

RESOLUTION (DRAFT)

WHEREAS, insects, especially bees, serve a significant and critical role as pollinators of plants including agricultural plants; and

WHEREAS, the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is one comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species that depend upon them occurs in late spring and early summer as they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and,

WHEREAS, “No Mow May” is a community science initiative that encourages property owners to limit lawn mowing practices during the month of May to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring, especially in urban landscapes when few floral resources are available; and

WHEREAS, the City of West St Paul would like to encourage interested residents to increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices on their own properties for the month of May during this formative period; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of West St Paul recognizes No Mow May to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of West St Paul City Council directs staff to not issue correction notices for long grass and weed violations for the month of May, permitting all residents to voluntarily delay lawn care until June, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and forbes to establish, which may result in ground-cover exceeding established ordinance height restrictions.