



Executive Summary

City Council Business Meeting

AGENDA ITEM-NEW BUSINESS:	Ordinance 342 Chapter 5, Articles 1 & Chapter 6, Article 2 Sec. 28 Code Amendments - Managed Natural Landscapes
PREPARED BY:	Jacob Schillander, City Administrator
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Ordinance 342 and Approve Ordinance 342 Summary Publication

Summary

The City Council reviewed proposed amendments to Chapter 5, Articles 1–3 and Chapter 6, Article 2, Section 28 of the City Code related to managed natural landscapes. These updates aim to support intentional, environmentally friendly landscaping—such as pollinator gardens, rain gardens, and meadow plantings—while ensuring they are properly maintained and do not create nuisances or safety issues. The updated language provides clearer standards for residents and City staff, aligns with state guidance, and addresses prior gaps in the code regarding vegetation height, maintenance, and natural landscape exemptions.

Overview of Amendments

The revisions to Chapter 5 introduce clear definitions for managed natural landscapes, native and meadow vegetation, turf grass, pollinator habitats, and other related terms. The amendments also create a no-fee registration process, requiring property owners to submit a site plan, maintenance plan, and species list for any proposed managed natural landscape. Registrations are valid for three years.

The ordinance outlines maintenance expectations, establishes a buffer area near property lines and curbs, and provides inspection and enforcement procedures—including revocation of registration, nuisance declarations, and recovery of city costs for abatement when necessary.

Revisions to Chapter 6 remove outdated native planting language now covered in Chapter 5 and update the nuisance section to reference the new managed natural landscape registration exemption.

Communication Strategy

Public Communications

Publish a summary of the key ordinance updates on the City's website, the Leaflet, Facebook page, and in the Quarterly Newsletter to ensure broad community awareness.

Direct Outreach

Notify property owners who currently maintain natural landscapes about the updated ordinance requirements. Provide a clear explanation of the changes and any new registration expectations.

Nuisance Violation Notices

Include an informational flyer outlining the ordinance changes with all grass-height nuisance notices to help residents understand the updated standards and available exemptions.

Recommendation

Approve Ordinance 342 and Approve Ordinance 342 Summary Publication.