

CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

Title	Consideration of a Resolution Supporting No Mow May
SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT	City Manager
PRESENTER	Angela Fox
MEETING DATE	April 8, 2024
SECOND READING REQUIRED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY *(include history of previous Commission action/discussion, background, scope of work, etc.):*

No Mow May is a movement that encourages people to let their lawns grow during the month of May. This simple act of not mowing your lawn for one month can have a positive impact on the environment and our local ecosystem. The No Mow May program helps local pollinators by preserving their winter habitats and providing early spring pollen and nectar sources. In 2022, the city commission supported this effort after a presentation from young residents, and the city commission supported this effort again in 2023. Staff is bringing this back for your consideration for May 2024.

In addition to helping our pollinators, not mowing your lawn in early spring has other benefits to the overall health of the lawn, including:

- Saving water while increasing drought tolerance, taller grass tends to have deeper roots, and less water evaporates from the soil.
- Reduction in air and noise pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment.
- Saves time and money.

Fiscal Impact

BUDGET SUMMARY	
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	
AMOUNT CURRENTLY BUDGETED	
BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED	\$0.00 (BA between dept; net -0- effect on FB)
FUNDING SOURCE/ GL NUMBER	
WAS THIS A BUDGETED EXPENSE?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

OTHER FISCAL IMPACTS: (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ No fiscal impact
☒ Workload impact (details below)

☐ Revenue impact (details below)
☐ Operations Impact (details below)

REVENUE IMPACT: *Provide a description of how this item will impact revenue. (Is this item expected to create additional/new revenue? Will this item have a negative impact on revenue? Which funds would be impacted? Provide additional details, as necessary.)*

WORKLOAD IMPACT: *If this item will require staff time to implement, operate or maintain, provide a description of the workload impact. (Will more staff be needed? Is this workload able to be absorbed by existing staff? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide details of position classification and duties. Provide additional details, as necessary.)*

As a part of this effort, it is necessary to temporarily pause enforcement of the city's ordinance, which prohibits long grass on residential property, from May 1 through May 31, similarly to what was done in May 2022 and May 2023.

OPERATIONS IMPACT: *If the item requires a budget adjustment, please identify source of additional funds and any proposed cuts to other operations, programs and services.*

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMISSION APPROVED PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Provide a description of how this item aligns with the strategic plan, aging in place plan, and sustainability and climate action plans. Include any specific goals or action steps it supports.

The No Mow May program aligns with many of Royal Oak's Sustainability Climate Action Plan goals including those related to water management, alternative lawn care practices and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (4.4.4, 4.5.3, 4.5.7).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provide a description of any community engagement efforts made for this item. Include information on tools used, participation information, and general sentiments.

The past two years, "No Mow May" reusable signs were sold allowing residents to show their support of the program. This year the city will again be accepting donations for branded reusable yard signs. All donations will go toward buying native plants for inclusion in parks and pollinator gardens to expand the positive environmental impact. Additionally, staff will work to communicate with residents about No Mow May.

BOARD AND COMMISSION FEEDBACK

Was an advisory board or commission engaged in discussion on this item? If yes, please provide a summary of feedback received:

A draft of this memo was presented to the Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board and briefly discussed at the March board meeting. All board members were in favor of presenting this to the city commission consideration again this year.

LEGAL COMMENTS

PROPOSED COMMISSION RESOLUTION:

Be it resolved, the city commission hereby declares May 2024 to be No Mow May; and

Be it further resolved, the city commission hereby declares a temporary moratorium on the enforcement of the city's property maintenance code for lawn mowing on residential property during the month of May 2024.

ATTACHMENTS: None.