at a future meeting. Administration has reviewed the matter and has found that:

- No Mow May in Michigan is a voluntary conservation movement where participating municipalities suspend local grass-height ordinances for May.
- Michigan State University turf and pest experts note that a single month of un-mown turfgrass offers minimal nectar for bees compared to dedicated native plantings. Furthermore, over 53% of surveyed residents in local communities expressed concern over ticks, mosquitoes, and unmanaged weeds.
- Ferndale ended its pilot program after finding typical turfgrass lawns lack enough native flowers to meaningfully feed bees, moving instead to recommend higher year-round cuts (3 to 4 inches). East Lansing officially retired its May enforcement pause in 2026, replacing it with a permanent ordinance that legally permits managed native gardens and lawns year-round if specific criteria are met. Other communities have done the same, including Ann Arbor, Mount Pleasant, and Royal Oak.
- The Village receives periodic nuisance complaints from residents about neighbors failing to maintain their yard in compliance with the Village's noxious weeds ordinance.
- If local ordinances require strict turf maintenance, residents can still help local ecosystems by raising mower blades to 3.5 inches or higher and reducing chemical herbicide use.

Attached is information obtained by Administration regarding this matter. Council should provide direction to Administration as to whether Council is interested in considering amendments to the noxious weeds ordinance and, if so, whether Council desires an amendment to the ordinance to change the date of enforcement from May 1 to June 1 or amendments to the ordinance allowing year-round landscaping that promotes pollination and supports the maintenance of habitat for pollinating wildlife. If Council desires any changes to the ordinance, Administration recommends that Council authorize Administration to prepare ordinance amendments allowing for year-round landscaping in accordance with a formal permit process.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

06/08/2026 – Council directed Administration to investigate a potential permit or waiver process under the Noxious Weed Ordinance to accommodate participation in "No Mow May" and to return with recommendations for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If Council authorizes drafting of ordinance amendments, the Village will incur legal fees for preparing the proposed amendments.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

To request that Administration draft and submit to the Village Council for consideration amendments to the Village's noxious weeds ordinance to allow year-round landscaping promoting wildlife pollination activities and habitat under a formal permit process.