

**AGENDA
CITY OF MONONA
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
City Hall Conference Room
Thursday, April 13, 2023
6:30 PM**

Due to the current state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be conducted via electronic videoconferencing/teleconferencing. As such, it is likely that some or all members of, and a possible quorum, may be in attendance via electronic means and not physically present. In accordance with Wisconsin law, the meeting will remain open to the public. The public may still attend in person at the location stated in this agenda. However, due to the need to maintain social distancing in accordance with Emergency Order #7 of Public Health Madison & Dane County dated July 1, 2020 and the limited physical space available, the public is encouraged and requested to also attend via electronic means. Directions to do so are listed at the bottom of this agenda. Upon reasonable notice, the needs of disabled individuals will be accommodated through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City clerk at 608-222-2525.

- 1) Call to Order – **6:30 PM**
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Minutes from the **March 28, 2023** Sustainability Committee Meeting
- 4) Appearances
- 5) Unfinished Business
 - A. Upcoming Projects
 - i) Earth Day E-cycling Event
 - ii) Pollinator Habitat/No Mow May
 - B. Natural Lawn Permits
- 6) New Business
 - A. Discussion of Possible Focus on Energy Community Event
 - B. Revised Project List
 - C. SaltWise Project Lessons Learned
- 7) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement
- 8) Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas
- 9) Adjournment

Next Meetings: Thursday May 11, 2023 and Thursday June 8, 2023

Please notify Thor Jeppson at tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us if you cannot make it.

DIRECTIONS TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

You may attend via videoconference by downloading the free Zoom program to your computer at <https://zoom.us/download>. At the date and time of the meeting log on through the Zoom program and use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666744555> or enter Meeting ID: 836 6674 4555.

You may attend via telephone conference by calling the following phone number:

PHONE NUMBER: 1-312-626-6799 / MEETING ID: 836 6674 4555, FOLLOWED BY #

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PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY ZOOM

Persons interested in publicly appearing before the Sustainability Committee via computer or phone on the Zoom application are asked to submit an [Appearance Before a City Committee form](#) so that we can accommodate all online and phone requests to speak. Please submit your form as soon as possible. Requests will be accepted before and during the meeting until the Appearances section is closed. Requests submitted after the Appearances section is closed will not be able to speak. Link to form: <https://www.mymonona.com/FormCenter/Committee-Application-11/Appearance-Before-a-Committee-Citizen-Co-82>

WRITTEN COMMENTS

You can send written comments on agenda items by emailing tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us

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CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

1. Call to Order

6:38 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Teresa Radermacher.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alder Teresa Radermacher, Kristin Gunther, Sue Vogt, Dan Costello, Ken Walz, and Ashley Gries

Absent: Alder Patrick DePula and Sarah Smith

Others Present: Assistant Planner Thor Jeppson

3. Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2023 Sustainability Committee Meeting

A motion by Ms. Gries, seconded by Ms. Vogt, for approval of the minutes of February 9, 2023 carried with one correction.

4. Appearances

None

5. Unfinished Business

a. Upcoming Projects

i. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Earth Day E-Cycling Event

Thor shared updates on planning the annual Earth Day E-Cycling event on Saturday April 15th. Resource Solutions has expanded the amount of items they can accept, including full size appliances. Reynolds Urethane Recycling will provide cardboard and Styrofoam recycling. Thor created a webpage on the City's website, shared the event in the March My Monona newsletter, and Resource Solutions sent out 1,000 mailers to local households. Next steps are to issue press releases, record PSAs, and post the event on social media. Resource Solutions has also asked us to provide 2-3 volunteers. Thor and Alder Radermacher are planning to attend the event, so at least one more volunteer is needed. Thor also shared that the Committee can spread awareness of No Mow May at the event by distributing yard signs.

Alder Radermacher is working with Will Nimmow to record aerial footage of the event using a drone. Footage can be used to create a time-lapse that can be used to demonstrate the event's success and promote the event in future years.

Ken, Ashley, and Kristin said that they were available to volunteer at the event. Alder Radermacher said that she could take on the press releases, and Kristin and Sue said

that they would record the PSAs. Thor said that he could ask Public Works about safety vests for volunteers. Alder Radermacher asked if there were directional signs to help people locate the event. Sue and Kristin volunteered to create some if needed.

Kristin asked if the Committee had reached consensus on a suggested donation price for No Mow May yard signs. Thor said that 50 signs were printed for \$12.50 per sign, for a total of \$625. Ashley suggested a \$5-10 donation. Ken agreed that price shouldn't be a barrier but that giving away signs for free would not be a sustainable model. He felt that a suggested donation of \$5-10 was a good strategy. Alder Radermacher asked if signs should only be given to residents, as non-residents might attend the event. Kristin felt that it would be difficult to enforce and the Committee generally agreed that it would be okay if some signs went to non-residents.

ii. No Mow May and Pollinator Habitat

Alder Radermacher introduced the agenda item. She shared that the Committee has called the campaign "No Mow May" in the past, but that No Mow May is just one strategy in a larger effort to create healthy lawns and pollinator habitat. She suggested the Committee come to a consensus about a new name and broader goal for this project. She also shared that she had reached out to 6-8 previous Committee applicants to see if they were interested in providing volunteer work, and two had responded that they were.

The Committee discussed the objective and metrics for the project. Ken suggested that the Committee could track No Mow May signs distributed. He felt that the objective could include many aspects of a healthy lawn, such as reducing pesticide use, planting native plants, and planting trees. He felt that it would still be helpful to promote No Mow May because it is passive and simple to participate in. Sue agreed that sustainable yards is a good overarching project scope. Alder Radermacher added the possible metric of number of City departments participating. She said that Public Works will be putting up yard signs and won't mow a few small areas near City Hall, but that Parks can't participate because of the possibility for hazards and due to the challenge of mowing tall grass in June. The Committee discussed other ways to involve Parks, such as PSAs and replacing unnecessary areas of grass with native plants that require less maintenance.

Ashely suggested a bingo card challenge to engage residents. The card could have several strategies for healthy and natural lawns, and would allow for residents to get involved to the degree they are able to. The Committee could track sign ups. Sue felt that residents would need resources to learn how to implement healthy lawn strategies.

Alder Radermacher shared the project work plan to show what work has been accomplished and to assign volunteers to tasks. She shared that she and Thor have been working to rewrite the City's natural lawn ordinance, which would be posted online with guidance on how to plant a natural lawn.

Dan felt that the Committee should focus on starting small and pick a theme to focus on. He felt the focus should be on why increasing pollinator habitat is beneficial in order to build awareness. He liked the idea of having a sign-up list for residents interested in No Mow May and other healthy lawn efforts. Alder Radermacher suggested bees and pollinator habitat as a focus, with No Mow May and pollinator gardens being strategies. She added that the Committee could pursue the possibility of Monona becoming a Bee City. The Committee was generally open to the idea.

Sue announced that Eco-Action Tuesdays is hosting a pollinator habitat presentation with a hands-on bee house workshop on July 25th at Aldo Leopold Nature Center.

The Committee discussed the appropriateness of showcasing local businesses who can help create natural lawns. They generally agreed it might not be appropriate. Kristin said that the Committee could potentially have business owners on WVMO as a subject matter expert without promoting their business, or spread awareness of local businesses available to residents who can help provide these services. Alder Radermacher said that she would ask Mayor O'Connor about the possibility.

Kristin, Ashley, and Sue volunteered to help explore Bee City USA status and Ashley volunteered to explore research into the financial benefits of pollinator gardens. Ashley also volunteered to create informational materials such as bookmarks or flyers. Alder Radermacher said that she would work with the Parks Department and with Sue on the Eco-Action Tuesdays events. Ken volunteered to coordinate with the School District, and Kristin said that she would reach out to MG21.

Alder Radermacher reminded the Committee that there are also community volunteers to engage.

Mr. Walz was excused at 7:55PM

6. New Business

None.

7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement

Alder Radermacher shared that the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Implementation Committee has had three meetings, and that they are tasked with bringing ideas to City Council.

8. Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas

Alder Radermacher shared that she and Thor met with Brad Bruun to explore ideas for how to bring the Sustainability Plan in front of other City committees and departments.

9. Actionable Items

None.

10. Adjournment

A motion by Ms. Gunther, seconded by Ms. Gries, to adjourn carried (8:02 PM).

Submitted by,

Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner

Earth Day E-Cycling Event							
Objective(s):	To collect as many traditionally non-recyclable items from Monona residents as possible						
Why this project:	Electronics, appliances, and styrofoam require specialized recycling services. This project will help reduce the amount of these items that end up in landfills						
MSP Reference:							
Project Lead(s):	Thor						

Date Last Updated	Task Description	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot		
3/10/2023	MyMonona e-Newsletter for March	3/10/2023	Thor	Done	Submission included in March newsletter			
3/13/2023	Mailers sent to each house	3/15/2023	Thor	Done	Resource Solutions will send 1,000 mailers, built into the \$350 service fee			
3/17/2023	Styrofoam recycling	3/24/2023	Thor	Done	Reynolds recycling confirmed and will provide styrofoam and cardboard recycling for free			
3/22/2023	PSAs	4/3/2023	Kristin, Sue, Thor	Done	3/28; TR: Thor will recycle the old PSAs. Kristin and Sue recorded at WVMO on 4/4/23 and 4/6/23 Grab content from Sustainable Monona page; Thor has copies of previous PSAs			
3/31/2023	wite a Press Release	4/3/2023	Teresa	Done	4/6; TR; I wrote a draft release and sent to Bill for proof reading. 3/31; TR; Sent message to Bill Graf this AM. 3/28; TR; Send to all madison newspapers. Grab content from Sustainable Monona page			
4/10/2023	Send press release to Monona and Madison papers	4/6/2023	Thor	Done	4/6; TR; For future years, we should ask the Library and Senior Center if they'd publish something in their newsletters to cross promote this Earth Day event. 4/10: Event shared on the Isthmus calendar and press release sent out			
4/10/2023	Social Media	4/3/2023	Thor	In Progress	3/30/23: Thor posted on Facebook and put up fliers at City Hall. Will post week of 4/10			
3/22/2023	Day of volunteers	4/3/2023	Thor	Done	3/28; TR; Kristin, Ashley, Ken, Teresa, Sue, Thor will be there :) Thor to invite the committee, Teresa will reach out to citizens who have applied to the committee			
3/21/2023	Web page	4/10/2023	Thor	Done	Webpage for event updated with styrofoam recycling info. See mymonona.com/recycling			
4/4/2023	Drone	4/10/2023	Teresa	Done	4/4/23: Will Nimmow said he'd ensure enough footage to put together a 30 second promo clip Will Nimmow will coordinate with students that own the drone			
3/20/2023	Have NMM yard signs at the event	4/14/2023	Thor	Done	Insty Prints is printing 50 additional signs, will be ready by 3/30/23. Signs are \$12.50 per unit			
4/4/2023	Create strategy for collecting payment/donations for y	4/14/2023	Thor	In Progress	3/28: \$5-10 suggested donation, no need to ensure that buyers are residents Thor will check with Marc H about process for recieving checks/cash			
4/4/2023	Get safety vests, other equipment from DPW	4/15/2023	Thor	In progress	4/4/23: Thor emailed Brad Bruun and Parks Department			
3/30/23	Yard Signs directing traffic	4/15/2023	Sue	Done	3/30/2023: Resource Solutions will provide signs			

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-zLVsHWiv2DdpRCNThXNNP000qkAKsHoRJoYb15OTcU/edit#gid=1445476900>

No Mow May / Pollinator Awareness - Outreach & Education

Project Objectives: (1) Raise awareness about the importance of protecting bees and other pollinators (2) Promote various strategies for increasing pollinator habitats on residential property, including No Mow May (3) Work with City to increase strategies for creating pollinator habitat, including expanded participation in No Mow May

Why this project: Pollinators are critical for our survival, but their populations are in danger. By protecting and increasing pollinator habitats, we increase pollinator populations.

How do we measure: (1) count NMM participants (2) Count bookmarks distribution (3) count ways that school and muni have increased pollinator habitat

Reference to Monona Sustainability Plan (MSP): Soil, General Sustainability

Project Lead(s): Teresa and Thor

Date Last Updated	Task Description	Municipal or Residential	Task Category	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot
4/4/23	Ask Parks to Identify areas of useless grass that could be turned into something else	Muni	Parks		Teresa	Started	4/4; TR; Exchange with Jake about "Bee Lawns" on public properties/parks. Looks promising.	
4/6/2023	Eco Action Tuesdays - coordinate w Library on events that focus on Pollinator Habitat	Muni	Library		Teresa, Sue	Started	4/6; TR; Library will have a display about pollinators. It's likely they will once again distribute bookmarks. Unsure if they will distribute No Mow May signs for a donation. (if people pay for them, they will keep and re-use) 3/29; TR; circle back with Peggy DePaula 3/28; TR; Per Sue, there will be a Pollinator Presentation at ALNC - July 25. 3/25; TR; Sent email today to Sally and Ryan. 3/9; TR; Teresa to make initial contact w Sally at library. Pollinator Presentation at ALNC - July 25	
3/25/2023	Re-write current "natural lawn" ordinance	Residential	Ordinance	4/13/23	Teresa & Thor	Started	3/25; TR; Thor has been doing lots of research into what other communities are doing. He and I met with 2 reps from ALNC on Thursday 3/23 to review the ordinance and get other feedback. Meeting Notes available. 3/25; TR; I spoke w Master Gardener Amanda Davis to get her feedback. Need to make sure that we are clear that no mow is not the same as neglect. 3/9/23; TR; We'll review updated language at tonight's meeting. I'm working to get feedback from a Master Gardener	
3/9/2023	Write 2-4 PSAs	Both	Promo		Thor	Not Started	3/29; TR; Use the talking points/ strategies outlined in bookmark. 3/9/23; TR; Dave Brunner from Community Media can assist.	
3/25/2023	Record PSAs on VMO	Both	Promo	4/25	Kristin, Sue	Not Started	3/25; TR; Thor to coordinate others.	
4/6/2023	Record "Give Bees a Chance" PSA with Monona Jingle Gals	Both	Promo	4/25	Teresa	Started	3/31; TR; Exchange w LWD and Jill Bailey	
3/29/2023	Social media - post to city's FB page	Both	Promo		Thor	Not Started	3/29/23; TR; Let's have one post for each strategy listed on the bookmarks Ashley designs. 3/9/23; TR; How many posts should we have?	
3/29/2023	Write press release	Both	Promo		Teresa	Not started	3/29; TR; Include strategies listed in bookmark. 3/29; TR; I will reach out to Bill Graf from Community Media for a press release, which we can also send to all Madison newspapers, not just the e-newsletter	
3/29/2023	Submit article to My Monona e-newsletter	Both	Promo		Thor	Not Started		
4/6/2023	Create a campaign bookmark	Both	Promo	4/20/23	Ashley	Not Started	4/6; TR; Would be ideal to have a draft presented to the committee on 4/13. 3/29/23; TR; Decision to move forward. Ashley will create a bookmark, same size as was used for our Don't Be Salty Campaign. Bookmark to have a list of strategies homeowners can do to increase bee and other pollinator habitat on their property. 3/25; TR; Sample text found at Xerces, Wisconsin Pollinators	
4/6/2023	Partner with local businesses who have green lawncare, invite to VMO studios for a Q&A, then Joe turns this into 5 or so "PSAs"	Residential	Promo		Teresa	Not Started	4/6; TR; Instead of a local business... maybe we invite someone from Parks? 3/29; TR; Could be a conflict of interest. Teresa will ask mayor about having subject matter experts at VMO vs people promoting their business 3/27; TR; I will check with Will to see if this is possible, i.e. to promote a private business. 3/25; TR; Monona Lawn and Landscape https://mononalawn.com/	
3/29/2023	Coordinate w MG school district to participate in No Mow May again this year	Muni	School	4/20/23	Ken	Started	3/29; TR; Maybe MGSD groundskeeping team could consider planting clover. There may already be a plan to overseed with traditional Kentucky Blue Grass, Dutch White clover is less expensive, has white flowers for pollinators, then green leaves that blend into the lawn (and attract sun/photosynthesis that pushes carbon into the soil). See if possible for this year and if not, next. 1/6/23; TR; In 2022 the district put up signs at the district offices on Monona and Dean. Ken had great success coordinating this.	
3/29/2023	Reach out to MG21 to explore collaboration	Muni	School	4/13/23	Kristin, Dan	Not Started	3/29; TR; Maybe MG21 leadership could work with MGSD groundskeeping team to persuade them to plant clover outlined above. TR; 3/25; They may also/already have pollinator gardens that can be highlighted. MG21 - Stewardship is one of their pillars. Rain gardens	
3/25/2023	Bring more volunteers on board	Both	General		Teresa	Started	3/25/23; TR; Reached out to those who have applied to the committee but no seats available	

The following Code does not display images or complicated formatting. Codes should be viewed online. This tool is only meant for editing.

§ 263-5 Regulation of natural lawns.

A. Findings. The Common Council finds that the intentional cultivation and maintenance of native plant life furthers the city's adopted sustainability goals and is beneficial to the city's environment and residents. The Council further finds that a diverse landscape with appropriate native plantings promotes healthy pollinator communities habitat, improves stormwater retention, reduces impact on waterways, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and requires fewer harmful inputs.

Commented [TJ1]: Generally, this draft ordinance was developed using the Cities of Madison, Green Bay, Greenfield, and Superior as examples

Commented [TJ2]: Demonstrate benefits of natural lawns and purpose of ordinance

B. A. — Natural lawns defined. "Natural lawn," as used in this section, shall include common species of grasses, sedges, forbs, vines, shrubs, groundcovers, trees, and ~~and~~ wild flowers native or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin ~~to North America~~ which are designed and purposely cultivated to exceed eight inches in height from the ground. Specifically excluded in natural lawns are the noxious grasses and weeds identified in § 263-4 of this chapter, ~~those weeds specifically mentioned in Wis. Stats. § 66.0407(1), and/or invasive species listed in Wis. NR 40. No area of vegetation that results from neglect, or other failure to maintain, shall constitute a natural lawn as defined in this subsection. The growth of a natural lawn in excess of eight inches in height from the ground surface shall be prohibited within the City corporate limits unless a natural lawn management plan is approved and a permit is issued by the City as set forth in this section.~~ Natural lawns shall not contain litter or debris and shall not harbor undesirable wildlife. Natural lawns shall not impede on public right-of-way or constitute a safety hazard.

Commented [TJ3]: Defines Natural Lawns and explicitly excludes turf grass lawns which are allowed to grow to excessive heights

Commented [TJ4]: Delete requirement for Natural Lawn Management Plan

C. Right to install and maintain a natural lawn. An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands or premises may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances install and maintain a natural lawn.

Commented [TJ5]: Removes the need for a permit, application, or management plan to install a Natural Lawn

(1) Natural Lawns may include plants and grasses in excess of 8 inches in height and which have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds and must be maintained so as to not include unintended vegetation or debris.

(2) Natural Lawns may not include any plantings, which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property.

(3) Natural Lawns shall not include turn-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state.

(4) Natural Lawns shall be intentionally cultivated and maintained, and shall have a distinct and clearly defined border. The border may consist of any combination of mowed grass or natural materials neatly arranged to create the appearance of an edge to contain the natural lawn.

(5) Plant height shall be maintained at the appropriate maximum height at maturity for the specific species. University of Wisconsin Horticulture, Division of Extension shall be consulted in the event of a dispute as to the appropriate maximum height for a particular plant.

(6) Natural Lawns shall contain only common species native or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin. Species of grasses within natural lawns may include, but are not limited to: Sideoats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Running Marsh Sedge (*Carex sartwellii*), Common Bur Sedge (*Carex grayi*), and Silky wild rye (*Elymus villosus*).

Commented [TJ6]: Species listed as examples of grasses to use, taken from Madison ordinance

(7) Location and dimensions of natural lawns

(a) Natural lawns are strictly prohibited within City rights-of-way. This shall include at a minimum the property located between the sidewalk and the street or a strip not less than 5 feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk, whether the area is under public or private ownership.

Commented [TJ7]: Taken from current ordinance, reduced from 10 ft to 5 ft

(b) Natural lawns shall not obstruct the visibility triangle at intersections.

(c) Natural lawns must be setback at least five (5) feet away from all property lines, sidewalks, shared driveways, or other public right of way areas.

(d) Natural lawns located in the street yard and/or side yard(s) is limited in size to less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total square footage of the street and side yards.

(e) Natural lawns located in the rear yard or shore yard is limited in size to less than fifty percent (50%) of the total square footage of the rear yard and/or shore yard.

Commented [TJ8]: Setbacks taken from Madison Ordinance

B. Natural lawn management plan defined:

(1) "Natural lawn management plan," as used in this section, shall mean a written plan relating to the management and maintenance of a lawn which contains a legal description of lawn upon which the planted grass will exceed 12 inches in length, a statement of intent and purpose for the lawn, a detailed description of the vegetational types, plants and plant succession involved, and the specific management and maintenance techniques to be employed.

Commented [TJ9]: Madison does not require a permit or Natural Lawn Management Plan if the lawn meets the following criteria:

- The natural landscape area located in the front and side yards is limited in size to less than 25% of the total square footage of the front and side yards
- The natural landscape area located in the rear yard is less than 50% of the rear yard area
- Natural landscape area is setback 5 ft. from property lines, sidewalks, shared driveways, or other public ROW
- Complies with vision triangle requirements
- Native grasses are used (12 species are listed)

(2) Property owners who wish to plant and cultivate a natural lawn must submit their written plan and related information on the form provided by the City. "Property owner" shall be defined to include the legal title holder and/or the beneficial owner of any such lot according to the most current City records. Natural lawn management plans shall only indicate the planting and cultivating of natural lawns on property legally owned by the property owner. Applicants are strictly prohibited from developing a natural lawn on any City owned property, including street rights of way. This shall include at a minimum the property located between the sidewalk and the street or a strip not less than 10 feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk, whether the area is under public or private ownership. In addition, natural lawns shall not be permitted within 10 feet of the abutting property owner's property unless waived in writing by the abutting property owner on the side so affected. Such waiver is to be affixed to the lawn management plan.

Commented [TJ10]: Reduced from 10 feet to 5 feet to be less restrictive. Madison uses 4 feet.

Commented [TJ11]: Reduced from 10 feet to 5 feet to be less restrictive. Madison uses 3 feet

(3) Any subsequent property owner who abuts an approved natural lawn may revoke the waiver, thereby requiring the owner of the natural lawn to remove the natural lawn that is located in the ten foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. Such revocation shall be put in writing and presented to the City Clerk by the subsequent abutting property owner. Upon receiving the written request to revoke the original waiver, the Weed Commissioner shall contact the owner of the approved natural lawn and direct the owner to remove the natural lawn located in the ten foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. The Weed Commissioner shall revise the approved natural lawn management permit accordingly. The owner of the approved natural lawn shall be required to remove the ten foot section abutting the neighboring property owner within 20 days of receipt of the written notification from the City, provided the notification is received sometime between May 1 and November 1. Property owners who receive notification from the City between November 1 and April 30 shall be required to remove the ten foot section abutting the neighboring property owner no later than May 20 following receipt of the notification.

Commented [TJ12]: Reduced from 10 feet to 5 feet to be less restrictive.

C. Application process:

(1) Property owners interested in applying for permission to establish a natural lawn shall obtain and complete an application form available from the City Clerk. The completed application shall include a natural lawn management plan. Upon submitting a completed application, a nonrefundable filing fee prescribed by the City's Fee Schedule will be assessed by the City. Upon receiving payment, copies of

the completed application shall be mailed by the City to each of the owners of record, as listed in the office of the City Assessor, who are owners of the property situated wholly or in part within 300 feet of the boundaries of the properties for which the application is made. If within 15 calendar days of mailing the copies of the complete application to the neighboring property owners the City receives written objections from 51% or more of the neighboring property owners, the Weed Commissioner shall deny the application. "Neighboring property owners" shall be defined as all those property owners who are located within 300 feet of the proposed natural lawn site.

(2) If the property owner's application is in full compliance with the natural lawn management plan requirements and less than 51% of the neighboring property owners provide written objections, the Weed Commissioner shall issue a two-year permit to install a natural lawn. Permit renewals shall follow the same procedure used for original applications.

D. Application for appeal. The property owner may appeal the Weed Commissioner's decision to deny the natural lawn permit request to the Common Council at an open meeting. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within 15 calendar days of the notice of denial of the natural lawn management plan. The decision rendered by the Common Council shall be final and binding.

D.E. Safety precautions for natural ~~grass areas~~ lawns.

(1) When in the opinion of the Fire Chief of the Department serving the City of Monona the presence of a natural lawn may constitute a fire or safety hazard due to weather and/or other conditions, the Fire Chief may order the cutting of natural lawns to a safe condition. ~~As a condition of receiving approval of the natural lawn permit, the~~ The property owner shall be required to cut the natural lawn within three days upon receiving written direction from the Fire Chief.

(2) Natural lawns shall not be removed through the process of burning ~~without written approval from the Fire Chief, unless stated and approved as one of the management and maintenance techniques in the lawn management plan.~~ The Fire Chief shall review all requests to burn natural lawns and shall determine if circumstances are correct and all applicable requirements have been fulfilled to ensure public safety. Burning of natural lawns shall be strictly prohibited unless a written permit to burn is issued by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall establish a written list of requirements for considering each request to burn natural lawns, thereby ensuring the public safety. In addition, the property owner requesting permission to burn the natural lawn shall produce evidence of property damage and liability insurance identifying the City as a third-party insured. A minimum amount of acceptable insurance shall be \$300,000.

F. Revocation of an approved natural lawn permit. The Weed Commissioner shall have the authority to revoke an approved natural lawn permit if the owner fails to maintain the natural lawn or comply with the provisions set forth in this section. Notice of intent to revoke an approved natural lawn permit shall be appealable to the Common Council. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within 15 calendar days of receipt of the written notice of intent to revoke the approved natural lawn management plan. Failure to file an application for appeal within the 15 calendar days shall result in the revoking of the natural lawn management plan permit. All written applications for appeal filed within the fifteen-calendar day requirement shall be reviewed by the Common Council in an open meeting. The decision rendered by the Common Council shall be final and binding.

E.G. Public nuisance defined; abatement after notice.

(1) ~~Failure to comply with the regulations set forth in this section shall be considered a public nuisance.~~ Violators shall be served with a notice of public nuisance by certified mail to the last known mailing address to the property owner. ~~The growth of a natural lawn, as defined in this section, shall be considered a public nuisance unless a natural lawn management plan has been filed and approved and a permit is issued by the City as set forth in this section. Violators shall be served with a notice of public~~

nuisance by certified mail to the last known mailing address of the property owner.

- (2) If the person so served with a notice of public nuisance violation does not abate the nuisance within 10 days, the enforcement officer may proceed to abate such nuisance, keeping an account of the expense of the abatement, and such expense shall be charged to and paid by such property owner. Notice of the bill for abatement of the public nuisance shall be mailed to the owner of the premises and shall be payable within 10 calendar days from receipt thereof. Within 60 days after such costs and expenses are incurred and remain unpaid, the City Clerk shall enter those charges onto the tax roll as a special tax as provided by state statute.
- (3) The failure of the City Clerk to record such claim or to mail such notice or the failure of the owner to receive such notice shall not affect the right to place the City expense on the tax rolls for unpaid bills for abating the public nuisance as provided for in this section.

FH. Penalty.

- (1) Any person, firm or corporation which does not abate the nuisance within the required time period or who otherwise violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the general penalty found in § 1-4 of the Code.
- (2) In addition to any penalties herein provided, the City may issue stop-work orders upon owners of lots where work is unfinished under a previously issued building permit for any violation of this section.

Commented [TJ13]: Language retained as is, but removed references to permit/management plan

DRAFT

The following Code does not display images or complicated formatting. Codes should be viewed online. This tool is only meant for editing.

§ 263-5 **Regulation of natural lawns.**

- A. Findings. The Common Council finds that the intentional cultivation and maintenance of native plant life furthers the city's adopted sustainability goals and is beneficial to the city's environment and residents. The Council further finds that a diverse landscape with appropriate native plantings promotes healthy pollinator communities habitat, improves stormwater retention, reduces impact on waterways, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and requires fewer harmful inputs.
- B. Natural lawns defined. "Natural lawn," as used in this section, shall include common species of grasses, sedges, forbs, vines, shrubs, groundcovers, trees, and wild flowers native or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin which are designed and purposely cultivated to exceed eight inches in height from the ground. Specifically excluded in natural lawns are the noxious grasses and weeds identified in § 263-4 of this chapter, those weeds specifically mentioned in Wis. Stats. § 66.0407(1), and/or invasive species listed in Wis. NR 40. No area of vegetation that results from neglect, or other failure to maintain, shall constitute a natural lawn as defined in this subsection.. Natural lawns shall not contain litter or debris and shall not harbor undesirable wildlife. Natural lawns shall not impede on public right-of-way or constitute a safety hazard.
- C. Right to install and maintain a natural lawn. An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands or premises may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances install and maintain a natural lawn.
- (1) Natural Lawns may include plants and grasses in excess of 8 inches in height and which have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds and must be maintained so as to not include unintended vegetation or debris.
 - (2) Natural Lawns may not include any plantings, which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property.
 - (3) Natural Lawns shall not include turn-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state.
 - (4) Natural Lawns shall be intentionally cultivated and maintained, and shall have a distinct and clearly defined border. The border may consist of any combination of mowed grass or natural materials neatly arranged to create the appearance of an edge to contain the natural lawn.
 - (5) Plant height shall be maintained at the appropriate maximum height at maturity for the specific species. University of Wisconsin Horticulture, Division of Extension shall be consulted in the event of a dispute as to the appropriate maximum height for a particular plant.
 - (6) Natural Lawns shall contain only common species native or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin. Species of grasses within natural lawns may include, but are not limited to: Sideoats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*), Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*), Running Marsh Sedge (*Carex sartwellii*), Common Bur Sedge (*Carex grayi*), and Silky wild rye (*Elymus villosus*).
 - (7) Location and dimensions of natural lawns
 - (a) Natural lawns are strictly prohibited within City rights-of-way. This shall include at a minimum the property located between the sidewalk and the street or a strip not less than 5 feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk, whether the area is under public or private ownership.

- (b) Natural lawns shall not obstruct the visibility triangle at intersections.
 - (c) Natural lawns must be setback at least five (5) feet away from all property lines, sidewalks, shared driveways, or other public right of way areas.
 - (d) Natural lawns located in the street yard and/or side yard(s) is limited in size to less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total square footage of the street and side yards.
 - (e) Natural lawns located in the rear yard or shore yard is limited in size to less than fifty percent (50%) of the total square footage of the rear yard and/or shore yard.
- D. Safety precautions for natural lawns.
- (1) When in the opinion of the Fire Chief of the Department serving the City of Monona the presence of a natural lawn may constitute a fire or safety hazard due to weather and/or other conditions, the Fire Chief may order the cutting of natural lawns to a safe condition. The property owner shall be required to cut the natural lawn within three days upon receiving written direction from the Fire Chief.
 - (2) Natural lawns shall not be removed through the process of burning without written approval from the Fire Chief.. The Fire Chief shall review all requests to burn natural lawns and shall determine if circumstances are correct and all applicable requirements have been fulfilled to ensure public safety. Burning of natural lawns shall be strictly prohibited unless a written permit to burn is issued by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall establish a written list of requirements for considering each request to burn natural lawns, thereby ensuring the public safety. In addition, the property owner requesting permission to burn the natural lawn shall produce evidence of property damage and liability insurance identifying the City as a third-party insured. A minimum amount of acceptable insurance shall be \$300,000.
- E. Public nuisance defined; abatement after notice.
- (1) Failure to comply with the regulations set forth in this section shall be considered a public nuisance. Violators shall be served with a notice of public nuisance by certified mail to the last known mailing address to the property owner.
 - (2) If the person so served with a notice of public nuisance violation does not abate the nuisance within 10 days, the enforcement officer may proceed to abate such nuisance, keeping an account of the expense of the abatement, and such expense shall be charged to and paid by such property owner. Notice of the bill for abatement of the public nuisance shall be mailed to the owner of the premises and shall be payable within 10 calendar days from receipt thereof. Within 60 days after such costs and expenses are incurred and remain unpaid, the City Clerk shall enter those charges onto the tax roll as a special tax as provided by state statute.
 - (3) The failure of the City Clerk to record such claim or to mail such notice or the failure of the owner to receive such notice shall not affect the right to place the City expense on the tax rolls for unpaid bills for abating the public nuisance as provided for in this section.
- F. Penalty.
- (1) Any person, firm or corporation which does not abate the nuisance within the required time period or who otherwise violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the general penalty found in § 1-4 of the Code.
 - (2) In addition to any penalties herein provided, the City may issue stop-work orders upon owners of lots where work is unfinished under a previously issued building permit for any violation of this section.

Monona Sustainability Committee

2023 Annual Outreach Calendar

Below is a proposed annual Outreach Calendar for the Sustainability Committee, which includes a mix of set events and seasonal outreach campaigns that are relevant to the Committee's work. After the calendar is a short description of the work that goes into each event or campaign.

Month	Events	Seasonal Campaign
January		SaltWise/smart salting practices
February		SaltWise/smart salting practices
March		
April	Earth Day E-Cycling Event	
May		Pollinator Habitat and No Mow May
June		
July	Monona 4 th of July Festival	
August		
September		
October	Fall Festival	Adopt-a-Stormdrain
November		Adopt-a-Stormdrain
December		

Events

Earth Day E-Cycling Event

- Coordinate with Lora Boeger from Resource Solutions and Jake Reynolds from Reynolds Urethane Recycling about the event date. City staff will sign the Resource Solutions event contract.
- Staff (Thor) can coordinate with the Parks and Police Departments, as needed.
- Publicize the event (City website, Facebook event/posts, City Newsletter article, Herald Newspaper article, NextDoor posts, PSAs on WVMO, etc).
- Recruit and coordinate with volunteers prior to the event.
- Prepare any materials that will be handed out to event attendees.

Community/Fall Festival

- Work with event organizers to secure a table for a Sustainability Committee display.
- Recruit and coordinate with volunteers to table at the event.
- Decide what outreach information or activities are most appropriate for the event.
- Help with setting up, tabling and cleaning up on the day of the event.

Seasonal Campaigns

[Wisconsin SaltWise](#)

- This is a winter campaign that encourages residents, businesses and other community members to use smarter salting practices in the winter, to improve the water quality of our lakes.

- Wisconsin SaltWise often sends out a Social Media kit with pre-written posts and graphics that can be posted on the Facebook page.
- These educational posts could be expanded upon for other outreach activities.
- Educate businesses and homeowners on ways to reduce salt use and distribute educational materials
- Efforts could be expanded year-round to include promoting low-impact water softeners.

Pollinator Habitat and No Mow May

- Marketing/outreach efforts can include: Facebook posts, City Newsletter articles, PSAs on WVMO, etc.
- The Committee should budget for printing more yard signs in the 2023 operating budget. Yard signs can then be printed (City Staff will have the artwork files) and distributed to residents. The Committee could also choose to charge residents for the yard signs, and payment can be coordinated with City Staff.
- There is a spreadsheet with contact information from people who signed up for yard signs in 2022 that City Staff have access too. In 2023 and beyond, those people could be emailed directly to remind them to put out their yard signs, or to be notified when more yard signs are available.
- The Committee can consider tying in natural lawns, rain gardens, and native plantings/seed drives in to No Mow May. The City's Natural Lawn ordinance could be revised.

Adopt-a-Stormdrain

- The Adopt-a-Stormdrain program encourages residents to improve the water quality of Lake Monona by keeping the storm drains near their homes clear of leaves before it rains.
- Brad generally manages this program, coordinating with residents about which storm drains they want to adopt. The Committee could help in promoting the program and recruiting new participants.
- There are some printed educational materials about the importance of stormwater quality, and the Committee could coordinate promoting the program on the City's website, Facebook, newsletter and other communications outlets.
- This can be promoted year round, but extra emphasis should be placed on this program in the fall, when leaves are falling and are more likely to clog storm drains.