

**CITY OF FLORENCE
RESOLUTION NO. 6, SERIES 2024**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NO MOW MAY INITIATIVE FOR 2024

RECITALS:

1. The Florence City Council; established goals within the 2023-2025 City Work Plan to create pathways for sustainable local food production and security and doing work towards supporting beneficial designations such as Bee City USA.
2. The Florence City Council recognizes that bees and other pollinators are integral to the pollination of plants in order to grow a wide diversity of foods and flowering habitat.
3. The ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is one comprised of mostly native wildflowers, food and herbal plants, grasses, shrubs and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season.
4. Pollinator populations are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide treatments, mowing, disease, parasites, and climate change.
5. The Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) is tasked with developing and recommending strategies that support the landscape and biology of the region. On April 10, 2024 EMAC voted unanimously to recommend City Council support the No Mow May Initiative as provided in the attached resolution.
6. No Mow May is an 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 when few floral resources are available.
7. The City Council finds it is in the public interest and consistent with adopted City policy for the City to demonstrate its commitment to a safe and healthy community environment through the implementation of initiatives that help increase the pollinator population.

Based on these findings,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. May 1 - 31, 2024 is proclaimed as "No Mow May", and all residents and businesses of the city are encouraged to participate in this initiative.
2. The Florence City Council encourages pollinator-friendly lawn care practices on properties for the month of May by refraining from mowing their lawns in the month of May 2024 in order to provide vital early spring flowers for bees and other pollinators that emerge from hibernation.
3. The Florence City Council directs staff to not issue correction notices for long grass and weed violations for the month of May 2024, permitting all residents and businesses 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 the twelve inches (12") established ordinance height restriction.

4. In the interest of public safety, residents shall continue to keep all sidewalks and streets that abut their property free from the encroachment of grass and vegetation.
5. In the interest of sustaining our region's native habitat, this initiative does not apply to the following state listed noxious weeds: scotch broom, gorse, and Japanese Knotweed.
6. The Florence City Council directs the City Manager and/or designee to communicate the benefits of adopting least-toxic ways to tackle home and garden pest problems, planting flowering plants and reducing the frequency of lawn mowing on pollinators, particularly during the spring growing season, through a variety of communication channels.
7. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

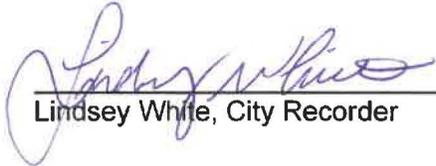
ADOPTION:

This Resolution is passed and adopted on the 15th day of April, 2024.



Rob Ward, Mayor

Attest:



Lindsey White, City Recorder