

#2-R-23
Resolution to eliminate No Mow May

Date: March 15, 2023

Submitted By: Chad Doran District 15

Referred To: Municipal Services Committee

Whereas the No Mow May initiative was made a permanent part of the city's ordinances in 2022, largely based on the data provided in a study looking at the quantity of bees and other pollinators found in mowed vs. unmowed lawns, and;

Whereas the study was presented to the Common Council as proof that unmowed lawns in fact did show higher levels of bee richness and abundance, leading to the program being permanently adopted by Appleton and later by numerous other municipalities around Wisconsin, and;

Whereas in November of 2022 the study was retracted by the authors of the paper as well as the publisher of the journal in which it appeared, and;

Whereas the editor of the journal noted the findings of the study are "unreliable and could impact the results", and;

Whereas the retraction guidelines for the journal note that a paper should be retracted if the findings are unreliable, or the result of fabrication or falsification, and;

Whereas as the basis for adoption of No Mow May, the science behind the study has been proven to not be reliable and other apiologists who study bees have said that long grass provides no discernible benefit for bees and other pollinators, now;

Therefore be it resolved that on the basis of a lack of scientific evidence to support the No Mow May program, the City of Appleton Common Council hereby votes to eliminate the No Mow May program and delete references to it from the city code on the basis of a lack of scientific evidence to support the program, and repeal Ordinance 26-22 adopted on April 6, 2022 and restore Section 12-58 to its form prior to that date in order to enforce the city's long grass ordinance during the entire growing season, including the month of May.