

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION
For Inclusion on Board Agenda

 Resolution or Ordinance (Blue) _____ *Waiver of First Requested*
 X Recommendations of Boards, Commissions & Committees (Green)
 Other Business (Pink)

TO: PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: Scott Niehaus, Village Manager

DATE: August 10, 2022 (B of T) Date: August 18, 2022

TITLE: No Mow 'til Mother's Day Program

SUBMITTED BY: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CSG by ORG*

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Public Works transmits for your consideration a recommendation for approval from the Public Works & Environmental Concerns Committee regarding a proposed policy memorandum to establish a "No Mow 'til Mother's Day" Program.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

The \$400 annual cost of this program will be covered by the Village's Community Recycling Fund that is funded by the Solid Waste Contract's Village Service Fee (account no. 260.270.335.73110).

Review (as necessary):

Village Attorney X _____ Date _____

Finance Director X _____ Date _____

Village Manager X _____ Date _____

NOTE: All materials must be submitted to and approved by the Village Manager's Office by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, prior to the Agenda Distribution.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott Niehaus, Village Manager

FROM: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works *CSG by DRJ*

SUBJECT: “No Mow ‘til Mother’s Day” Program – Proposed Board of Trustees Policy

DATE: August 10, 2022

Staff is forwarding the attached draft policy from the Public Works & Environmental Concerns Committee for the Board of Trustees’ consideration. The Committee voted to recommend a one-year pilot, and to advocate The Conservation Foundation’s popular Conservation@Home program as well as the possible assistance of other knowledgeable groups such as the Lombard Garden Club.

Background:

The DuPage Monarch Project has asked the Village to participate in the No Mow May Program. As the name suggests, residents are encouraged to delay their first mowing until after May. The purpose is to better accommodate the springtime propagation of flowering plants (e.g., clover and dandelions) and also insects that serve as food for birds and pollinators for plants. Other “Bee City USA” communities participating include Westmont, Glenview, Port Barrington, Barrington Hills, and Hawthorn Woods. The program website is at <https://beecityusa.org/>. Westmont has rebranded their program as “No Mow ‘til Mother’s Day”, and their fact sheet is attached for reference.

Article IV of the Lombard Municipal Code restricts the height of weeds and grasses to eight inches, and compliance following a letter is required within seven days. In 2021, there had been 6 violations in April, 85 in May, and 22 in June. In 2022, there have been 92 violations from April 1st through May 13th, and a further 108 violations from May 14th through May 31st. As such, the Committee and Staff concurred to propose an end date of Mother’s Day (i.e., the second Sunday in May).

Under the program, the Village would purchase yard signs to provide upon request to owners of single family detached residential lots. The annual cost for the signs is estimated at \$400, which may be absorbed by the Community Recycling Fund. There would be no cost to property owners. The purposes of the signs are to (1) explain the reason for not mowing, (2) encourage others to participate, and (3) allow Code Enforcement to not cite violations related to weed and grasses over eight inches.

Should this Policy be enacted on a trial basis during 2023, Village employees will inform interested parties about the program based upon the Policy parameters. Also, during the trial period, any individuals reporting high grass to Code Enforcement will be informed of the nature of the program, its intended benefit, and that the Board or Trustees’ Policy dictates a delay of any enforcement until after the Mother’s Day date.

Village Staff will provide the Committee and Village Board with a summation report stating the level of direct participation as well as any other responses received regarding the program effort, all in an order to determine if the program should become a permanent policy or program.

Recommendation:

The Committee and Staff recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the attached draft policy memo to establish a “No Mow ‘til Mother’s Day” pilot program in 2023.

CG/DG:dg H:\PW\Environmental\No Mow til Mothers Day\No Mow til Mother's Day Memo - Pilot Program BOT 8-10-22.docx

attachments: Westmont’s Information & Fact Sheet, Draft BoT Policy Memo

cc: William Heniff, Director of Community Development

Michelle Stefans, Code Enforcement Coordinator

Eric Hendrickson, Forestry & Urban Landscaping Supervisor



**Village of Westmont
Environmental Improvement Committee
2022 No Mow 'til Mother's Day Program
Information & Fact Sheet - Published March 21, 2022**



SIGN PLACEMENT

Where do I place the No Mow sign in my yard?

If you have your sign from last year, please feel free to place it in your yard immediately. New signs will be delivered between March 21 and early April. We hope the signs will bring attention to this initiative and the topic of supporting the habitat of pollinators. Please place the sign on your property near the sidewalk where it will be visible to the public. All No Mow participants must have signs in their yard to avoid code violations. Make sure that the sign is not placed in the Village right of way, which includes the area between the sidewalk and curb.

GRASS LENGTH

What if I feel my grass is getting too long?

If you feel your lawn is too long, go ahead and cut it. This initiative is about habitat, but also about bringing attention to how we can do things better for pollinators and ourselves. Studies indicate that the optimal mowing cycle, specifically benefiting pollinators, is every two weeks.

DANDELIONS

Dandelions went to seed in my yard and it looks terrible - what should I do?

After a dandelion goes to seed, they are no longer a benefit to pollinators, so please feel free to cut them. But please be careful to cut the seeding dandelions high so that you do not cut the dandelions that are still flowering.

YARD HEALTH TIPS FOR POLLINATORS

- Avoid using pesticides
- Plant colorful native wildflowers
- Grow flowers in clusters
- Plant a wide variety of flowering plants that bloom during different times throughout the year
- Plant trees, herbs, flowering fruits and vegetables
- Leave some areas, even small areas, undisturbed
- Create a nesting shelter

CODE ENFORCEMENT

During the program, code enforcement staff will be enforcing lawn height property maintenance codes for all residents that do not have the No Mow sign displayed in their yard. Properties that are participating in the program are expected to be mowed after the Mother's Day weekend, and no later than the following Saturday.

NO MOW SIGN PICKUP

After Mother's Day on May 8, 2022, participants can keep their sign and use it again next year. However, on the Friday after Mother's Day, our Public Works staff will collect all No Mow signs that are still out so that they can be reused next year.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Overall, the Village has had a very positive response to this program. We understand that some people may not be in favor of this initiative, but the program is temporary and will end May 8. We ask for everyone's patience and support during this timeframe. If there are further questions, please contact us at green@westmont.il.gov

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
VILLAGE BOARD POLICY MEMORANDUM



Subject: **No Mow 'til Mother's Day**

Number: ___ - ___

Date: _____

I. Purpose

The purpose of the No Mow 'til Mother's Day Program is to better accommodate the springtime propagation of flowering plants (e.g., clover and dandelions) and also insects that serve as food for birds and pollinators for plants. This program is part of a wider initiative of the Bee City USA program. The Department of Community Development will administer the program, with assistance from the Department of Public Works.

II. Procedures/Guidelines

- A. Property owners may request to participate in the program through a request to the Village by March 15th of each year. Approval will be contingent upon good past compliance with the Village Code pertaining to property maintenance.
- B. The Village will respond with a written approval or denial by April 1st. If approved, the Village will provide the applicant with a participation yard sign, which should be placed on the applicant's lawn in front of the property and visible to the public right of way. The applicant will consent as part of the application to Village personnel entering their front yard for the purpose of placing and removing the sign.
- C. Participants displaying the sign will be exempt from citations of Chapter 92, Article IV pertaining to weeds and grasses over eight inches (8") through Mother's Day (i.e., the second Sunday in May).
- D. The Village will recollect all signs shortly after Mother's Day, and Chapter 92, Article IV requirements will again be enforced at that time.
- E. The effective date of this policy is ____, 2022. The program will be offered on a trial basis starting in Spring 2023, and may be continued pending the outcomes.

III. Legislation/Documentation

- A. Minutes of June 28, 2022 and August 9, 2022 Public Works & Environmental Concerns Committee meetings.
- B. Minutes of the _____ Board of Trustees meeting.