

2022 RES-030

**RECOGNIZING MAY 2022 AS LOW MOW MAY AND PROMOTING POLLINATOR FRIENDLY
LAWN HEIGHT YEAR-ROUND**

WHEREAS, "No-Mow May" is an annual initiative designed to boost the population of bees and other pollinators and is a conservation initiative that encourages people to stop mowing for the month of May in order to create habitat and provide resources for bees and other pollinators as they come out of hibernation; and

WHEREAS, three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects to reproduce; and

WHEREAS, U.S. National Agricultural Statistics show a honey bee decline from about 6 million hives in 1947 to 2.4 million hives in 2008, a 60 percent reduction; and

WHEREAS, top reasons for pollinator population decline include habitat loss, climate change, and the harmful usage of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers; and

WHEREAS, research has found that grass heights of ~12.5 cm/5 inches, which equated to mowing roughly every two weeks supported the highest abundances of bees, and the abundance was related to the amount of lawn flowers present (e.g., dandelions, clover, violets); and

WHEREAS, residents of Dane County are encouraged to reduce the frequency of mowing to once during the month of May instead of every 7-10 days, raise their mower height to 4" from a more typical 2"-3", include Buffer Zones, plant native species, and consider permanent conservation year-round; and

WHEREAS, cities in Wisconsin that have adopted No Mow May include: Village of Shorewood Hills, Monona, Middleton, Sun Prairie, Wausau, Oshkosh, Fort Atkinson, Stevens Point, De Pere, Wisconsin Rapids, and La Crosse; and the City of Madison is also considering a resolution recognizing May as Low Mow May.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes May 2022 as Low Mow May.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2022.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk