

# **Regular City Council Meeting**

## **Agenda**

### **September 25, 2023**

**7:30 p.m.**      **Call to Order**  
**Pledge of Allegiance**  
**Roll Call**  
**Approval of City Council Minutes: September 11, 2023**  
**Approval of Bills: None**  
**Approval of Agenda**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**1. Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate) Appointment**  
**2. Downtown Trick or Treat**  
**3. Ladies Night**

**Proclamation – South Lyon Hotel** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Comment**

**Discussion - Downtown**

**Fire Chief Report**  
**Police Chief Report**

**I. Unfinished Business**  
**1. Hagadorn Paving Project – Addition of Warren Street**

**II. New Business**  
**1. EV Charging Station Contract**  
**2. No Mow May Discussion**

**III. Budget**  
**IV. Public Comment**  
**V. Manager's Report**  
**VI. Council Comments**  
**VII. Adjournment**

\*Please see reverse side for rules of conduct for public comment at City Council meeting\*

### **Rules of Conduct for Public Comment at Council Meetings\***

Members of the public may speak at a Council meeting upon recognition by the Mayor. Public comment may only occur during periods designated on the agenda for public comment or a public hearing. A person may speak for up to two (2) minutes during each of the two public comment periods on agenda items or non-agenda items. Waivers of the time requirement may only be granted in the discretion of the Mayor, and waivers to speak at a time other than a designated comment period may only be granted by the Council. Any person wishing to make a presentation longer than two minutes or requiring audio-visual equipment is asked to contact the City Clerk requesting to appear on a future agenda.

A person may only address Council from the podium. Only one person may occupy the podium at a time. All remarks are to be directed to the Mayor and Council. Speakers are not to engage in direct dialog with other meeting attendees.

Any person who violates the Rules of Conduct, disturbs the peace at the meeting, and/or interferes with the meeting may be warned, ordered to be seated, removed, and/or ticketed.

\*This summarizes Council Resolution 04-18. Complete Rules, including guidelines for considering waivers, are available in the Council Chambers and from the City Clerk.

City of South Lyon  
Regular City Council Meeting  
September 11, 2023

Mayor Pelchat called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Pelchat led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mayor Pelchat, Councilmembers: Dilg, Kivell, Kurtzweil, Hansen, Mosier and Kennedy

Also present: City Manager Zelenak, Fire Chief Thorington, Police Chief Baaki, Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan, DDA Director Mack, and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES- 8/28/23

Councilmember Kennedy stated there is only one N in Dunigan.

CM 9-1-23 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the minutes as amended

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

CM 9-2-23 MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Mosier, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM 9-3-23 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Hansen

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Seiler of 436 Washington Street, and he wants to know why there is no transparency and what's going on with the project as far as tearing the place down and rebuilding, and he sees no transparency and he is on the Housing Commission and no one is telling him anything. He then asked when Hagadorn will be done.

DISCUSSION- Downtown

DDA Director Mack stated the businesses have been approved for the Social District by the State, and the signs have been delivered to the DPW. He said he will be meeting with the Superintendent to make a game plan because they are still getting caught up from the storm damage. He's hoping to get the signs up that distinguish the boundaries of the Social District soon, then the others as the DPW have time. He then stated the South Lyon Theatre has announced they are now open after a 3-year hiatus, and the post was read by about 20,000 people so people are excited they are back. They have shifted their business model from showing first run movies to being geared toward more to rent it out for events and parties, but they will be showing the occasional movie as well. He then stated they will be scheduling a ribbon cutting for Jodea Bella in the afternoon of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. He then stated there is a new jewelry store where A&E Jewelers

use to be and he has been in contact with them and we will schedule a ribbon cutting with them when they are ready. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she had the opportunity to be on the west side of the state in Saugatuck for Labor Day weekend, and she looked at their Social District and what they have done is they have large decals on the sidewalk that says you are entering the Social District, then when your leaving, it says you are exiting the Social District, so it is a reminder. It was really nice and she seen the cups they are using there, and on the cups, people use, they put the date and time on the cups. Mr. Mack stated that is not a requirement by the State, but having the two logos on the cup is a requirement. He said they probably do that to keep people from reusing the cups. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated its interesting how the businesses are using the Social District, their restaurants are very busy with long waits, it allows them to expand into the Social District to sell more libations and it is working out extremely well for them. Councilmember Kennedy stated that at the last meeting Mr. Mack had said he visited some of the downtown businesses to see how the storm and power outage affected them, and he was going to visit some of the outlying businesses. He then asked if he was able to do so, and which businesses did he visit and did they have anything different issues than the downtown. Mr. Mack stated he was able to get to some, but not all, and a lot of what they said is the same, they lost 2-3 days of revenue. Councilmember Kennedy then asked which businesses he visited. Mr. Mack stated he visited Aubree's and businesses in that mall, and by Alekos, and the mall by Pinz Bowling Alley. Councilmember Kivell asked about the garbage can lids. Mr. Mack stated he has spoken with them and the ship date is October 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Thorington stated they are at 934 instances and things are getting back to their normal pace since the storm. He stated they passed their EMS State inspections on all our apparatus last week. He then stated they had 2 burn buildings delivered and we will be cutting out some windows and we'll build some rooms inside for training. He then stated he has a FEMA grant for \$19,800 that has a 5% local match and it is 95% Federal for smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and we have until the 26<sup>th</sup> to accept that. Councilmember Kivell stated it was nice to see the flag downtown this morning and it was nice to see as a commemorative. He then stated he enjoyed seeing all of our firefighters at Depot Day, the children always enjoy seeing them and it seems the firefighters enjoy it too.

#### POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Baaki stated they had rifle training on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of this month and we were issued our new sidearms with the new sighting system and we will have additional training for those so we are certified to use. He then said they have applied for a RAP grant for leadership training for one of our officers. He then stated he attended Depot Day and the Polish Festival and had a great time. It was a great turnout and the time capsule was interesting.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### 1. Discussion regarding compensation for the City Manager for the upcoming year

Mayor Pelchat stated the City Manager evaluation took place during a closed session at a previous meeting and now all there is to do is to discuss compensation for the City Manager for the upcoming year. Councilmember Kivell stated everyone else has been in the 3% range, and that seems reasonable. Councilmember Mosier stated she was reading through his contract, and he receives a phone allowance and a car allowance and that hasn't been changed in 5 years. She further stated the phone allowance is currently \$75.00 and it should be raised to \$100.00, and the car allowance was \$450.00 and should be raised to \$500.00.



CM 9-4-23 MOTION TO APPROVE COMPENSATION

Motion by Dilg, supported by Kurtzweil

Motion to approve 3.5% wage increase for City Manager Zelenak and to increase phone allowance to \$100.00 and car allowance to \$500.00

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kivell- Yes  
 Mosier- Yes  
 Kennedy- Yes  
 Kurtzweil- Yes  
 Hansen- Yes  
 Dilg- Yes  
 Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. Requesting Council approval and acceptance of FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grant funds for the local match

City Manager Zelenak stated we are requesting Council approval and acceptance of FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) grant funds and approval of general funds for the local match. He further stated the SLFD was awarded a federal FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant, EMW-2-22-FP-00770 in the amount of \$19,800. SLFD has until September 26, 2023, to formally accept the grant. It is a two-year award: Year 1 is \$12,571.43 and \$628.57 match and year 2 is \$6,285.71 with a \$314.29 local match. With this being a two-year award, we plan to spend all the monies prior to next fiscal year, however, should the alarms go slower than anticipated, we have the option to run the program into fiscal year 2024-2025. Councilmember Hansen stated it was very exciting to see this on the agenda and he thanked Fire Chief Thorington for all his work in getting the grant and he is thankful it was approved. It is great for our residents to be able to take advantage of these kinds of fire preventions. Councilmember Kennedy asked if Fire Chief Thorington had a time frame for receiving the items. Fire Chief Thorington stated it will have to go out for bid, so probably 4-6 weeks. Councilmember Kivell asked if we still had inventory. Fire Chief Thorington stated we have a few smoke alarms, but no carbon monoxide detectors.

CM 9-5-23 MOTION TO APPROVE GRANT

Motion by Hansen, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve and accept the Fire Safety & Prevention grant for federal funding in the amount of \$18,857.14 to be received and deposited in account 101-682.336 in addition to the local match funding for expenditures of \$942.86 from the general fund into 101-336.000-972.000

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mosier- Yes  
 Kivell- Yes  
 Dilg- Yes  
 Kurtzweil- Yes  
 Hansen- Yes  
 Kennedy- Yes  
 Pelchat- yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Oakland County Assessing contract

City Manager Zelenak stated all jurisdictions within Oakland County who use Oakland County as their assessor have a contract for assessing services. Our contract covers the real and personal property

assessment administration services, outlines the duties and costs associated with those services. The contract is for June 2023 to June 2025

CM 9-6-23 MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the contract for Oakland County Equalization Division contract for real and personal property assessment administrative services for the City of South Lyon from June 2023-June 2025.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- yes

Hansen- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Mosier- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Hagadorn paving project

City Manager Zelenak stated as part of our efforts to make further improvements to roads within the City of South Lyon and as the first project associated with our Road Bond project, we have solicited bids and awarded the Hagadorn paving and sewer project to DiPonio Contracting. The original bid was \$3,874,858.79. We are changing the reconstruction method for East, West and North Crest Lanes and Orchard Ridge from half-width mill and overlay to full depth reconstruction. Based upon this change in the estimated quantities, it will increase the cost of the project approximately \$175,000.00. Councilmember Dilg asked about the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet stating that there was more damage due to construction and homeowner traffic, was that not anticipated, is there something we need to do differently. Mr. Alix from HRC stated you have half the road and the sanitary sewer on half the road, and they are going to dig down where they are going to put the sanitary sewer in, and the other lane, we were hoping to just skim the top of it, after and put another layer of asphalt on. During construction by no fault of the contractor or the homeowners, there was more damage to that unremoved part of the road. There was more damage than they thought there was going to be. Therefore, in an effort to give the citizens the best possible product, we thought the best course of action would be to remove the full depth on that side of the road and replace it. Councilmember Dilg asked why it wasn't anticipated there would be damage to the road. Mr. Alix stated it was anticipated, but they took some core samples pre-construction, but in some areas, there ended up being less pavement than they thought. Councilmember Dilg asked if there is anyway to move traffic through there differently. She was there over the weekend and it seemed like a lot of traffic and she worries about more damage and more change orders being needed. Mr. Alix stated that part of the city is difficult because there is only one way in and one way out. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked how much more time will this add to the project. Mr. Alix stated it will be minimal, the contractor said he can still meet the deadline. Councilmember Kivell stated DiPonio needs to get a lot more signage to try to distract people from going through there. He stated Singh's development and they find it a faster route than going down to 10 Mile, and it may be but it isn't fair for people to have to endure the extra traffic and it's not helping things move faster. He would like to see them put up signs that say no traffic unless you're a resident. Mr. Alix stated that is a good suggestion but he isn't sure legally we can do that because it is a public road. He further stated he will mention it to the contractor at the next update meeting. Councilmember Kivell stated his daughter lives on Chester and people were willing to drive across people's front lawns to get through because there was so much stuff in the road from the contractor.

CM 9-7-23 MOTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve change in the method of reconstruction for East, West, and North Crest Lanes and Orchard Ridge at an increase of \$175,000 to the original contract for DiPonio Contracting from Acct# 204-451-802 and 592-452-802-100.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kurtzweil- Yes

Hansen- Yes

Mosier- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET- No discussion was held

PUBLIC COMMENT- No public comment was made

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak reminded everyone that the city's audit will be on the October 9<sup>th</sup>, Council agenda. He also stated on a future agenda we will be discussing No Mow May and he will be giving Council additional information. He further stated we will be discussing the Intergovernmental Agreement with South Lyon Schools/Senior Center, Green Oak Township, South Lyon and Lyon Township. He then stated we will also be discussing the additional road work that can be done from 10 Mile to McHattie Park. He further stated he spoke with the engineers for the restoration on the trails, and we are waiting for that information. The DPW and Water Department are still working long hours trying to get caught up on the storm damage, and we are also trying to keep up with all the maintenance, and we did have a sewer break, and he hopes our residents know they are working long hours and weekends to try to get caught up and we expect to have things completed in the next couple weeks. He then stated we provided information for possible reimbursement from the government for our DPW building that was damaged, the Police Car that was damaged, and overtime for DPW and Police Department. We will have bids for crack sealing this week, and then he will be announcing the locations based upon the dollar amount of the bids, we have some money in the budget for crack sealing under general maintenance which comes out of our local and major street fund. He then stated he hasn't had an update from the Planning Commission regarding Washington Manor. Councilmember Kennedy asked if the contractor on Hagadorn is working 6 days a week. City Manager Zelenak stated they are. Councilmember Dilg mentioned a past discussion regarding the footprint of downtown events. She stated they worked out a stop gap for this event, but she hopes at a future meeting we can have a discussion regarding the footprint of events on an agenda. City Manager Zelenak stated the footprint for that event was approved by Council, but it wasn't the city, Pumpkinfest requested the larger footprint. He further stated we can add that to a future agenda, it is Council's decision if you change the area of the footprint. Councilmember Dilg asked what the next part of the trail will be repaired. City Manager Zelenak stated it will be the boardwalks by MST. Councilmember Hansen asked for an update on the vehicle chargers. City Manager Zelenak stated he met with our attorney today to go over final changes that were made to the contract by the company in relationship to the number of years the chargers would be installed and what would happen if there were damages. He further stated there is a number of communities that did not use this company and they looked at the reasons they didn't go with that company. Councilmember Kivell asked about the Oak Creek bridge. City Manager Zelenak stated the bridge is

ordered and we should have it late this fall. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked if there has been any other consideration to adding sidewalks during the 10 Mile Road repaving to McHattie Park. City Manager Zelenak stated it won't be part of this project, but he has discussed this with Superintendent Archey and that will be next. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated every year she brings up improvements to the DPW yard. Such as updated restrooms and changing rooms, larger showers and to provide them with an updated kitchen facility considering a lot of the guys are there at night when they are snowplowing. She thinks now will be a good time while they are doing the construction. She further stated they have small lockers, and maybe the city can kick in some money to update everything. City Manager Zelenak stated the scope of this project is based upon the insurance company and their scope is to bring the building back to the condition prior to the storm. He further stated we can do some updates with the kitchen and other areas, but not during this project. He stated our insurance company is paying for everything and we are trying to get the building sealed up before winter. We would have to go out for bid for upgrades. We can look at doing that in the future. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she thinks now is the time to start the discussion and move forward and have someone come in and reconfigure the space and see what the cost will be. She thinks this is long overdue. She further stated we allow the insurance company to do what they will do, but we need to start the process. They are just dealing with the exterior and that won't change, but we can change the interior. So, when they are done, we can contact a contractor and have them ready to go. She further stated it doesn't hurt to ask the guys what they want. Councilmember Kivell stated the idea of starting a design for the DPW yard is a good idea, but the idea of getting the structure closed up has to be done first. He then asked if any of the landscapers are interested in our projects. City Manager Zelenak stated he has been in contact with one of the two companies and they sounded interested. He has made multiple contacts and the other 3 aren't interested. He was hoping to have someone working this fall, but they said they can't do it this fall.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Dilg stated she is excited about the movie theatre opening again. She then stated it was a great Depot Day and it was fun watching the time capsule being opened, although disappointing with the inside of it. It was a fun smalltown event and she thanked everyone involved.

Councilmember Hansen stated he wanted to remind everyone that as we go into fall it is the best time to plant trees, and the Arbor Foundation has discounted rates for members and it is cheap to join. They have a wide range of trees to purchase and it is a good way to support a non-profit.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated this was a great weekend to be in South Lyon. The Depot Day was fantastic and the planning was great. It was a great event for the kids and she thanked the Historical Society and the Historical Commission for all their work. The families were so appreciative. She then thanked all the volunteers of the Polish Festival; the food and music were great. She met more polish people over the weekend, whether they are Polish now or not. She further stated she had a great time with neighbors and friends. She then stated she hopes everyone took time today to honor and remember those we lost on 9/11. She then thanked the families and friends and neighbors who continue to safeguard our country and thank you to those who believe in the American spirit and this great nation and God Bless South Lyon and the United States of America.

Councilmember Kennedy welcomed two new businesses to our city. He then welcomed the UPS Store located in the Gateway Commons shopping center at 11 Mile and Pontiac Trail. In addition to shipping, they provide a variety of other services including printing, shredding, passport photos, notary services and more. So, stop by and see the owner, Joe Scanlon, who will be more than happy to assist you. The next

new business in our city is Radiant Made Fine Jewelry located in Downtown South Lyon in the former A&E Jeweler location. In addition to jewelry sales, they offer custom design work, jewelry repair and cleaning, watch battery replacement and more. So, whatever your jewelry needs are, stop by and see Jean, Lauren or Krystal. I'm certain they'll be able to help. He then stated he wants to remember the approximately 3,000 people who went to work 22 years ago and never came home that evening. That number includes about 400 First Responders who ran into the buildings to help those who were in danger. Let us always remember and never forget this day in history.

Councilmember Mosier stated it was a perfect weekend and great events.

Councilmember Kivell stated today they said that there have been as many people that have succumb to illnesses as a product of the environment that day as there were lost in the event itself. He then stated the Knights of Columbus and Phil did a great job and he is always proud of him. He further stated he loves the idea of the events, but he really hopes they will have a public calendar so in the event if someone wants to have an event even just having a movie, and they would buy it and that is an asset very few people have anymore.

Mayor Pelchat stated there are a lot of people excited about the theatre and it was great seeing our Flag on the fire truck and he hopes everyone reflects on that.

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### CM 9-8-23 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Kurtzweil

Motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dan Pelchat

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Deaton



# CITY OF SOUTH LYON

Mayor

Daniel L. Pelchat

Council Members

Glenn Kivell

Margaret J. Kurtzweil

Lisa Dilg

Lori Mosier

Alex Hansen

Stephen Kennedy

City Manager

Paul Zelenak

Clerk/Treasurer

Lisa Deaton

335 S Warren

South Lyon, MI 48178

Phone: 248-437-1735

Fax: 248-486-0049

[www.southlyonmi.org](http://www.southlyonmi.org)



## Office of the Mayor

### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the South Lyon Hotel, built in 1867 in the heart of downtown South Lyon, is one of the oldest hotels in Michigan and;

WHEREAS, the building first served the community as a hotel and is now a dining and entertainment venue; and

WHEREAS, small businesses have shaped our communities, embodied the entrepreneurial spirit, and become pillars of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the South Lyon Hotel was destroyed by fire in 2016, but through the dedication of the owners and the support of the community, the hotel reopened in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the South Lyon Hotel has been an important, caring part of the community contributing to many causes and needs without hesitation; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Daniel L. Pelchat, Mayor of the City of South Lyon on behalf of the City Council and the entire community offer congratulations to the South Lyon Hotel for their many years of business in the South Lyon community.

Daniel L. Pelchat, Mayor

9/25/23

Date

# AGENDA NOTE

Consent Agenda 1

**MEETING DATE:** September 25, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** Mayor Pelchat

**AGENDA TOPIC:** Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate)

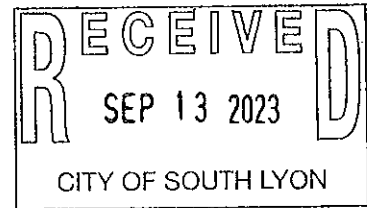
**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** Application received from Judith Matteson as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Application for appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** Appoint Judith Matteson to Zoning Board of Appeals

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to appoint Judith Matteson to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate board member.

*Afternote*



(Dr.) NAME Judith Mattesa CITY OF SOUTH LYON RESIDENT FOR 3 YEARS

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP 48178

PHONE (home) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (business or cell) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: retired college professor - *Oakland Community College (33 yrs)*  
*Rochester University (18 yrs)*  
*Clearing University (10 yrs)*

ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES? ☒ YES ☐ NO

IS ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY ON ANOTHER BOARD OR COMMISSION? ☐ YES ☒ NO

IF SO, WHO? \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS/REASONS/QUALIFICATIONS: (Resume may be attached)

Recently retired, moved to South Lyon and want to get active in my community.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES):

Walled Lake, MI - early 1990s

ELECTIVE OFFICES THAT YOU HAVE HELD:

only within employers - none publicly

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: (Ex. Homeowners Association, Volunteer Groups, PTA, etc...)

Lakeland Hills Homeowners Association (1986-1996) Walled Lake Elem PTA  
Knolls of South Lyon (currently forming) Vice President-elect

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Detroit Opera Theater - volunteer usher (10 years)

Detroit Symphony - volunteer usher (3 years)

Troop 2865 Girl Scout Leader (12 years)

Business Department Chair @ Oakland Community College (RO - 14 years, AH - 3 years)

OCC Technology Management Committee Chair (10 years)

Walled Lake Northern Equestrian Team Coach (3 years)

Forgotten Harvest - volunteer

*Judith Mattesa*  
Signature 9/12/23







## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The City of South Lyon wishes to thank you for your interest in serving as a Volunteer Citizen Representative on a Board, Commission or Committee. Your Candidate Questionnaire will be kept on file and entered for consideration for posted openings on any Board, Commission or Committee that you expressed an interest in for a period of two years. Please feel free to submit an updated Candidate Questionnaire to the City Clerk at any time.

Please be advised that the information contained in this Questionnaire is not confidential, and will be reviewed by the Mayor, City Council and other appropriate personnel as vacancies or openings occur on the various Boards, Commissions and Committees. This Candidate Questionnaire may also be included in any City Council Meeting Packet which is published and made available for public inspection in print and on the Internet. Your address, phone numbers and email will not be published, even in the Meeting Packet.

Please be advised that even though you may submit an application to serve on a Board, Commission or Committee, it does not guarantee that you will be appointed to that Board, Commission or Committee.

**BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU WANT TO SERVE** (please check up to five applicable boxes; see attachment for descriptions):

### Appointed by Mayor-Confirmed by City Council

- ☐ Planning Commission
- ☒ Zoning Board of Appeals
- ☐ Cable Commission
- ☐ Cultural Arts Commission
- ☐ Historical Commission
- ☐ Parks and Recreation Commission
- ☐ Downtown Development Authority
- ☐ Housing Commission
- ☐ Board of Ethics
- ☐ Road Improvement Committee
- ☐ Other

## **AGENDA NOTE**

**Consent Agenda Item # 2**

**MEETING DATE:** September 25, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** Nate Mack, DDA/Economic Development Director

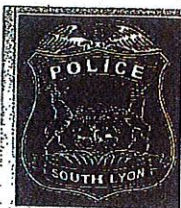
**AGENDA TOPIC:** Downtown Trick or Treat and Pup Paw-rade, October 26, 2023

**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** This is the DDA's Annual Downtown Kids' Trick or Treat. Approximately 2,500 people attended the event in 2022. The event is held from 6-8PM, however, the road closures extend to 8:30PM to accommodate the large crowd and their safety. Individual businesses hand out candy and other items to children at each store and place of business. Further adding to the festivities will be a Pet Parade by SLARA at 6:30PM, beginning at the farmers' market parking lot and concluding at the South Lyon Hotel. The following streets will be closed from 5:30PM – 8:30PM: N. Lafayette Street from Whipple Street to Lake Street, S. Lafayette Street from Lake Street to Liberty Street, E. Lake Street from Wells Street to Lafayette Street, and W. Lake Street from Washington Street to Lafayette Street.

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Parade/Event Application, Road Closure Resolution, Map of Event Venue

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** Approve/not approve the event and/or requested road closures.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Moved by, \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by, \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the Annual Downtown Kids' Trick or Treat application and resolve that Lisa Deaton, City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to make application to the Road Commission for Oakland County on behalf of the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan for the necessary permit to conduct the Downtown Kids' Trick or Treat from 5:30PM – 8:30PM on Thursday, October 26, 2023 on N. Lafayette Street from Whipple Street to Lake Street, S. Lafayette Street from Lake Street to Liberty Street, E. Lake Street from Wells Street to Lafayette Street, and W. Lake Street from Washington Street to Lafayette Street.



## South Lyon Police Department

219 Whipple St.  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
Ph: (248) 437-1773  
Ex: (248) 437-0459

### Parade/Event Application

Date(s) of Event: October 26th 2023

Applicant's Name: South Lyon Area Recreation Authority Ph#: 248-437-8108

Applicant's Address: 23333 Griswold Rd Ste 100 South Lyon 48178

Name of Event: Pop Paw-rade / DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREAT

Business/Organization Name: South Lyon Area Recreation Authority

Business Address: 23333 Griswold Rd Ste 100 South Lyon 48178

Business Phone Number: 248 437 8108

President/CEO Responsible for Event: Cristin Spiller Ph#: 248 437 8108

Event Start Date and Time: 10/26 6:15 AM/PM ROAD CLOSE: 5:30 PM

Event End Date and Time: 10/26 7:45 AM/PM ROAD OPEN: 8:30 PM

Approximate number of persons attending: 30-50, 3,000 TRICK OR TREAT

Approximate number and types of vehicles: 2-4 SUV cars to haul supplies  
none in the parade

Approximate number and types of animals: 20-30

Amount of space maintained between all units in parade: participants will walk 3ft apart

Route to be traveled (Include Street Names and turning directions) or area to be utilized:

**\*\*Please attach a map of the area and/or route that will be utilized during the event\*\***

Applicants Signature and Date

Responsible Party's Signature and Date

☒ PD ☒ FD ☒ DPW ☒ City Hall

Chief Douglas Baaki

Date



## South Lyon Police Department

219 Whipple St.  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
Ph: (248) 437-1773  
Fx: (248) 437-0450

### Hold Harmless

NATE MACK / DDA

To the fullest extent permitted by law the Anessa Schweitzer / SLARA

(Name of applicant/organization)

agrees to defend, pay on behalf of, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of South Lyon, its elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers, and other working on behalf of the City of South Lyon against any and all claims, demands, suits, or loss, including all costs connected therewith, and for any damages which may be asserted, claimed, or recovered against or from the City of South Lyon by reason of personal injury, including bodily injury or death and/or property damage including loss of use thereof which arises out of, or is in any way connected or associated with this event. You and/or the organization that holds responsibility will be held liable for the conduct of the event and each of its participants.

Signature

[Signature]  
Nate Mack

Date

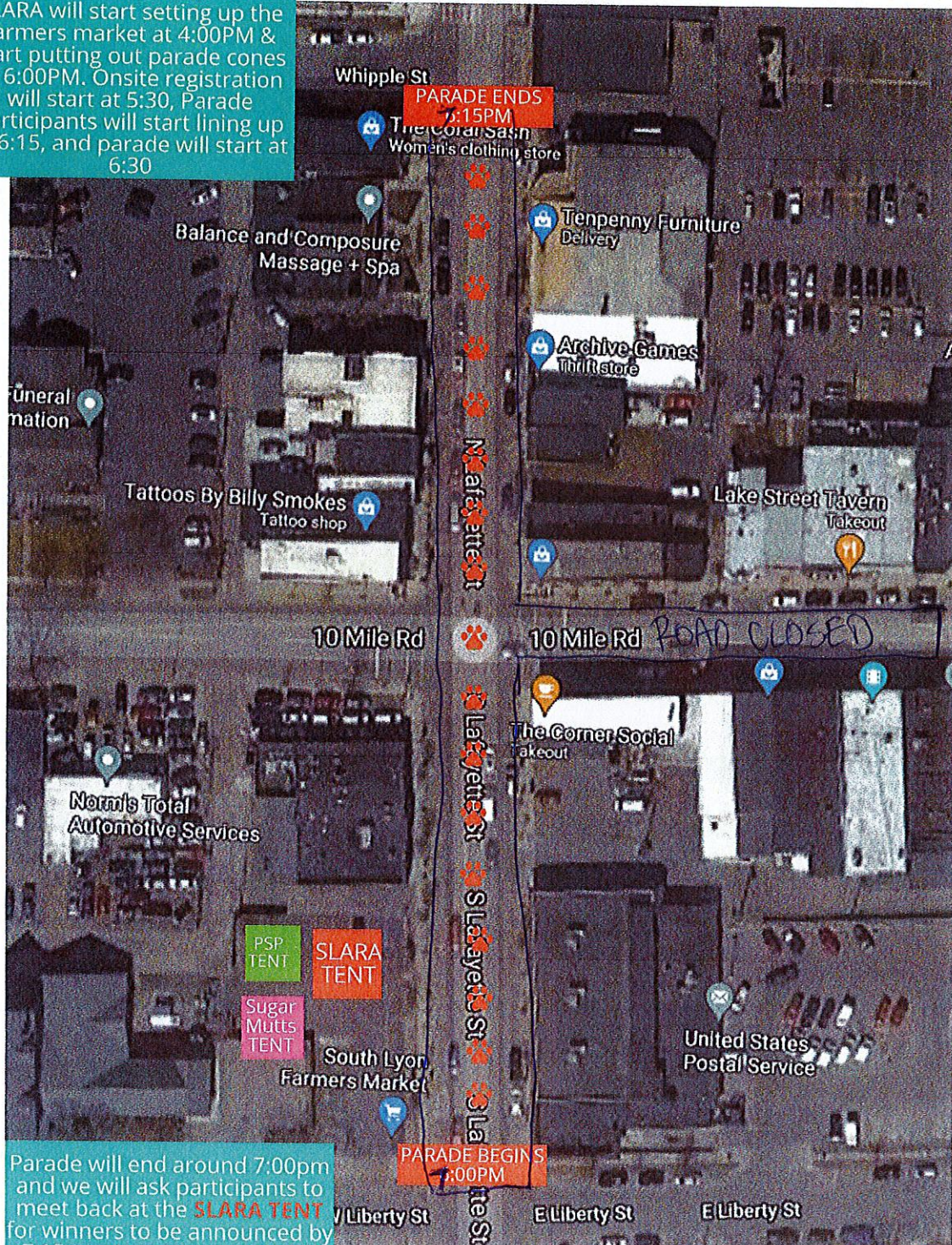
9/16/2023  
9/21/23



# WAG THIS WAY PUP PAW-RADE

October 26, 2023  
PARADE ROUTE/TIME/SETUP

SLARA will start setting up the farmers market at 4:00PM & start putting out parade cones at 6:00PM. Onsite registration will start at 5:30. Parade Participants will start lining up at 6:15, and parade will start at 6:30



Parade will end around 7:00pm and we will ask participants to meet back at the **SLARA TENT** for winners to be announced by 7:15pm. Announcements will end at 7:30. SLARA will have the farmers market picked up by 8:00pm



Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved That Lisa Deaton, City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to make application to the Road Commission for Oakland County on behalf of the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan for the necessary permits to conduct the Downtown Kids Trick or Treat on October 26, 2023 and the related road closures: Lafayette Street between Whipple Street and Liberty Street, and Lake Street between Wells Street and Washington Street. from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

and that the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan will faithfully fulfill all permit requirements, and shall save harmless, indemnify, defend and represent the Board against any and all claims for bodily injury or property damage, or any other claim arising out of or related to operations authorized by such permits as issued.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of South Lyon, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, at a regularly scheduled meeting of September 25, 2023 and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said act.

Lisa Deaton  
City Clerk/Treasurer

# **AGENDA NOTE**

**Consent Agenda Item # 3**

**MEETING DATE:** September 25, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** Nate Mack, DDA/Economic Development Director

**AGENDA TOPIC:** Ladies Night Out, November 10, 2023

**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** DDA Director, Nathan Mack, on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) would like to host Ladies Night Out on Friday, November 10, 2023. The event will take place from 5:00PM until 9:00PM but the DDA is requesting the closure of Lafayette Street between Whipple and Lake Streets from 4:00pm to 10:00PM in order to set up and break down before and after the event. The South Lyon Fire Department and Department of Public Works has been notified of the event and will place barriers and signage to accommodate the event.

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Event Application, Hold Harmless Agreement, Road Closure Resolution, Map of Event

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** Approve/not approve the request for Ladies Night Out from the DDA.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Moved by, \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by, \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the Ladies Night Out event application and Resolve that Lisa Deaton, City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to make application to the Road Commission for Oakland County on behalf of the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan for the necessary permit to conduct the Ladies Night Out Event on November 10, 2023 and the related road closures: Lafayette Street between Whipple Street and Lake Street from 4:00PM to 10:00PM, and the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan will faithfully fulfill all permit requirements.



# South Lyon Police Department

219 Whipple St.  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
Ph: (248) 437-1773  
Fx: (248) 437-0459

## Parade/Event Application

Date(s) of Event: 11/10/23

Applicant's Name: NATE MACK

Ph#: 248-437-1735

Applicant's Address: 335 S. WARREN

Name of Event: LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Business/Organization Name: DDA

Business Address: 335 S. WARREN

Business Phone Number: 248-437-1735

President/CEO Responsible for Event: NATE MACK

Ph#: 947-77-9355

Event Start Date and Time: 5:00 AM / PM - road closed

Event End Date and Time: 10:00 AM / PM - road open

Approximate number of persons attending: 500

Approximate number and types of vehicles: N/A

Approximate number and types of animals: N/A

Amount of space maintained between all units in parade: N/A

Route to be traveled (Include Street Names and turning directions) or area to be utilized:

**\*\*Please attach a map of the area and/or route that will be utilized during the event\*\***

N/A

Nate Mack

Applicants Signature and Date

Nate Mack

Responsible Party's Signature and Date

☐ PD ☐ FD ☐ DPW ☐ City Hall

Chief Douglas Baaki

Date





## South Lyon Police Department

219 Whipple St.  
South Lyon, MI 48178  
Ph: (248) 437-1773  
Fx: (248) 437-0459

### Hold Harmless

To the fullest extent permitted by law the NATE MACK/ONA  
(Name of applicant/organization)  
agrees to defend, pay on behalf of, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of South Lyon, its  
elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers, and other working on behalf of the  
City of South Lyon against any and all claims, demands, suits, or loss, including all costs  
connected therewith, and for any damages which may be asserted, claimed, or recovered  
against or from the City of South Lyon by reason of personal injury, including bodily injury or  
death and/or property damage including loss of use thereof which arises out of, or is in any  
way connected or associated with this event. You and/or the organization that holds  
responsibility will be held liable for the conduct of the event and each of its participants.

Nate Mack  
Signature

9/20/23  
Date

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_\_

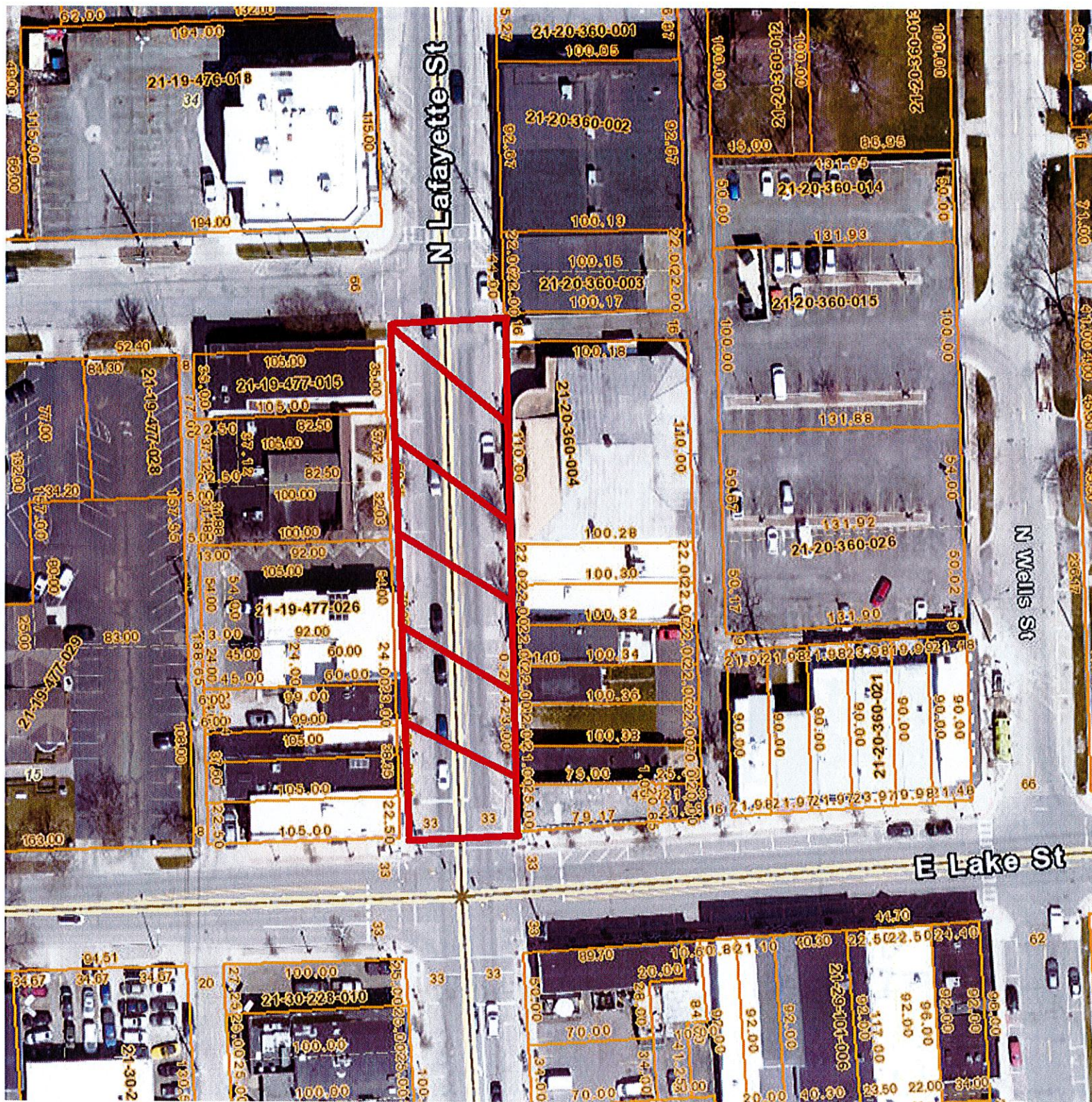
Resolved that Lisa Deaton, City Clerk/Treasurer is hereby authorized to make application to the Road Commission for Oakland County on behalf of the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan for the necessary permits to conduct the Ladies' Night Out Event and the related road closures: Lafayette Street between Whipple Street and Lake Street from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m on November 10, 2023

and that the City of South Lyon in the County of Oakland, Michigan will faithfully fulfill all permit requirements, and shall save harmless, indemnify, defend and represent the Board against any and all claims for bodily injury or property damage, or any other claim arising out of or related to operations authorized by such permits as issued.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of South Lyon, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, at a regularly scheduled meeting of September 25, 2023 and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said act.

Lisa Deaton  
City Clerk/Treasurer







# **AGENDA NOTE**

## **Unfinished Business #1**

**MEETING DATE:** September 11, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** City Manager

**AGENDA TOPIC:** Increase project cost of Hagadorn Paving & Sewer Contract  
(Warren Street Paving)

**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** As part of our efforts to make further improvements to roads within the City of South Lyon and as the first project associated with our Road Bond project, we have solicited bids and awarded the Hagadorn Paving and Sewer Project to DiPonio Contracting. The original bid was \$3,874,858.79. We recently increased the project cost due to changes in the reconstruction method for East, West and North Crest Lanes and Orchard Ridge from half-width mill and overlay to full depth reconstruction. Now we are proposing to add Warren Street to the project and pave from West Lake Street all the way to McHattie Park, including the paving of McHattie Park Parking lot. Based upon this change in estimated quantities, it will increase the cost of the project approximately \$264,000.

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Letter from our engineers at HRC outlining the recommended changes and estimated costs for the increase in materials and scope of work.

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** Approve or not approve the change in the scope of the project to add Warren Street and McHattie Park Parking lot to the Project Cost for an amount of approximately \$264,000. for DiPonio Contracting from Acct # 204-451-802, and 101-751-978

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the change in the scope of the project to add Warren Street and McHattie Park Parking lot to the Project Cost for an amount of approximately \$264,000. for DiPonio Contracting from Acct # 204-451-802, and 101-751-978



September 19, 2023

City of South Lyon  
335 S. Warren Street  
South Lyon, MI 48178

Attn: Mr. Paul Zelenak, City Manager

Re: Scope Add-On Request  
2023 Road Improvement Program – N Hagadorn Subdivision  
Warren Street and McHattie Park

HRC Job No. 20220855

Dear Mr. Zelenak:

During our August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 progress meeting it was brought to the attention of the Project Team that Warren Street pavement is in poor condition, and most notably the intersection of Warren Street and Liberty Street is found to be in extremely poor condition due to recent Water Main rehab and repair. Upon further discussion with South Lyon Staff regarding the scope of the project, it was determined that the limits of the deteriorated pavement extend to and include the parking lot of McHattie park.

HRC recommends the following scope additions to the 2023 Road Improvement Project based on discussions with South Lyon Staff:

- Removal and Replacement of the existing asphalt pavement (from entrance of McHattie Park to Lake Street).
  - Replacement of the aggregate base layer within the Warren/Liberty intersection.
- Removal and Replacement of existing parking lot asphalt pavement and pavement marking re-striping.
  - Storm Sewer/Drainage Improvements

The contractor for the 2023 Road Improvement Project (DiPonio Contracting) will be performing similar scoped work utilizing the same equipment for the primary construction area as they would for the Warren Street add-on. Because of this, the Project Team felt as though a cheaper price would be provided to the city, rather than if it were a standalone project put out for bids.

If approved, this scope change work will be paid for based on items/unit prices provided by DiPonio Contracting (attached). It is estimated that this scope change will increase the contract value by approximately \$186,208.47 for work on Warren Street, and by approximately \$77,899.67 for work at McHattie Park (\$264,108.14 Total). Exact costs will be determined by field measured quantities. The contractor does not expect this change in scope to substantially change the project completion date, as they will have equipment and staff within the vicinity performing these same operations within the main project area.

It is HRC's recommendation that the City of South Lyon proceeds with this scope change for Warren Street and McHattie Park.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact the undersigned at 248-416-4907.

Very truly yours,

HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC.

*Lukas Gallup*  
Lukas Gallup

LG/lg

pc: City of South Lyon; J. Archey, DPW  
HRC; R. Alix, M. Darga, file





**CONSTRUCTION NOTES - McHATTIE PARK**

1. PROPOSED HMA SECTION TO BE 1.5" SEAL ON 2" SEAL.
2. GRADING OF EXISTING AGGREGATE AFTER HMA REMOVAL PAID FOR AS: "Parking Lot Grading, Spread" - LGM.
3. CONTRACTOR TO PUT BACK ALL PAVEMENT MARKINGS MATCHING EXISTING COLOURS/LAYOUT. INCLUDED IN: "Paint Mark, Sprayable Thermoplastic, Parking Lot" - LGM.
4. CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE AND REINSTATE EXISTING STORM STRUCTURES IN ORDER TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF SOUTH LYON. ALL WORK INCLUDED IN: "Storm Structure, 48 inch dia, Spread" - EA, and Dr Structure Cover, Type D, Spread" - EA.

**CONSTRUCTION NOTES - S. WARREN STREET**

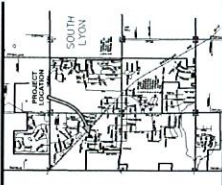
1. PROPOSED HMA SECTION TO BE 2" SEAL ON 3" SEAL.
2. EXCAVATION AND GRADING OF EXISTING AGGREGATE (IF NECESSARY AFTER HMA REMOVAL PAID FOR AS: "Section Grading, Spread" - STA, ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL AGGREGATE PAID FOR AS: "Aggregate Bank, 21MA, Spread" - TON).
3. CONTRACTOR TO PLACE A MINIMUM OF 6 INCHES OF 21MA AGGREGATE WITHIN THE WARREN/AGENCY STREET INTERSECTION.
4. CONTRACTOR TO PUT BACK ALL CROSSWALK MARKINGS PAID FOR AS: "Paint Mark, Dry Gel Paint, Green Crosswalk" - T1.
5. CONTRACTOR TO UPDATE EXISTING UTILITY COORDS WITHIN THE PROJECT AS SHOWN ON THE CITY OF SOUTH LYON RECORD DRAWINGS. ALL COORDS ARE TO BE UPDATED IN-ROAD WITH "CITY OF SOUTH LYON" LETTERING. STORM STRUCTURES WITHIN THE ROAD ARE TO REMAIN.



**HRC**  
**HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC.**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS SINCE 1915  
100 W. CARM RIVER AVE.  
SOUTH LYON, MI 48185  
PHONE: (571) 554-9188  
WEB SITE: [www.hrcinc.com](http://www.hrcinc.com)



REVISIONS	REVISIONS
00000001	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION
00000002	ADDITIONAL NO. 1
00000003	ISSUED FOR BIDS
00000004	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
00000005	ADDITIONS AND/OR REVISIONS
DESIGNED	LG
DRAWN	LG
CHECKED	AM
APPROVED	AM



CITY OF SOUTH LYON  
**2023 ROAD  
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**



THREE FULL WORKING DAYS  
BEFORE YOU DIG, CALL THE  
ONE-CALL CENTER AT  
800-482-7171 OR 811

**WARREN STREET  
ADDITIONAL PAVING  
PROJECT LIMITS**

PROJECT NO.	SCALE
20220855	1" = 60'
DATE	SHEET
August 2023	1 of 1



CITY OF SOUTH LYON					
2023 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - WARREN STREET ADD ON					
ITEMS OF WORK - COST WORKSHEET					
	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BASE BID -- DIVISION 1 - S. Warren Street					
1	Mobilization, Max 10%	1	Lsum	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
2	Station Grading, Special	13.31	Sta	\$2,900.00	\$38,599.00
3	Aggregate Base, 21AA, Special	350	Ton	\$60.00	\$21,000.00
4	Dr Structure Cover, Special	5	Ea	\$300.00	\$1,500.00
5	Dr Structure, Adj, Add Depth	15	Ft	\$550.00	\$8,250.00
6	HMA Surface, Rem	3524	Syd	\$4.00	\$14,096.00
7	HMA, 4EML, Special	407	Ton	\$112.42	\$45,754.94
8	HMA, 5EML, Special	306	Ton	\$130.63	\$39,972.78
9	Minor Traf Devices	1	Lsum	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
10	Traffic Regulator Control	1	Lsum	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
11	Gate Well Cover, Special	5	Ea	\$350.00	\$1,750.00
12	Sanitary Structure, Cover, Special	7	Ea	\$350.00	\$2,450.00
13	Audio/Video Route Survey, Special	1	Lsum	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
14	Pavt Mrkg, Ovly Cold Plastic, 6 inch Crosswalk	385	Ft	\$2.95	\$1,135.75
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST - DIVISION 1					\$186,208.47
	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Unit Cost	Total Cost
BASE BID -- DIVISION 2 - McHattie Park					
1	Mobilization, Max 10%	1	Lsum	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2	Dr Structure, Rem	1	Ea	\$650.00	\$650.00
3	Parking Lot Grading, Special	1	Lsum	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
4	Dr Structure Cover, Type D, Special (Flat/Square Inlet Cover)	1	Ea	\$860.00	\$860.00
5	Dr Structure, 48 inch dia, Special	1	Ea	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00
6	HMA Surface, Rem	1645	Syd	\$4.00	\$6,580.00
7	HMA, 4EML, Special	190	Ton	\$128.48	\$24,411.20
8	HMA, 5EML, Special	143	Ton	\$149.29	\$21,348.47
9	Minor Traf Devices	1	Lsum	\$600.00	\$600.00
10	Traffic Regulator Control	1	Lsum	\$200.00	\$200.00
11	Audio/Video Route Survey, Special	1	Lsum	\$500.00	\$500.00
12	Pavt Mrkg, Sprayable Thermopl, Parking Lot	1	Lsum	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST - DIVISION 2					\$77,899.67
TOTAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION COST - DIVISION 1 + DIVISION 2					\$264,108.14



# AGENDA NOTE

New Business Item # 1

**MEETING DATE:** September 25, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** City Manager

**AGENDA TOPIC:** Electric Vehicle Charging Station Contract

**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** City staff have been working with Charge EV, an Oakland County based company to provide turnkey solutions for the General Motors Dealer Community Charging Program. The initiative encourages municipalities to identify EV charging locations in their communities. Local dealerships provide 80-amp EV chargers from General Motors and will dispatch State Electric Company to install the equipment and commission the chargers upon completion. Equipment procurement and materials, site preparation, utility coordination, and the scheduling and commission of the units are coordinated by Charge EV. State Electric Company will also maintain the equipment and troubleshoot any issues that may arise, decreasing the amount of time the chargers are not in use.

There have been five locations identified that can be utilized for EV charging. They are 390 S. Lafayette St (Lafayette Park), McHattie Park parking lot (502 Washington), McHattie Park near the freight house (300 Dorothy), Whipple Street parking lot, and Wells St.

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Contract agreement with Charge EV for the placement of five electric vehicle charging stations in five locations throughout the City of South Lyon.

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** Approve/not approve the contract with Charge EV for electric vehicle charging stations in the City of South Lyon.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:** Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, supported by, \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the EV charging contract with Charge EV for electric vehicle charging stations in the City of South Lyon.

## CHARGE EV, LLC. CHARGING STATION

### License AGREEMENT

This License Agreement (the “**Agreement**”) is effective as of the date signed by **HOST** (the “**Effective Date**”) by and between the **City of South Lyon, a Michigan municipal corporation, 355 S. Warren St, South Lyon, Michigan 48178** and Charge EV, LLC. (“**CEV**”), a Michigan company with its principal place of business located at 15045 Dixie Hwy, Ste A, Holly, MI 48442. CEV and Host may individually be referred to herein as a “**Party**” and collectively as the “**Parties**.”

**WHEREAS**, Host is the owner of certain real property located at **South Lyon, Oakland County, State of Michigan, having the Tax Parcel ID Numbers indicated in Exhibit A (the “Premises”), (“Site”).**

Host has agreed to allow CEV access to and the right to install and maintain electric vehicle chargers (“**EV Chargers**”) under the terms of this License, in the area described in Exhibit A and referred to as the (“**Premises**”), which CEV has accepted.

The EV Chargers will provide value to Host by attracting electric vehicle owners and the public to, and providing additional visibility of, the Site;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the above and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and legal sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

#### 1. USE OF LICENSED PREMISES:

Host hereby grants to CEV a License to install and maintain EV Chargers at the Premises located at **the locations contained in Exhibit A (the “Premises”)**, upon which CEV shall install the EV Chargers. as shown on the Location Map in Exhibit A, upon which CEV shall install the EV Chargers, subject to the requirements of this License. The License includes the right to install a utility pole and utility transmission lines necessary to operate the EV Chargers and to accommodate level 3 chargers in the future, subject to Host’s right to designate the route to be utilized. Host reserves all powers it has under applicable local, state or federal law to regulate the Site. CEV shall be subject to all present and future ordinances of Host.

#### 2. INITIAL INSPECTION:

**A. Early Access.** Beginning on “**Effective Date**” (“**Initial Inspection Start Date**”) CEV shall have a period of up to thirty (30) days during which it will have reasonable, non-exclusive access to the Premises for conducting its reviews and inspections (the “**Inspection Period**”).

**B. Application for Permits.** During the Inspection Period, CEV shall apply and pay for all required permits, or approvals required for CEV’s construction of the improvements on, and CEV’s use of, the Site (collectively, the “**Permits**”).

**C. Right to Terminate.** If CEV determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, for any reason or for no reason whatsoever, that the Site is unacceptable for CEV’s proposed use,

CEV may, without any liability hereunder, terminate this Agreement upon written notice delivered to Host no later than five (5) business days following the expiration of the Inspection Period pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement. CEV shall restore any damage to the Premises that is attributable to CEV.

### **3. INSTALLATION:**

Upon acceptance of the Premises, CEV shall, at its sole expense, install the EV Chargers.

### **4. EQUIPMENT:**

(7) **Pedestals ((14) 80-amp chargers)** will be installed at the Site. CEV can elect to change the equipment for equivalent equipment depending on utility support transformer and supply chain availability. City shall have the right to approve the equivalent equipment, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The equipment may contain advertising that is in harmony with decency and good tastes of the community and is approved by Host. The Host maintains full discretion and reserves the right in its sole discretion to reject any ad for any reason. The Host may reject speech in ads based on viewpoints such as politics or religion. No illustrations that are sexually suggestive, salacious or indecent or contrary to family-oriented audience will be accepted. No advertisements may contain attacks of a personal, racists, sexist, political or religious nature. No advertising that is misleading, deceptive, fraudulent, encourages the violation of any law, regulation or ordinance or that grossly exaggerates or makes unwarranted claims will be accepted.

### **5. COMMENCEMENT DATE:**

The date that the EV Chargers open to the public (the “**Commencement Date**”) shall be within one hundred and fifty (150) days following the Initial Inspection Start Date, provided that no external permitting, utility or other requirements beyond CEV’s control delay the installation, despite the best efforts of CEV. CEV shall provide written notice of the Commencement Date to Host pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement for record keeping purposes. In the event of a delay as described herein, CEV shall deliver written notice to Host pursuant to Section 20 and this notice shall provide the Commencement Date, which in no event shall be any later than two hundred (200) days following the Initial Inspection Start Date.

### **6. TERM:**

- A. The initial term of the Agreement shall expire ten (10) years from the Commencement Date (the “Initial Term”). Thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the Initial Term, CEV subject to approval of Host, may elect to extend the Agreement and such extension shall be for an additional period of five (5) years (the “Renewal Term” and together with the Initial Term, the “Term”). Following the Renewal Term, any further renewals will be subject to mutual agreement between CEV and Host and may be of any duration agreed upon by the Parties. In the event Host wishes to sell or transfer of the Premises by Host while the Agreement is in effect, Host shall either assign this Agreement to the prospective buyer, which assignment shall be effective upon the sale or transfer of the Premises, or terminate this Agreement in accordance with Section 7 below. Host grants exclusive EV charging stations to CEV within the parcel ID number location(s) identified in this lease agreement.

## **7. EARLY TERMINATION:**

**A.** If at any time after the 36<sup>th</sup> month of the Term, the EV Chargers at the Premises are performing at an average of fewer than 50 kilowatt hours per month over any period of six (6) consecutive months, CEV shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by providing Host written notice (the "Termination Notice") pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement at least sixty (60) days in advance of the termination date, which shall specify the effective date of CEV's termination of this Agreement ("Termination Date"). As of the Termination Date, this Agreement shall terminate and neither Party shall thereafter have any further rights or obligations hereunder, except that CEV shall pay all monies owed pursuant to Section 11 of this Agreement through the Termination Date, and this Agreement shall be of no further force and effect.

**B.** If Host elects to terminate the Agreement prior to the expiration of the Term, Host must provide written notice to CEV pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement (the "Termination Notice"), specifying the effective date of Host's termination of this Agreement.

i. Any termination without cause by the Host prior to the end of the thirty six (36<sup>th</sup>) month of the Term, the Host is responsible to reimburse CEV for the full cost of any EV Rebate that CEV may have received, all costs CEV incurred for installing the EV Chargers on the Premises, and any costs for CEV to remove the Electrical Service Equipment, Electrical Infrastructure, Charging equipment, Utility equipment, decommissioning of equipment, bollards, foundations and EV Chargers from the Premises. In addition, Host shall pay CEV 50% of monthly gross sales from previous 90 days average, per month for remainder of the contract term.

ii. Host may terminate for cause without penalty as outlined below in (1), (2), and (3):

(1) In the event Host has not received payment under the terms of Section 11 of this Agreement by the tenth day of the calendar month, Host must provide written notice pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement to CEV notifying CEV that it has not received payment. If CEV has not remitted the payment due to Host within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of Host's notice, Host may terminate the Agreement for cause and without penalty.

(2) In the event that CEV has failed to properly maintain the EV Chargers, Host must provide notice pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement to CEV. This notice shall provide information about the EV Charger(s) requiring maintenance. If CEV has failed to repair or replace the EV Chargers within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Host's notice, host may terminate the Agreement for cause and without penalty.

(3) Any other reason beyond Host's control, including but not limited to the acts or omissions of third parties, regulatory changes, civil disorder, labor strikes or disruptions, war, terrorism, pandemics, disease and natural disasters.

C. In all events of termination or expiration of this Agreement, the EV Chargers are owned by CEV and upon termination or expiration of the Agreement, CEV shall remove them and restore the Premises to the original condition.

D. The indemnity responsibilities as described in Section 15 of this Agreement survive termination.

#### **8. UTILITIES:**

CEV, if owning the utility, agrees to arrange and pay the charges for all utility services provided or used in or at the Premises during the Term. CEV shall pay Host directly if service is owned by the Host.

#### **9. USE:**

CEV shall use and occupy the Premises during the Term for electric vehicle charging services. All use of the Premises by CEV shall comply with applicable codes, laws, and ordinances.

#### **10. CHARGING RATES:**

CEV shall not charge over 150% above the cost of delivered power.

#### **11. PAYMENT FOR CHARGING SERVICES:**

CEV shall share revenue generated from the EV Chargers in the amount of \$0.03 per kilowatt-hour payable on the tenth day of each quarter of the year. If the Term is renewed pursuant to Section 6 of this Agreement, during the first Renewal Term, CEV shall pay a quarterly revenue share to Host in the amount of \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour, payable on the tenth day of each quarter of the year. Payments shall be made via check unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties. CEV shall provide Host with provide a quarterly statement to show the operational/utilization data of the EV Chargers including the number of kilowatts delivered, the number of visits, the duration of each charge and the downtime when an EV Charger is not operational. CEV shall not collect personal data concerning the owners of the vehicles being charged

#### **12. MAINTENANCE:**

CEV shall be responsible for maintaining the EV Chargers and Host shall not have any liability for damage to the EV Chargers unless such damage is caused by Host's gross negligence or willful misconduct. CEV shall provide regularly scheduled inspections and preventative maintenance on the EV Chargers; regularly update software; and maintain the EV Chargers to avoid excessive downtime. The exterior of the EV Chargers, including the cables and electronic interface shall be maintained in a clean manner, free from dirt and grime. The cables shall be mechanically sound with no cracks or cuts. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Host must maintain the Premises and common areas of the Premises. Host agrees take reasonable efforts to ensure that charging stalls remain available as much as is reasonably feasible, during any parking lot maintenance by Host.

CEV may request footage from Host security cameras in the event of damage or suspected misuse to an EV Charger. Host shall have no responsibility for the use or maintenance of security cameras and other equipment to monitor the Premises. All site equipment installed in relation to the charging infrastructure shall be maintained in good condition for the entire term of the Agreement. CEV shall provide Host with a quarterly statement to show the operational/utilization data of the EV Chargers, including the number of kilowatts delivered, the number of visits, the duration of each charge and the downtime when an EV Charger is not operational. CEV shall not collect personal data concerning the owners of the vehicles being charged.

### **13. HOST COVENANTS:**

Host represents that it is the owner of the Premises and that this Agreement does not violate any agreement, lease or other commitment of Host. Host shall not take any action that would impair or interrupt the use of the Premises or the EV Chargers, except as necessary for Host to satisfy its obligations as a government entity. Host agrees to notify CEV within a commercially reasonable time if (i) it has knowledge of third-parties impairing or misusing the Premises or EV Chargers, or (ii) it obtains knowledge of a needed repair to the Premises or EV Chargers. If non-electric vehicle motorists repeatedly park in the stalls dedicated to the EV Chargers ("Dedicated Stalls"), thereby impairing use of the Dedicated Stalls, then the Parties shall together determine and implement an appropriate and effective strategy for preventing such impairment, including, without limitation, alternative signage and painted asphalt, for which CEV shall bear the entire cost. Host shall use commercially reasonable efforts to actively monitor the Premises to ensure that use of the EV Chargers is not impaired. CEV shall not be responsible for any consequential or delay claims and damages arising out of the sites in any fashion regardless whether or not said claims are foreseeable.

### **14. SIGNAGE:**

CEV signage to be installed at the Premises is represented in **Exhibit B** and shall include signs to identify Dedicated Stalls. Any material revisions or additions to the signage depicted in **Exhibit B** shall be subject to Host approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. All signage shall be professionally prepared, installed and maintained at CEV's expense.

### **15. INDEMNIFICATION:**

Except to the extent of any gross negligence or willful misconduct of Host, CEV hereby agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, the Premises, Host, its elected and appointed officials, employees, agents and representatives from all liability, damages, loss, costs and obligations, on account of or arising out of or alleged to have arisen out of any claim of any third party directly related to CEV's use of the Premises. CEV shall promptly remove or bond any liens placed on the Premises as a result of any claims for labor or materials furnished to or for CEV at or for use on the Premises.

### **16. DESTRUCTION:**

Upon total destruction of the Premises either Party shall terminate the Agreement by furnishing written Notice pursuant to Section 20 of this Agreement within thirty (30) days of such destruction.

**17. INSURANCE:**

CEV shall carry commercial general liability insurance with limits of not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for bodily injury or death. A certificate evidencing such insurance shall be delivered to Host upon completion of the EV Charger installation and from time to time thereafter as may be requested by Host. CEV shall name the City of South Lyon, its elected and appointed officials, employees and agents as additional insured on an endorsement to its commercial general liability and umbrella insurance policies. CEV will also carry worker's compensation insurance in accordance with state and federal law. It is understood and agreed by naming the City of South Lyon as additional insured, coverage afforded is considered to be primary and any other insurance the City of South Lyon may have in effect shall be considered secondary and/or excess.

**18. PUBLICITY:**

Neither Party will use the other Party's name, trademark or logo without such other Party's prior written consent.

**19. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:**

To the best of Host's knowledge, Host believes that the Premises is free of environmental contamination. CEV shall have no liability for any environmental contamination unless caused by CEV, its agents, employees or contractors.

## **NOTICES:**

All notices or demands shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly served or given only if delivered by prepaid (i) U.S. Mail, certified or registered, return receipt requested, or (ii) reputable, overnight courier service (such as UPS or FedEx) to the addresses of the respective parties as specified in this Section. Copies of such correspondence shall be delivered via email as well as a courtesy if an email address is provided, but email notification does not suffice as effective notice for the purpose of this Agreement. Host and CEV may change their respective addresses for notices by giving notice of such new address in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

### **City of South Lyon, to:**

Contact Name: Paul Zelenak

Position: City Manager

Address: 335 S. Warren St., South Lyon, MI

Email: [pzelenak@southlyonmi.org](mailto:pzelenak@southlyonmi.org)

Phone: (248) 437-1735

Contact Name: Nate Mack

Position: Director

Address: 335 S. Warren St., South Lyon, MI

Email: [nmack@southlyonmi.org](mailto:nmack@southlyonmi.org)

Phone: (947) 777-9355

### **CEV, to:**

Contact Name: Duane Lobbestael

Position: President

15045 Dixie Hwy Ste A, Holly, MI 48442

Email Address:  
[duane@statecontractingus.com](mailto:duane@statecontractingus.com)



## **20. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS:**

Either Party may assign this Agreement upon the consent of the other Party, which such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of Host and CEV and their respective successors and assigns.

## **21. ARBITRATION:**

If a dispute arises out of or relates to this Contract or the breach thereof or otherwise, and if the dispute cannot be settled through direct discussions the parties agree to first endeavor to settle the dispute by mediation under the construction industry mediation rules of the American Arbitration Association or privately before having recourse to arbitration. Thereafter, any remaining claims or disputes arising out of, or relating to, this Contract or the breach thereof shall be decided by arbitration in accordance with the most current Construction Industry.

## **22. GOVERNING LAW, JURISDICTION AND VENUE:**

Governing Law, Jurisdiction and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan without giving effect to any choice or conflict of law provision or rule (whether of the State of Michigan or any other jurisdiction) that would cause the application of laws of any jurisdiction other than those of the State of Michigan. Any legal suit, action or proceeding arising out of this Agreement or the matters contemplated hereunder shall be instituted in state court in Oakland County in the State of Michigan, and each Party irrevocably submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts in any such suit, action or proceeding and waives any objection based on improper venue or inconvenient forum. Service of process, summons, notice or other document by mail to such Party's address set forth herein shall be effective service of process for any suit, action or other proceeding brought in any such court.

## **23. VOLUNTARY AND INFORMED EXECUTION:**

The Parties acknowledge and agree that they have fully read, completely understand and voluntarily enter into and execute this Agreement, and acknowledge they have been represented and advised by counsel or had ample opportunity to be represented by counsel during the negotiations and drafting of this Agreement.

## **24. AMENDMENT:**

This Agreement may only be amended, modified or supplemented by an agreement in writing signed by each Party hereto.

## **25. SEVERABILITY:**

If any term or provision of this Agreement is invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, the Parties agree that such provision shall be adjusted or modified by the court to the extent necessary to cure that invalidity, and that such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other term or provision of this Agreement or invalidate or render unenforceable such term or provision in any other jurisdiction.

**26. COUNTERPARTS:**

This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together will constitute one agreement. Signed copies transmitted electronically in PDF or similar format shall be treated as originals.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties hereto have each caused an authorized representative to execute this Agreement as of the Effective Date first written below.

**Charge EV, LLC.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Duane Lobbestael**  
**Its: President**

**City of South Lyon (“Host”):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Paul Zelenak**  
**Its: Manager**  
**Effective Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**By: Lisa Deaton**  
**Its: Clerk**

**EXHIBIT A**  
**THE PREMISES**

**LAFAYETTE PARK**

Parcel ID: 80-21-30-232-016

Address: 390 S. Lafayette St.

Equipment: (1) pedestal ((2) 80-Amp Chargers)

**McHATTIE PARK- PARKING I**

Parcel ID: 80-21-30-277-023

Address: 502 Washington

Equipment: (1) pedestal ((2) 80-Amp Chargers)

**McHATTIE PARK**

Parcel ID: 80-21-30-277-020

Address: 300 Dorothy St.

Equipment: (1) pedestal ((2) 80-Amp Chargers)

**WHIPPLE STREET**

Parcel Id: 80-21-19-476-007

Address: 220 Whipple St.

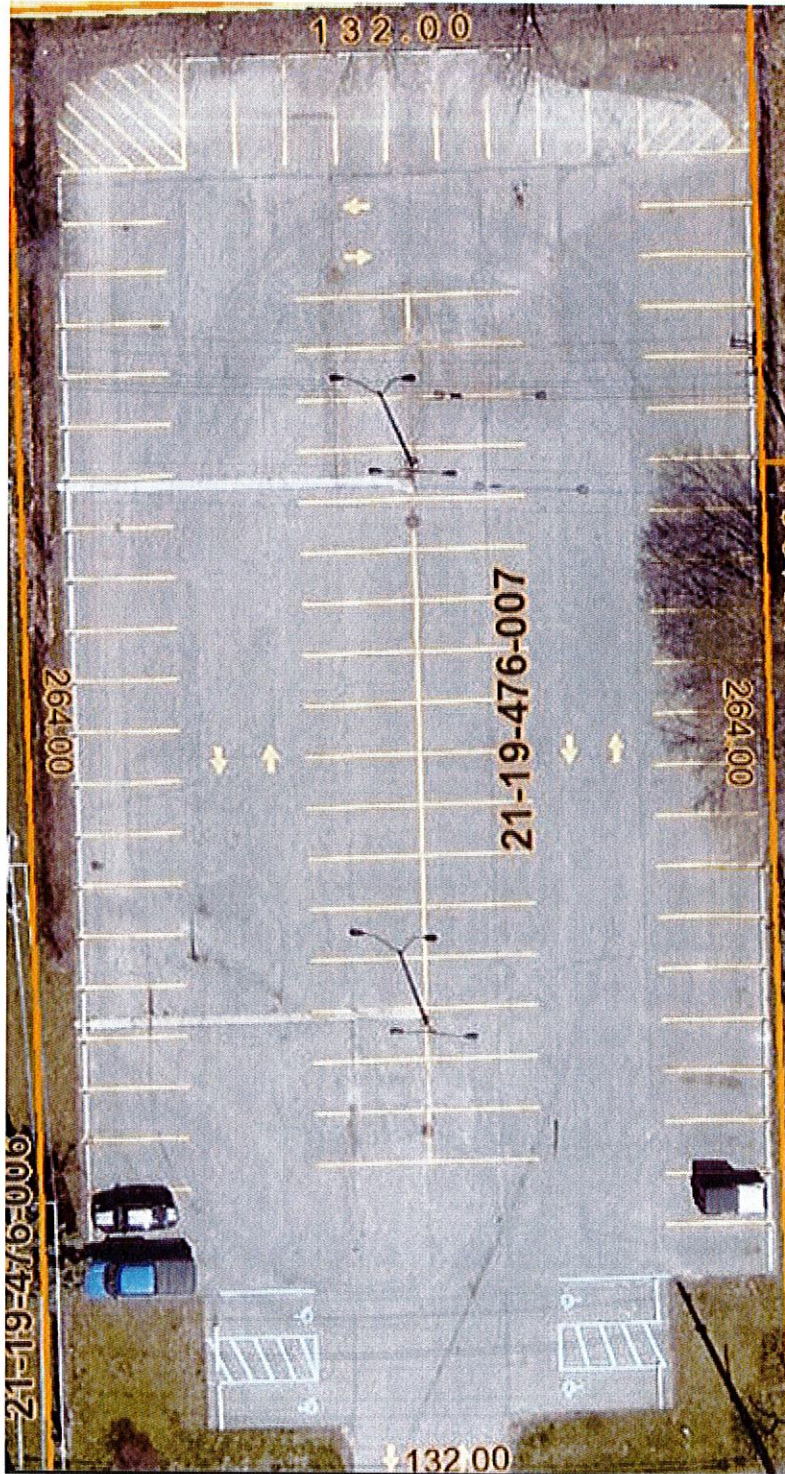
Equipment: (1) pedestal ((2) 80-Amp Chargers)

**WELLS STREET**

Parcel ID: 80-21-20-360-026

Address: 127 Wells St.

Equipment: (2) pedestal ((4) 80-Amp Chargers)



**WELLS STREET**

Parcel ID: 80-21-20-360-026

Address: 127 Wells St.

Owner: City of South Lyon

**EXHIBIT A  
THE PREMISES**









# **LAFAYETTE PARK**

Parcel ID: 80-21-30-232-016

Address: 390 S. Lafayette St.

Owner: City of South Lyon

## EXHIBIT B SIGNAGE CHARGING STATIONS

12" x 18" sign



EV Charging Parking Spaces will be clearly signed and striped to indicate reserved spaces.

Post height will be no taller than 72" h, Panel sign will be 12" w x 18" h x .125" d

# **AGENDA NOTE**

New Business # 2

**MEETING DATE:** September 25, 2023

**PERSON PLACING ITEM ON AGENDA:** City Manager

**AGENDA TOPIC:** No Mow May Discussion

**EXPLANATION OF TOPIC:** For several months we have had brief discussions and received information on No Mow May. I have included several articles on No Mow May, listing the pros and the cons of the possibility of initiation of this in South Lyon. Please review the material and prepare to discuss the options we have on this subject, whether we, do nothing, create a No Mow May policy, change our ordinance or consider some additional option.

**MATERIALS ATTACHED AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Current City Ordinance on noxious weeds. No Mow May articles, including pros and cons.

**POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION:** To give direction to City Manager and staff on how to move forward with options.

**SUGGESTED MOTION(s):** None

## ARTICLE II. - WEEDS

### Sec. 98-31. - Unlawful to permit noxious weeds.

It shall be unlawful for the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any lot or parcel of land within the City of South Lyon to permit or allow to grow thereon any weeds of any kind (including grasses and similar plants exceeding eight inches in height) scattered among which are noxious weeds such as Canada thistles, dodders, mustards, wild carrot, bindweed, perennial sowthistles, hoary alyssum, ragweed, poison ivy, poison sumac, or any other plant or varieties of plant which are recognized as inducing hay fever or other diseases, or being in any other way deleterious to the health or comfort of the community. The presence of such weeds upon any lot or parcel of land within the limits of the City of South Lyon is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

(Code 1988, § 9.31; Ord. of 2-8-10(2))

### Sec. 98-32. - Duty to cut weeds.

It is hereby made the duty of the owner or occupant of land or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any lands within the limits of the City of South Lyon upon which weeds, as described in section 98-31, are growing or standing, to cause to be cut or destroyed by spray all such weeds growing or standing on said premises during the first half of the month of May and during the last half of the month of September of each year, or more often if necessary to prevent them from going to seed. If any owner or occupant of land or any person or persons, firm, or corporation having charge of lands in this city shall knowingly suffer any weeds described in section 98-31 to grow upon said lands to a height of eight inches or shall suffer the weeds to ripen so as to cause or endanger the spread thereof, he or they shall, upon conviction in any court of competent jurisdiction, be liable to the penalty prescribed in chapter 1.

(Code 1988, § 9.32; Ord. of 2-8-10(2))

### Sec. 98-34. - Cost to be charged against owner.

The city clerk shall keep a record of the cost of cutting the weeds upon each separate lot and parcel of land by the city, and shall notify the owner or occupant of the said premises by ordinary mail or otherwise, if the address of such owner or occupant be known, that the city has cut or caused to be cut and destroyed the weeds upon said premises in accordance with the provisions of this article, together with a statement of the amount due the city. If the cost and charges due the city for cutting and destroying weeds upon any lot or parcel of land in accordance with the provisions of this article shall not have been collected on or before December 31 of the year in which the expense was incurred by the city, the same shall be reported by the city clerk to the council to be collected by a special assessment, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of South Lyon and chapter 78.

(Code 1988, § 9.34)

### Sec. 98-35. - Violations and penalties.

In addition to the costs that may be assessed against a person pursuant to section 98-34, any person, firm, or corporation violating a provision of this article shall be deemed responsible for committing a municipal civil infraction.

(Ord. of 11-28-94(26), § 1(9.35)) Secs. 98-36—98-60. - Reserved.

**Sec. 18-112. - Additions, insertions and changes.**

**The following sections of the *International Property Maintenance Code*, 2012 edition, are hereby revised as follows:**

*Section 302.4. Weeds.* All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of eight (8) inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice of violation, they shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with Section 106.3 and as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the jurisdiction or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property.



## Information for the Discussion of a "No Mow May" Ordinance

### Introduction:

"No Mow May" is an environmental initiative that allows residents to refrain from mowing their lawns during the month of May. This practice has been adopted by multiple cities in Michigan to support biodiversity, especially for pollinators like bees and butterflies. The "No Mow May" initiative offers numerous environmental benefits and the potential for cost savings for residents.

No Mow May encourages the natural growth of native plants and provides vital habitat for pollinators during the crucial month of May. This initiative is designed to create a collaborative effort among homeowners, the city, and local businesses to contribute to environmental conservation.

It's essential for the City Council to weigh these factors carefully and consider the recommendations provided for a balanced and effective approach to this initiative. Below are points for discussion of the potential advantages and concerns of introducing a "No Mow May" ordinance in South Lyon, Michigan. In addition, several articles follow which highlight how several cities in Michigan are approaching this initiative.

### Advantages of "No Mow May"

- *Supports Biodiversity:* Longer grass can provide habitats for a diverse range of flora and fauna, including native wildflowers, insects, and birds.
- *Boosts Pollinators:* Bees and butterflies rely on longer grass and wildflowers as a source of food. With declining bee populations worldwide, such initiatives can offer local support to these essential creatures.
- *Carbon Sequestration:* Longer grass captures more carbon from the atmosphere than closely mown grass, helping to combat climate change.
- *Reduction in Air and Noise Pollution:* Less mowing means fewer emissions from gasoline-powered mowers and reduced noise pollution.
- *Water Conservation:* Longer grass can retain more moisture, reducing the need for frequent watering and thereby conserving water.
- *Natural Beauty:* Wildflower meadows and longer grasses can enhance the aesthetic beauty of the city and offer residents a closer connection to nature.
- *Cost Savings for Residents:* Residents will save on fuel, equipment maintenance, and watering costs.

### Concerns and Mitigations

- *Appearance and Tidiness:* Some residents might be concerned about the unkempt appearance of longer grass.
  - Mitigation: Offer guidance on managing longer lawns to keep them tidy, and promote the idea that wild gardens are purposeful and ecologically rich.
- *Allergies:* Longer grass can exacerbate allergies for some individuals.
  - Mitigation: Recommend mowing paths or small areas for recreational purposes and promote the planting of low-allergy plants.

- *Fire Hazard:* Dry and tall grass can be a fire hazard in certain conditions.
  - Mitigation: Provide guidelines on maintaining a safe lawn, especially during drier periods.
- *Pests:* Some believe that longer grass might harbor pests like ticks or rodents.
  - Mitigation: Educate the public on safe practices, such as using natural repellents, and encourage regular lawn checks.
- *Existing / conflicting rules:* There may HOA rules from some neighborhoods against tall grass that would conflict with this initiative.
  - Mitigation: Reach out to HOAs for discussion of this initiative.

#### **Thoughts for Council discussion:**

- *Public Education:* Launch a public awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of "No Mow May" and address common concerns.
- *Limit areas:* allow No Mow May only in certain areas of lawns, such as only in back yards.
- *Provide Resources:* Offer resources, like workshops or pamphlets, on maintaining a longer lawn, managing allergies, and ensuring safety.
- *Collaboration with Local Groups:* Partner with environmental and gardening groups in the city for support and expertise.
- *Registration:* Consider asking those who want to participate to register their intent with the city and receive guidelines and best practices information what they need to do to be in compliance, including posting signage
- *Establish Public Natural Growth Areas:* Designate areas for native plants in our parks to attract native pollinators
- *Change Limit Length:* Change ordinance to a higher no vegetation shall be permitted at a height greater than 12 inches.
- *Pilot Program:* Conduct a pilot program in selected neighborhoods to assess the impact and community response to a "No Mow May."
- *Periodic Review:* After the first year, review the outcomes of the initiative and gather feedback from residents.

---

## **Articles discussing some Michigan Cities Approaches to No Mow May**

### **More Michigan cities partake in No Mow May 2023: What to know**

Nour Rahal, *Detroit Free Press*

No Mow May, an annual conservation program, advocates reducing or temporarily suspending yardwork—especially lawn mowing—to keep early spring pollinators safe until they emerge for the season.

"Mowing less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and other pollinators," according to nonprofit Bee City USA. "The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerged native bees. Floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing it to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, your lawn can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive."

Plus, it's one less chore to worry about!

*A growing movement, even in Michigan*

Each year, more and more cities are participating in No Mow May.

**Ferndale and Hazel Park** were the latest metro Detroit cities to officially join the movement.

In a news release on April 18, the City of Ferndale encouraged its residents to register for the program and pick up a lawn sign at Ferndale City Hall.

**East Lansing also began participating in No Mow May this year, while Royal Oak and Ann Arbor joined the movement in 2022.**

In Ferndale, East Lansing and Royal Oak, grass and weeds codes will be suspended until June 1; property owners will not be penalized for keeping their lawns untended. Hazel Park residents will not be ticketed until May 22nd.

**Although Detroit is not officially participating in No Mow May, Director of Media Relations, John Roach, said the city's Building Safety, Engineering & Environmental Department (BSEED) does not plan on going out to look for uncut lawns during May.**

"However, if a neighbor makes a complaint, (BSEED) will investigate," Roach said. "If a ticket is written, **BSEED also will consider canceling the ticket if the individual indicates they are observing No Mow May** and has not had any prior violations for failing to maintain their property."

A lack of mowing also means a reduction in noise pollution, fuel emissions and soil compaction, according to the city of Ferndale news release. Less soil compaction offers better infiltration of stormwater.

How did No Mow May start?

Plantlife, a United Kingdom conservation charity, started the movement in 2019 to restore bee, butterfly and wildflower populations.

No Mow May reached the United States in 2020. Residents of Appleton, Wisconsin "convinced their City Council to suspend their weed ordinance for the month of May. Over 435 registered property owners participated that year," according to Bee City USA. Since 2020, participants have increased across the U.S.

*Things to keep in mind*

"Pollinators, especially bees, provide us with valuable services by pollinating plants that contribute to food production and beautify our landscape," according to Michigan State University researchers. "Disturbingly, there is increasing evidence that many important pollinator species are in decline."

We rely on bees to pollinate our apples, cherries, peaches, plums, berries, watermelon, broccoli, cucumbers, pumpkins, peppers and much more.

A bee feeds on a flower in the Lafayette Greens garden in Detroit on Sep. 2, 2022.

Here are some tips to keep in mind if you participate in No Mow May or plan on helping, long-term:

- Check your city's grass and weeds rules before participating. If your lawn gets too tall, you might get fined if your city is not officially observing No Mow May.
  - Contact local government officials and encourage them to recognize No Mow May in your city and suspend grass and weeds penalties in May.
  - When you go to cut the tall grass again in June, avoid damaging your lawn mower by raising the blade height or using a string trimmer first. Follow the one-third lawn care rule.
  - To keep the effort going past No Mow May, reduce mowing all spring and summer. According to Popular Science, lawns mowed biweekly rather than weekly have higher bee abundance.
  - Reduce your use of fertilizers, sprays and pesticides to allow pollinators to flourish, according to Bee City USA.
  - Plant native plants in your yard to attract native pollinators. A list highlighting the best plants in the Great Lakes Region can be found [here](#).
  - Consider turning your lawn into a bee garden. If you're really committed, eliminate your grass yard and build a permanent pollinator garden to provide a thriving habitat to native bees, butterflies, bugs and plants. Popular Science offers a guide to planting your own bee garden.
- 

### **'No Mow May' movement aims to protect Michigan pollinators**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WOOD) — As temperatures begin to warm across Michigan, many are getting ready for the first mow of the season. Experts say to do the opposite.

The "No Mow May" movement is encouraging people to skip mowing during the month of May. The goal is to give plants and weeds a bit more time to grow, providing food for pollinators.

"Pollinators are emerging in the spring in most areas of the country. They're hungry and need food," said Laura Rost, the Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA coordinator.

Rost says she understands that "No Mow May" isn't for everyone.

### **No fines for uncut lawns this month in Kalamazoo**

"Mowing less throughout the season would be ideal. You don't have to go a full month of not mowing to help pollinators. It could just be mowing less, every two weeks or every three weeks," she said.

About 40% of pollinator species on Earth are at risk for extinction in the coming years due to habitat loss, exposure to pesticides, disease and climate change. Loss of pollinators would have huge impacts on the food supply chain.

"Not only do they (bees) help 85% of all flowering plants reproduce, but they're also responsible for 67% of agricultural crops we enjoy," said Rost. "Bees are typically responsible for every one out of three bites of food we eat."

Those who can't participate in "No Mow May" are encouraged to plant native Michigan plants like the blazing star flower or the golden Alexander.



"There's this whole wide world of bees and they all have different needs. If we plant native plants, we are more likely to be giving them food that is the quality that they've adapted or evolved to want and need," said Rost.

Reduced usage of pesticides will help protect the nearly 3,600 bee species in the United States this spring. Rost encourages people to find a space on their property that will allow stop-over sites for pollinators.

"Some people will feel that it doesn't work for them, but we hope that 'No Mow May' is one way people can start to accept a wilder landscape in their neighborhood and start reflecting on how to manage their property," she said.

---

### **Jackson beekeeper shows off benefits of 'No Mow May'**

JACKSON, Mich. (WLNS) — If you're driving around mid-Michigan, you might notice some lawns looking a bit longer than usual.

**Both East Lansing and Jackson are taking part in No Mow May** in an effort to help out the environment.

For Jackson County beekeeper Justin Fairchild, it's helping out hundreds of thousands of friends buzzing around his back yard.

"It's really fun to see how your colony grows," said Fairchild. "They become like a pet to you."

Fairchild has eight hives on his property.

"There's been about a 70% decline in their [bees] population over the last 20 years and without bees, it becomes immensely more difficult for our food supply," Fairchild explained. "Their pollination provides 1/3 to 2/3 of our food."

To help, Fairchild hasn't cut his grass in more than a year.

He said it's all to make sure there's more food for these bees to go around, especially this month.

"It's crucial for pollinators in general because this first month while there is the growing season all they really have to eat is dandelions to get their nectar or pollen."

Fairchild is also working to get conservatories set up around Jackson County. It's a project that he hopes not only creates sustainability and a stronger environment, but also one that encourages others in the community to take up beekeeping.

"Bees tend to cover 3 mile radius from their hive," said Fairchild. "So you are going to see a lot more flowers as far as agriculture goes."

With hives on one's property, Fairchild said that not only does the quantity of produce increase, but so does the quality, thanks to those black and yellow striped pollinators.

So, for now, Fairchild has a message.



“Don’t mow your lawns.”

And in the process, you get to help out the small, but important friends.

“We need to do better. We can be better.”

Plan on letting your grass grow? There’s some things that you should know.

If you live in East Lansing, the City mandated that grass and weeds be maintained to ensure that a child, person in a wheelchair or a person walking a bike can stay visible to drivers. Grass and weeds must not intrude on the right-of way in such a manner as to create a hazard for pedestrians using a sidewalk.

If you live in Jackson, no mowing only pertains to backyards. Yard enforcement will return June 1.

---

### **‘No Mow May 2.0.’ Ann Arbor encourages residents to let lawns grow up to a foot tall**

ANN ARBOR, MI — After inspiring residents to let their grass grow tall for No Mow May last year, Ann Arbor officials are espousing a similar but slightly different message for 2023.

City Council unanimously adopted a resolution in support of protecting pollinator habitat Monday night, April 3, directing City Administrator Milton Dohoney to encourage property owners to reduce mowing and maintain lawn heights between 6 and 12 inches, particularly during spring months.

“Pollinator populations are in decline around the world due to habitat loss, alteration, fragmentation, as well as pesticides,” said Council Member Dharma Akmon, D-4th Ward, who introduced the resolution from the city’s Environmental Commission.

“The state of Michigan alone has seen a 61% drop in its bee population over the span of 15 years, so this is really important that we all act in ways that we can to protect pollinators,” she said.

Council also directed Dohoney to encourage property owners to reduce leaf raking and cleanup in the fall and to increase diverse native plantings while following pest-management practices that steer away from harmful chemical pesticides.

Council Member Lisa Disch, D-1st Ward, co-sponsored the resolution, which she dubbed “No Mow May 2.0.”

“Pollinators are essential to maintaining food chains for all creatures who live on Earth,” she wrote in her latest constituent newsletter, thanking the Environmental Commission’s Pollinator Working Group for its work on the issue.

The city will develop an education campaign to inform residents how to make Ann Arbor more hospitable to bees and other pollinators, Disch said.

Akmon called it an evolution of No Mow May, which a lot of residents got excited about participating in last year. Residents put up No Mow May signs and let their lawns go wild, leaving dandelions and other wild flowers for pollinators.

“We did learn some things from that effort — namely that, depending on the rain, we probably don’t need to literally stop mowing our lawn for the entire month,” Akmon said. “There were some quite, quite long lawns out there.”

A monoculture of turf grass that’s really long isn’t ultimately what the city is going for, Akmon added, suggesting a concentrated effort on year-round practices to create and protect pollinator habits, including replacing turf grass with native flowering plants.

“Bees and other pollinators touch our lives every day in ways that we probably don’t realize or we take for granted,” she said. “For example, they’re responsible for as much as a third of the food that we consume, so a world without them is one in which we have fewer food choices and the ones that we have, have less nutrition.”

Research suggests pollinators make use of less-intensively maintained lawn spaces, the council resolution states.

“Reduced frequency of mowing has been shown to have direct and indirect benefits to pollinator species, including: availability of more floral resources, less production of emissions from fossil fuel powered equipment, reduced noise from powered equipment, reduced compaction of soil, and associated improved stormwater infiltration,” it states.

Research also suggests pollinators and other invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and hollow stems of native plants for cover and insulation during winter months, the resolution states.

Officials noted letting a lawn grow up to a foot tall is in compliance with the city’s ordinance governing vegetation on private property, which states, “On private property, outside of a cultivated bed or planned natural landscape, no vegetation shall be permitted at a height greater than 12 inches.”

---

## **Lansing pushes back on 'No Mow May,' issues 1,400 tall grass tickets**

LANSING — For many homeowners, some as nearby as East Lansing, May serves as the return of an annual tradition: “No Mow May.”

It’s a grass-roots, no pun intended, initiative through which homeowners pause their regular mowing schedules in the month of May to help provide pollinating insects, like bees and butterflies, with the natural resources they need.

According to Bee City USA, a group supporting No Mow May, tightly mowed, grass-only lawns normally provide few benefits insects require. A number of Michigan cities, including, Royal Oak, Ann Arbor, Ferndale and Hazel Park, have embraced the effort.

“The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerged native bees,” they write. “Floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing it to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, your lawn can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive.”

Lansing, however, isn't just not participating — city officials and inspectors are pushing back against the buzz and issuing tickets. Honey pots full of them, and the fines are juicy.

Since the beginning of May, the city has sent more than 1,400 notices for overgrown grass and weeds to property owners as of this week, according to the mayor's communications director, Scott Bean.

Grass notices are sprouting faster than last year, when the city issued 1,499 notices in the entire month of May.

The city stands by its policies regarding lawn length.

"In the mayor's office we hear many, many more complaints about overgrown grass and weeds than we do about not enforcing in the month of May," Bean said in an email. He estimated hundreds of complaints about overgrown lawns had come into the office compared to about a dozen contacts regarding No Mow May.

Bean also emphasized that the decision to suspend enforcement of a city ordinance would have to be voted on by the City Council, which it has not considered publicly.

Emily Frankman, a resident of the Westside neighborhood, said she received a notice to mow her lawn after about two weeks' of growth.

Frankman kept her house's front yard mowed, but decided to let the back grow out to support local pollinators. She and her husband knew the city hadn't adopted a No Mow May ordinance but thought keeping their public facing yard in check would suffice.



No Mow May has been buzzing lately in the media and probably on your social media. This movement began in the UK and is intended to help increase our bee population. As an organic lawn care company with a sustainable landscape design focus, we love that people are caring about the environment and especially trying to help our pollinators. That's what we've been about for the past 17 years! While we love the idea of this movement, it does present some real issues for those of you with lawns, and we don't think it achieves the long-term solution that we'd like to see happen, such as creating a native garden or a rain garden to more permanently increase pollinator and wildlife habitat and pollen sources. Typically, our lawns aren't great sources for pollinators or wildlife habitat, unless yours is covered with dandelions and clover. And luckily, our Greenwise lawns are already safe for pollinators, which certainly isn't the case for most homeowners. Obviously one of the most important ways to save our pollinators is to not use pesticides or herbicides (as Greenwise clients, you can check that off your list as done). Did you know you are in the vast minority when it comes to wanting an organic, safe approach to your lawn? According to [Beyond Pesticides](#), 78 million U.S. households use home and garden pesticides. That's more than the agricultural industry uses, which is frankly hard to fathom. More than 90 million pounds of herbicides are applied to lawns and gardens every year! As Greenwise customers, you can be proud that you are not contributing to that ugly statistic, and you are already helping Mother Earth one yard at a time.

## The Pros of Not Mowing in May

You may have heard that Appleton, WI experimented with No Mow May in 2020. According to a [study](#), the yards that weren't mowed for the month had three times higher bee species richness and five times more bees than the regularly mowed lawns. What we don't know about those lawns is whether they

were chemically treated before doing this experiment. Given how many yards are treated with pesticides, we can presume they might have been. In any case, we are thrilled to see bee populations thriving in that area, and hope that ~~those~~ homeowners change how they see their lawns—natural habitats rather than striving for golf course perfection. **Want a more sustainable solution to No Mow May?** How about planting native gardens as a lawn alternative? It's a great long-term solution to enhancing our bee population, as well as our other beloved pollinators. Maybe you can reduce the size of your lawn to accommodate a small native garden, filled with easy-to-maintain perennials that will thrive in our area and help our pollinators populate.





Our landscape designers can help you design and build a garden that works for you. Or, maybe you'll decide to allow growth in a part of your yard—there might be a back corner that would work well for letting the grass grow unattended.

Here's an example of one of our clients who chose a low-maintenance approach



to their lawn with seagrasses and perennials. We have lots of ideas for how you can quickly or slowly transform your yard into a natural habitat.

# The Cons of Not Mowing in May

We've been getting a lot of rain this spring, which is great for our plants and wildlife, and means our grass will grow! When you allow grass to grow long and then suddenly cut it, the mowing can send grass into shock. Grass roots become diminished and your lawn weakens, making it susceptible to insects and diseases. *There are a lot of unwanted pests that love tall grass, such as mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks.* Typically, our residential turfgrasses offer little to no biodiversity. Any flowers for pollinators in our lawns (dandelions, clover) are typically deemed unwanted or invasive. We know clover (and others) do have ecological value, but the majority of Evanston property owners do not have a clover dominant yard. By the end of the month, especially with all this rain, your lawn could be about a foot long and difficult to clean up. The base of the grass may yellow, and when it is mowed, some of the lawn may brown-out from the stress (see image below).



It will most likely require a serious cleanup to get it back in shape. It will need to be mowed and raked and mowed and raked again. For our maintenance



clients, this will incur additional fees. We are concerned it may damage the lawn in areas because the grass will get so long that it will flop over on top of itself, shading itself out and potentially causing dead spots. Some spots may need spot seeding.



Most of our clients live in residential neighborhoods and while you might be okay with a wild lawn, your neighbors might not be so thrilled, as it lacks curb appeal, especially if someone is trying to sell their home next door or down the street. One of our biggest concerns (not with our clients) is that the general public will allow their lawns to go untended for the month of May and find their lawns get infested with weeds, which they will then treat with herbicides or pesticides, which brings us back full circle to harming our pollinators.



I found a blog called [Gardenrant](#) that's written by a garden writer, teacher and activist in the Washington, D.C. area. She is not a fan of the movement and



below are some sources she quotes. She also plans to photograph lawns in the month of May to document how they are doing, so it might be interesting to check in and see what she's discovered. According to the University of Maryland, "Infrequent mowing allows the turf to grow too tall. Subsequent mowing removes too much leaf surface and may shock the plants. ...Removing larger amounts of leaf surface may result in physiological shock to the plant, cause excessive graying or browning of leaf tips, and greatly curtail photosynthesis reducing the health of the grass." Sylvia Thompson-Hacker, one of the administrators of the popular (25K+ members around the world) Garden Professors Blog Facebook Group, had this to say: "No mow' doesn't necessarily mean more benefits to pollinators. The assumption that plants blooming in the lawn are attractive to pollinators is fallacious. But let's assume there are plants attractive to bees on the lawn. The controlling point is the turf mix percentage, the grass: blooming forbs ratio. Not mowing and allowing them to bloom more would be a benefit to insects, that makes sense. But if the lawn is largely grass allowing it to grow long won't provide the same profit. Plus letting grass get too long between mowings isn't good for the grass itself."

## Encouraging Long-Term Pollinator Solutions

We do love the attention our pollinators are getting with No Mow May—we all need to care a lot more about them—we just want to encourage a long-term solution that is truly meaningful and not one that makes us feel good for a month. We'd like to see cities and villages encourage their homeowners to stop spraying herbicides. Now, *that* will make a difference in our health, our pollinators' health, and Mother Earth. Please reach out with any questions. Your Greenwise team is here to help you! *Photo by Sarah Elizabeth Larson @selfoto*

HOME > GARDENING > OUTDOOR GARDENING

# Here's What to Know About the "No Mow May" Movement

It's intended to support pollinators, like bees and butterflies—but people have divided opinions.

By [Morgan Noll](#) Published on May 6, 2023

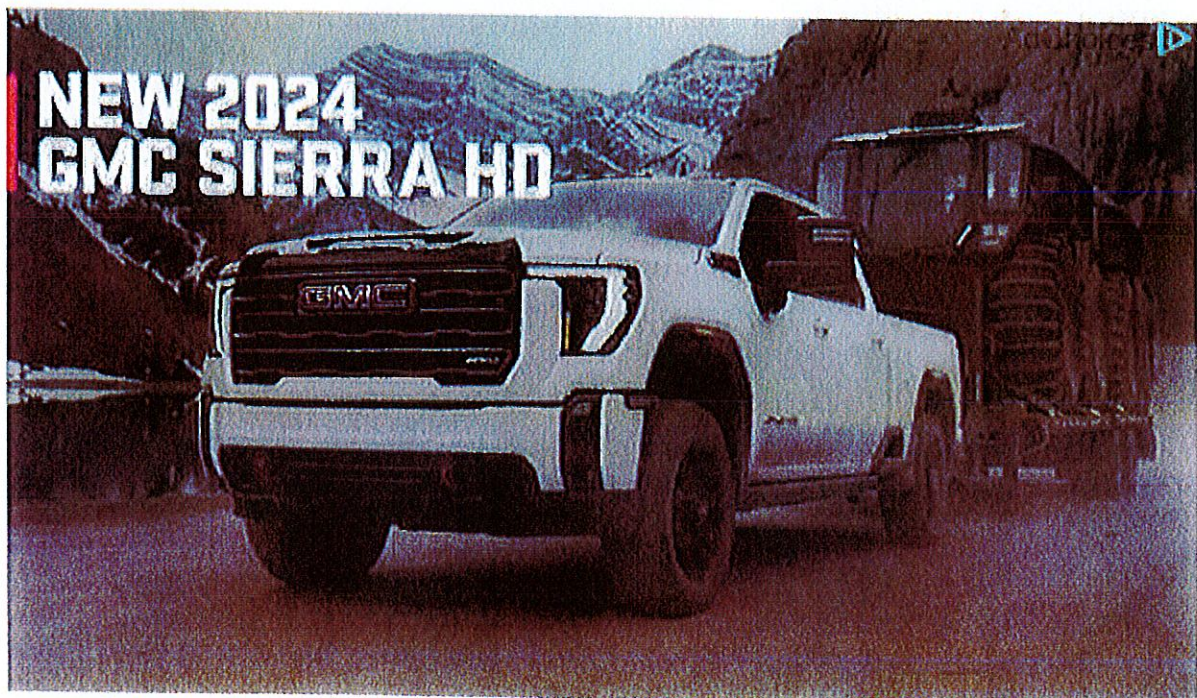


## In This Article

What is No Mow May?

The Pros of No Mow May

The Cons of No Mow May





allowing your grass to grow beyond a certain height. So it's no surprise that there's some controversy surrounding a movement called "No Mow May" that's encouraging people not to mow their lawns for the entirety of the month of May. However, the divide in opinions on this movement isn't just about keeping up lawn appearances—it's about pollinators. Keep reading to learn more about No Mow May, how it started, and what people are saying about its pros and cons.

RELATED: [Beautiful, No-Mow Alternatives to a Grass Lawn](#)

## What is No Mow May?

No Mow May is a campaign that started in 2019 in the United Kingdom by [Plantlife](#), a conservation charity. The group's mission is to "secure a world rich in wild plants and fungi" for the health of the environment. No Mow May, which, as stated above, calls for people to leave their lawns untouched for the month of May, is an extension of that mission statement. [Research](#) has shown that consistently mowed lawns can diminish biodiversity, as they don't provide vital food for pollinators, like bees and butterflies. So, the purpose behind No Mow May is to allow grass and wildflowers to grow unbothered for a month to create habitats and food sources for early-season pollinators—when other flowers are scarce.

The No Mow May movement has started to gain more popularity in the United States. In 2020, Appleton, Wisc., became the first locality to create an ordinance giving people a choice not to mow their lawns in May—and more and more communities have started participating.

However, there is some debate as to whether the movement is as helpful to pollinators as it intends to be. Keep reading for more.

## The Pros of No Mow May

individuals can participate in the effort. As the Plantlife campaign page explains, "even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities, and the climate."

### Save the Bees

No Mow May can play a part in supporting initiatives to save the bees. Bees are crucial to healthy ecosystems, because, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, in the United States, more than one-third of all crop production requires insect pollination—and honeybee colonies are our primary pollinators. So it's a circular relationship between us and the bees: We help provide food for them; they help provide food for us.

### Reduce Pollution

Reducing the frequency of lawn mowing can also help decrease pollution. According to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), one hour operating a new gasoline lawn mower emits the same amount of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxide driving a new car 45 miles.

### Strengthen Lawns and Use Less Water

Mowing your grass too often or too short can have adverse affects on your lawn—weakening it and limiting its nutrient supply. So, reducing the frequency of mowing can also help to strengthen your lawn and make it more drought tolerant—which, in turn, helps conserve water.

**RELATED:** [Stop Believing These 9 Lawn Care Myths—Try These Tips Instead](#)

## The Cons of No Mow May

The most significant critiques of No Mow May aren't coming from anti-environmentalists or pollinator-haters. In fact, it's the opposite. Critics of No Mow May have concerns that the movement could be unintentionally



[The Wall Street Journal](#) spoke with Doug Tallamy, a University of Delaware professor who has a Ph.D. in entomology, for his opinion on the month-long movement. As the article states, "Dr. Tallamy sees little logic in letting lawns grow longer for a few weeks. If people simply let their grass grow for a month and then revert to a clipped green monoculture, they are teasing pollinators with short-term snacks followed by starvation, he said."

Another expert, Tamson Yeh, turf specialist with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County in New York, told [The Associated Press](#) that she also finds the short-term solution counterproductive. "Bees tell each other where the food is, and pollinators—when they discover an unmown lawn—will remember to come back to it again and again," Yeh told the outlet. "Then on June 1st, when the food disappears, it's not good for them." She added that pollinators can get confused when the grass is suddenly low again, giving predators more opportunity to take advantage of them.

These experts, and other critics of the No Mow May movement, advocate instead for providing more permanent [habitats for pollinators](#). This can be done by replacing lawns—or at least part of them—with native plants and trees that will feed pollinators all season long.

RELATED: [How to Create a Pollinator-Friendly Garden](#)

Was this page helpful?



## Related Articles





LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE | 4 min read

May 2023

## WANT TO DITCH YOUR LAWN? CONSIDER THE PROS, CONS AND ALTERNATIVES OF NO MOW MAY

Monique Allen & Nina O'Brien



*Front lawn - Organic Turf & Dutch White Clover Blend*



More than any fruit or vegetable, lawns are the largest irrigated crop grown in the United States. According to a satellite imaging study conducted by NASA, lawns cover an area six-times the size of Massachusetts. That study was conducted nearly two decades ago. Imagine how much land area lawns cover today? It seems irresponsible considering the cost of food and the decline of pollinators.

If you maintain a lawn, the effort and money (not to mention the water) might seem justifiable if you spend time entertaining or playing out there, but if your primary goal is to keep up with the Joneses, it might be time to re-prioritize.

## NO MOW MAY: FLEETING MEME OR PERMANENT LIFESTYLE CHANGE?

Enter, No Mow May. It's a meme movement you may have seen on social media. The movement's purpose is to take back habitats for native pollinators, but the problem is that it's temporary. Unless you're willing to stick with a pro pollinator regimen for the remaining eleven months out of the year, you may as well have mowed in May.

Somewhere deep down in our psyche having a neat lawn is tantamount to success. The first grass lawns were seeded as status symbols for members of the European aristocracy. Last time I checked, there were no aristocrats living in my neighborhood (How about you?). And, yet the state of our lawns somehow still represents our status.

They tell passers by a bit about our socio-economic ranking and are indicative of whether or not we're living the American Dream. The uniformity of lawns are a signal to others that we want to belong and that we're upstanding members of the community. Some people may feel they don't have a choice. Many neighborhoods impose strict rules on lawn maintenance, but much of the desire and motivation falls on our own shoulders.



Click to Tweet: [Is No Mow May worth the hype? Learn about the pros and cons of this initiative, and discover some](#)



alternatives for a healthier yard!" #NoMowMay #LawnCare  
#Sustainability

If you think you're not willing to live amongst the weeds, No Mow May isn't for you. No Mow May allows Mother Nature to reclaim her territory - but gives humans permission to take it back on June 1st. At that point, you'll either love the meadow in your front yard, or you'll be running to the nearest home improvement store in search of weed killer to suppress the creeping Charlie, clover, dandelions and violets that have infiltrated your once pristine swath of green.

Neighbors will talk. It's up to you not to buckle under pressure. A recent New York Times article titled, "In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees," written by Anne Readel described the plight of one woman who committed to No Mow May. Her grass got so long, her neighbors called the police because they thought she died! Do the research, know the facts and be willing to educate the community about why you made the decision. Your lesson might just resonate with that nosy neighbor.





Geranium cantabridgiense 'Biokovo' - a great plant to cover land that could have been lawn

## BREAKING TRADITION: TRANSFORMING YOUR YARD WITH SUSTAINABLE LAWN ALTERNATIVES

If letting your lawn grow seems too crazy, try eliminating a patch of grass and replacing it with a perennial garden bed. It's a perfect alternative. Not only will the pollinators love it, but it will be a beautiful addition to your yard.

The best thing about native perennial beds is that the flowers come back year after year. You'll have to water until the roots are established, but because native perennials have adapted to your local environment over time, very little maintenance is required. Every other year, you may have to divide plants if they outgrow their space, but it's worth it. I don't know about you, but free plants sound way better than a boring patch of grass!



Click to Tweet: Tired of the traditional manicured lawn? Check out these alternative lawn care practices that can benefit both your yard and the environment!" #LawnCare #Sustainability #NativePlants

Planting trees is another great alternative. Trees provide shade, improve air quality, reduce soil erosion, and create habitats for wildlife. Native trees are usually the best choice because (you guessed it) they require less maintenance and they have a better chance of thriving. Before planting, make sure your tree will have enough room to grow and mature. And, finally consider adding mulch or other ground cover around the base of the tree to suppress weeds and maintain moisture.

If replacing a portion of your lawn with a perennial bed or trees seems a little too daunting, you can always add some clover to the mix. Clover grows quickly, suffocates weeds, enriches the soil and feeds the bees. Oh, and did I mention how good it feels on bare feet?





Mix & Match - can't give up all the lawn - consider half turf & half mixed clover & vetch

**EMBRACE THE BEAUTY OF NATURAL CHAOS, YOU MIGHT JUST LOVE IT!**

So, what about you? Are you ready to embrace a messy but beneficial yard? Maybe you are, but your family isn't (that's always the case, right?)

We've come to terms with it. Even though, we're not letting all the grass grow, we're committed to taking back some of our lawn little by little.

Our lawns are already a mix of turf and Dutch white clover. And, this year, I'm resolving to plant two pollinator gardens. It's exciting. Like a blank canvas. A chance to showcase some creativity and artistic vibes.



Monique made it through last year's drought with minimal well-water use thanks in large part to the native plants she chose for her own gardens. For years, she has prioritized reclaiming her lawn and transforming it into a dazzling yet sustainable work of natural art. She incorporated two large pollinator gardens and completely removed all the lawn on one side of her house to create a peaceful stroll garden in the dappled shade.

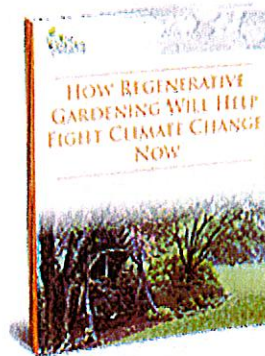
One of her newest creations is a 2,400 square foot area with raised garden beds for herbs and vegetables. Using her property as a resource rather than maintaining a resource guzzling space remains the cornerstone of what she wants to accomplish not only in her own outdoor living area but the hundreds of outdoor spaces she has designed for clients over the years.

The Garden Continuum specializes in sustainable, eco-friendly gardening. If you're considering giving up a portion of your lawn to create an eco-friendly oasis, give us a call, we'd love to schedule a consultation with you.

If you are interested in regenerative gardening, [please download our eBook: How Regenerative Gardening will help Fight Climate Change.](#)

HOW REGENERATIVE  
GARDENING WILL HELP  
FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE  
NOW

**DOWNLOAD**



## Tips for Participating in No Mow May

No Mow May is a conservation initiative started by the UK-based organization, Plantlife. Over the last couple of years, this effort has gained a lot of attention in the United States. The primary message of No Mow May is to leave your lawn unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and food sources for early season pollinators.

---

Considerations Before Starting | Responsible Alternatives

---



No Mow May Can Potentially Support Pollinators



Spring is an important time for many pollinators. Many bees and other pollinators have limited food sources early in the season, especially in urban and suburban environments. By allowing some of the common flowering plants present in most home lawns to bloom, like dandelion, clover, creeping Charlie, and violet, you can provide more food for pollinators at a time of the year when many other flowers are not yet blooming. One frequently-cited study showed that unmown yards in the city have a fivefold increase in the number of bees present (Note: this study has since been retracted from the academic journal because of problematic data collection and research techniques).

## Considerations Before Starting with No Mow May

Providing food and habitat for pollinators while eliminating the work of mowing the lawn sounds like a no-brainer! But there are a few things to keep in mind before you lock the mower away for the entire month of May.

### It Will Take a Lot of Effort to Get the Lawn Back Under Control

In much of the Midwest, including Iowa, the grass will grow at least a foot in the month of May. The grass will likely outgrow the flowering plants and once tall enough will smother any plants underneath. Most mowers are not equipped to cut grass that tall once June arrives. Ideally, you only remove one-third of the total leaf blade in a single mowing. Whether you use a mower or a string trimmer, taking grass that is 12+ inches tall down to the typical lawn height of 2.25 to 3 inches will cause stress or death of the grass because you are removing so much leaf material at once. Additionally, there will be a lot of grass clippings to chop up or remove. Grass clippings left piled on the lawn will smother and kill the plants underneath leaving bare or open spots in the lawn.

### You Will Encourage the Growth of More Weedy and Invasive Plants

When lawns are not healthy, they develop thin or bare spots. Mother Nature covers the soil in plants and when bare soil is exposed in the lawn, many weeds grow. In summer these bare spots will be filled primarily by weeds like crabgrass, foxtail, purslane, and spotted spurge. These species do not support pollinators well. Additionally, most weeds common to lawns are not native. When allowed to grow unchecked, these weedy plants can become problems in other areas of the landscape and potentially natural ecosystems such as nearby woodlands or prairies.

When lawns are not mown, it can also promote the growth of weedy and invasive plants that wouldn't normally grow because they don't tolerate mowing. This includes woody plants like



mulberry, Siberian elm, or honeysuckle as well as other weedy forbs like velvetleaf, leafy spurge, and garlic mustard. Thankfully, most woody species would not have time to produce flowers and set seed before mowing resumes. However, they would make reclaiming the lawn more difficult. Some of the weedy forbs could produce flowers and seeds in that relatively short period furthering the spread of these unwanted invasive plants.

## Lawns are Not Natural Spaces

In Iowa, nearly all lawns are comprised of non-native grasses and most of them have some (or many) weeds that are also non-native plants. They are highly managed spaces that require many inputs of water, nutrients, and time spent mowing. If you stop managing the lawn, it will not revert to a more natural space. Instead, it will be a collection of non-native plants allowed to grow unchecked. The lawn will always need some sort of management because it is a completely constructed and created landscape. Simply ignoring or halting the maintenance of the lawn is not a responsible way to manage these non-native plants.

## Most Municipalities Will Issue Citations for Unkempt Lawns

Most cities and municipalities have some type of weed ordinance. These ordinances vary from place to place. They are typically created to reduce noxious weeds, manage pest problems like mice or rats, prevent dangerous property conditions, minimize allergens, and maintain the aesthetics and property values in the community. They outline the height and sometimes the types of plants that can be grown in the lawn and those properties that don't abide by the ordinance face fines or mowing fees. The way most ordinances in cities, counties, or HOAs are written would not allow for grass to remain unmown for an entire month.

Working with local officials to modify or temporarily suspend weed ordinance regulations would help you avoid fines. Keeping a mowed edge or border can also help as it defines the space and shows that the tall lawn is intentional and not due to neglect. Since most weed ordinances are enforced primarily by reporting from neighbors, engaging and educating neighbors on what you are doing, or putting up a sign showing that the space is for pollinators is beneficial.

## Consider an Alternative to No Mow May

Providing additional food for pollinators early in the season is just one of many steps you can take to support pollinators. With the many pros and cons to No Mow May it can be difficult to decide what you can do to both promote and support bees and other pollinators while still

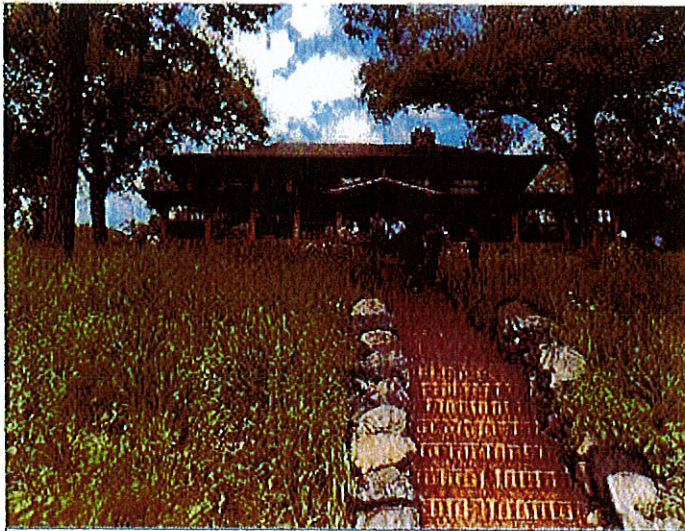


being a responsible manager of your landscape. There are some things you can do with your lawn that can achieve both.

## Participate in Mow Less May

It is typical to mow once a week during the month of May in Iowa. Some small preliminary studies show that mowing every two weeks can still significantly increase bee population size. So instead of No Mow May, participate in Mow Less May. Mowing less frequently can support the cause and avoid many of the drawbacks. Most flowering plants in lawns, like dandelion and clover, flower even with mowing. By extending the time between mowings from every 7 days to every 10-14 days, you can continue to manage your landscape in a way that supports the pollinators with more flowers and avoids many of the drawbacks such as citations, undesirable weeds, and stress to the lawn.

Mowing less frequently will require you to set the mower height high to avoid removing too much leaf material at once. The good news is that mowing grass at a taller height promotes a healthier lawn. Mowing at a height of 3.5 inches (or a little higher for the month of May) promotes a larger, more drought-tolerant root system, can help shade the soil surface reducing undesirable weeds, and allows you to use less pesticide and herbicide on the lawn because the turf is healthier.



A native prairie planting on this hillside is much easier to care for than mown turf and better supports pollinators.

## Create a Well-Designed Pollinator Garden

Rather than relying on the lawn to provide food sources for bees, install a pollinator garden. Pollinator gardens with a wide variety of species that bloom from early spring to late fall can

help support bees, butterflies, and other beneficial pollinators all season. When located in areas that connect to other nearby pollinator-friendly gardens or natural areas, these managed spaces not only look beautiful but provide food sources all season without promoting weeds or risking citations.

More information on creating pollinator gardens can be found in this Article: [Creating a Garden Bed as a Turfgrass Alternative](#).

## Consider Eliminating the Lawn

Lawns are highly managed spaces that require many inputs. Simply not managing it for one month does not help pollinators all year and does not greatly reduce your maintenance inputs especially when you consider the added effort it takes to get your lawn back after a month of not mowing. Consider eliminating the lawn altogether and replacing it with plants or garden spaces that don't require frequent maintenance and support native insects and wildlife. Replacing turf with perennials, groundcovers, shrubs, and trees can reduce water consumption, pesticides, and fertilizers while increasing soil organic matter, building soil quality, and helping to retain and infiltrate stormwater. Remember, you don't have to remove the entire lawn all at once this spring. Phase in the transition from lawn to garden space. Even just eliminating a portion of the turf in your landscape can help you see significant growth in the number of pollinators visiting your yard.

More information about lawn alternatives can be found in this article: [Lawn Alternatives to Turfgrass](#)

### Authors:

Aaron Steil *Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist*

**Last Reviewed:** April, 2023



Photo: Xerces Society / Molly Martin

## NO MOW MAY, LOW MOW SPRING

“No Mow May” is a quick and catchy name for a movement that aims far beyond not mowing the yard for a month. It’s more than long grass and dandelion blooms. It’s a gateway to understanding how we share our lawns with many small creatures.

Lawns cover 40 million acres, or 2%, of land in the US, making them the single largest irrigated crop we grow. Lawns are mowed, raked, fertilized, weeded, chemically treated, and watered—sucking up time, money, and other resources. Lawns provide little benefit to wildlife, and are often harmful. Grass-only lawns lack floral resources and nesting sites for bees and are often treated with pesticides that harm bees and other invertebrates.

When we think of habitat loss, we tend to imagine bulldozers and rutted dirt, but acres of manicured lawn are as much a loss of habitat as any development site.

Re-thinking the American lawn can take a variety of forms from reducing mowing frequency or area mown to permanently converting lawn to a more diverse and natural landscape.

### Why mow less in the spring?

The start of the growing season is a critical time for hungry, newly emerged native bees. Floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing it to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, your lawn can provide nectar and pollen to help your bee neighbors thrive.

Mowing less creates habitat and can increase the abundance and diversity of wildlife including bees and other pollinators. One way to reduce mowing is by participating in No Mow April, No Mow May, or Low Mow Spring.

---

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

[DONATE](#)



## NO MOW ORDINANCE EXAMPLES

### Learn More:

- [No Mow May FAQs](#)
- [Summaries of Published Studies of Conservation Benefits of Reduced Mowing](#)
- [Webinar: No Mow May? No Mow April? Low Mow Spring?](#)
- [Webinar: No Mow May: Bringing Your Community on Board with Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA](#) affiliate panelists from Appleton, WI and Lawrence University
- [Blog: No Mow May: A Gateway To Better Landscape Management For Bees](#)
- [Blog: For Pollinators' Sakes, Don't Spring Into Garden Cleanup Too Soon!](#)
- [Blog: No Mow May Affiliate Spotlights: Appleton, WI and Lawrence University](#)

## The history

No Mow May was first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, but is now gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is to pause mowing during the month of May, allowing flowers to bloom in your lawn to help early season pollinators. Late winter and early spring is a time when floral resources are often limited.

In 2020, residents of Appleton, Wisconsin, an affiliate of Bee City USA, became energized about No Mow May and they convinced their City Council to suspend their weed ordinance for the month of May. Over 435 registered property owners participated that year. Empowered by their success in 2020, the Appleton Bee City committee spread the word and attracted even more participants in 2021, and in 2022 it spread to communities across the country.

Though no organization officially oversees No Mow May, many [Bee City USA](#) and [Bee Campus USA](#) affiliates choose to participate. And while not mowing in May isn't right for everyone or every region, the campaign can be a good tool for getting new people involved in pollinator conservation.

Not mowing for a few weeks is a simple step to take, but it is only one step and more is needed to transform our neighborhoods. Can you mow less all year or add flower species to your grass?

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

DONATE

white clover in urban and suburban lawns. Researchers in Massachusetts found **93 species of bees** visiting lawn flowers, with the greatest diversity and abundance on lawns mowed every two or three weeks. Meta-analyses that looked at results of many studies from Europe and North America found a significant increase in the **abundance and species richness of butterflies and bees** in less-frequently mowed lawns, and that increased mowing intensity resulted in a **significant negative effect** on plant diversity and insect diversity.

Some studies also indicate that less intense mowing practices lead to **fewer pests**, as well as potential **cost savings of up to 36%** for park managers that by reducing mowing frequency from 15 to 10 times per year. And it is not just bees that benefit from flowering lawns. Surveys of park users in Minneapolis found that **95% of them supported less mowing**.

Learn more: [Summaries of Published Studies of Conservation Benefits of Reduced Mowing](#)

### Bees need more than weeds

Just allowing weeds to grow is better than no flowers, but the typical lawn weeds may not be the best for bees, or the best neighbors to other flowers. Dandelions, for example, have pollen that is low in protein (poor nutrition for bees) and is known to **suppress other flowers**. You can go beyond reduced mowing by changing your lawn to include more flowering species. A "bee lawn" may include white clover (*Trifolium repens*) and other low-growing flowering plants such as creeping thyme (*Thymus* spp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), and others. Some plants, such as native violets (*Viola* spp.), may already be present and should be encouraged as they are valuable host plants for fritillary butterflies. For more information about creating a flowering lawn please see the resources at the end of this web page.

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

DONATE





### Side benefits of mowing less, year-round

- Save water while increasing drought tolerance: Taller grass tends to have deeper roots and less water evaporates from the soil.
- Reduce air and noise pollution from gas-powered lawn equipment
- Better conditions for other invertebrates like lacewings and fireflies. They prefer longer grass.
- Save time and money: So now you're ready to invest in more native plants!

### Bees need more than long grass

Mowing less is one small step to help bees and it isn't enough to save the bees. The best way we can protect the over 3,600 species of bees in the US is to:

- 1 Plant a variety of native plants that bloom consistently throughout the growing season

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

DONATE



Every region is different. Learn what works for your habitat.

No one is in charge of No Mow May, Now Mow April, or any of the other variations. There are no set rules. What you choose to do is up to you, and what your local ordinances allow. Do what you can now, make incremental changes over time, and learn as you go.

Watch the native bees in your yard. When do they emerge? What native plants do they like? Add some height variation with spring-blooming native shrubs and trees, and see what visitors you attract to your yard.

## Weed and lawn ordinance reform

If you want to participate in a No Mow or Low Mow month, start by reviewing your local rules and find out how strictly they are enforced.

Some cities and homeowners' associations (HOAs) may have rules against longer grass or even natural yards. We encourage you to check your local ordinances and advocate for reforms to allow for more pollinator-friendly yards. Some states now have laws [preventing HOAs from banning certain types of natural habitat](#).

Engage with your city council, health department, or other local officials. Tell them what you are doing, why, and begin a conversation about how they can support natural landscapes in their community. [This fact sheet from Penn State](#) can help arm you with facts to overcome the common myths that have led to overly restrictive weed ordinances.

If current weed and lawn ordinances do not allow for longer grass or natural plantings, a policy change might look like:

- A new weed and lawn ordinance
- An amendment to weed and lawn ordinances
- A one-time or annual suspension of some weed and lawn ordinance enforcement for a month or longer
- A No Mow or Low Mow resolution signed by your city council or county commissioners, often paired with a suspension of some weed and lawn ordinance enforcement.
- An "opt-in" program, such as a Natural Lawn Registration program to sidestep the need to re-write a health code ordinance. Under such a model, a homeowner may register their natural landscape with their local health department. The health department can then decline to fine registered properties if they are maintaining the natural landscape properly and not encouraging the spread of noxious weeds.

## Tips for keeping neighbors happy

- Maintain a mowed buffer. A tidy mowed edge along sidewalks and paths can make a busy natural planting look less overwhelming, and makes these spaces look intentional rather than neglectful.
- Tidy up your yard in other ways: [Leave the Leaves and Save the Stems](#), but remove trash or broken décor, and keep fences and borders in good repair.

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

DONATE



Much like with growing pollinator habitat, advocacy takes time, too. We encourage you to build relationships, educate the public, and lead by example. Lawncare can be an emotional topic and it's important to be respectful when asking people to make big changes. Keep it positive and highlight the benefits.

Present the ideas of mowing less and planting native plants as opportunities to help pollinators, not a criticism of your neighbors' choices. Show them the beautiful, low-maintenance plants that your community can add to help our native bees: share your favorite seeds and cuttings!

Not everyone will choose to convert their yard to native plants, but with time and effort hopefully we can get people comfortable with seeing neighbors participate. More participation = more accept



Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

DONATE



- Do you need a **perfect, weed-free lawn**? Try hand-pulling problem weeds instead of using “weed and feed” products or spot treatments. How about adding some low-growing flowers to it?
- Can you **shrink your lawn**? Frame your smaller lawn with a larger pollinator garden. Plant native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees to create a more diverse, wildlife-friendly yard.
- Could you **leave a portion of your lawn unmown year-round**? Transform low-traffic areas, especially areas around more natural habitat, into a low-management zones so birds, bees, fireflies, and other wildlife are more protected.
- Do you want to **replace your lawn**? Even a small garden plot can provide high-quality pollinator habitat. Consider [planting a rain garden](#), native trees, a [pollinator garden](#), or a [wildflower meadow](#)—or replacing your turfgrass lawn with native lawn alternatives.

## EXPLORE RESOURCES

---

### Read More about No Mow May

- [No Mow May FAQs](#)
- [Summaries of Published Studies of Conservation Benefits of Reduced Mowing](#)
- Webinar: [No Mow May? No Mow April? Low Mow Spring?](#)
- Webinar: [No Mow May: Bringing Your Community on Board](#) with Bee City USA and Bee Campus USA affiliate panelists from Appleton, WI and Lawrence University
- Blog: [No Mow May: A Gateway To Better Landscape Management For Bees](#)
- Blog: [For Pollinators' Sakes, Don't Spring Into Garden Cleanup Too Soon!](#)
- Blog: [No Mow May Affiliate Spotlights: Appleton, WI and Lawrence University](#)

### No Mow May Resolution Examples

- [Albion, MI](#)
- [Appleton, WI](#)
- [Edina, MN \(pdf\)](#)
- [West St. Paul, MN \(pdf\) \(Page 7\)](#)

### External Resources

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

[DONATE](#)



- [White paper from Yale's Environmental Protection Clinic: Toward Sustainable Landscapes: Restoring the Right NOT to Mow](#)
- [Native Plant Society of the United States: Laws Promoting Native Plants](#)

### Resources from Xerces

- [Pollinator Conservation Resource Center](#)
- [Bee-Friendly Nursery Plants](#)
- [Invertebrate education resources](#)
- [X Kids](#)

### Handouts to Print


- [Bee City USA brochure](#)
- [Bee Campus USA brochure](#)
- [Smarter Pest Management: Pollinator Protection for Cities and Campuses](#)
- [Regional Plant Lists](#)
- [Pollinator-Friendly Parks](#)

## NO MOW MAY, LOW MOW SPRING AFFILIATE PROMO KIT

Help us empower communities to protect the life that sustains us!

[DONATE](#)



 For trusted expertise and superior results,  
find a landscape professional near you.

FIND A PROFESSIONAL  
([HTTPS://WWW.LANDSCAPEPROFESSIONALS.ORG/FINDAPRO/FINDAPRO/DIRECTORY/DIRECTORY.ASPX](https://www.landscapeprofessionals.org/findapro/findapro/directory/directory.aspx))

## NO MOW MAY. NOT SO FAST!

*Author: Bob Mann, Agronomist and Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Landscape Professionals*

Well, it's finally May and the newspapers and on-line forums are filled to the brim with articles telling you not to mow your lawn this month. For the pollinators, they say. Everyone is busy and no one has the time to look to see if this "No Mow May" thing is legit or not.

Except for me (you can thank me later). And what I found was worse than I thought.

The initial concept behind "No Mow May" can be traced to a group in Great Brittan called Plantlife. The concept is if you do not mow your lawn during the month of May it allows flowers to bloom which, in turn, provide food for pollinators. Everyone loves bees, right? Who could be in opposition to bees?

Here in the U.S., the cause was taken up in Appleton Wisconsin. There the city adopted the concept in 2020 and made it a permanent policy in 2022. In adopting the policy, the city relied upon research conducted by a city resident who is also a university professor. There's only one problem: the study was bunk.

"In the spirit of full transparency, after finding inconsistencies between the published summary data and raw data, the authors and the editorial team have agreed to retract this article. The formal retraction notice will be published shortly," said the notice on the paper's website. Ouch.

News stories in early April 2023 out of Appleton suggest that in light of the study retraction that the city is considering abandoning their "No Mow May" policy.

We recently updated our **Privacy Policy**. (<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/privacy-policy/>) By continuing to use this website, you acknowledge that our revised Privacy Policy applies.

GOT IT

You may ask why this is so infuriating? The answer is quite simple: turfgrass managers love pollinators too. Properly maintained, your lawn is a net benefit for the environment. The list of these benefits is quite long from preventing erosion to capturing and sequestering carbon but you'll hear none of those things from people who hate lawns and want you to hate them as well.

Another study that actually is legitimate looked at the concept of how reducing lawn maintenance impacts pollinators and arrived at some surprising conclusions. What these scientists did was to take over the mowing chores at a number of residential homes and subject them to different mowing regimes.

What they found for the lawns mowed weekly is about what you'd expect. Since weekly mowing will remove weed flowers, there weren't very many pollinators visiting the lawn. Lawns that were mowed every second week had far more pollinators visiting ostensibly because there were more weed flowers.

Here's where it gets interesting: for the lawns that were mowed every third week the abundance of pollinators was less than the lawns mowed every two weeks.

The researchers theorized that the reason why there were more pollinators in the two week lawns versus the three week lawns was that it was easier for the pollinators to access the flowers in the two week lawns. I think that makes sense.

Here's the bottom line for me: maintain your lawn properly throughout the entire season. That means mowing at the right height and at the right frequency. It also means irrigating in a responsible way that is healthy for the lawn but also is respectful of water resources. Other things that you can do to improve the sustainability of your lawn include things like aeration of the soil and periodic overseeding to ensure that strong plants.

We recently updated our **Privacy Policy**. (<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/privacy-policy/>) By continuing to use this website, you acknowledge that our revised Privacy Policy applies.





NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
LANDSCAPE  
PROFESSIONALS

# THE BENEFITS OF HEALTHY LANDSCAPES

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR LIVING, WORKING AND PLAYING OUTDOORS.  
THEY ARE GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH, GOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

## » HEALTH AND SAFETY BENEFITS

Healthy, managed landscapes make people and their communities healthier.



**REDUCE  
STRESS**

*Source: Healthy Landscapes*



**IMPROVE  
QUALITY  
OF LIFE**

*Source: Healthy Landscapes*



**REDUCE  
CRIME**

*Source: U.S. Department of Justice*



**IMPROVE  
ATTENTION  
AND MEMORY**

*Source: Moss through University of Arizona*

In addition, they protect against outdoor pests that can transmit disease to people and pets.



Ticks can transmit Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis.



Fleas can transmit tapeworms to pets, as well as murine typhus and, occasionally, the bubonic plague to humans.



Fire ants can cause painful blisters and sometimes severe or life-threatening anaphylaxis.



Mosquitoes can transmit West Nile, Zika, malaria, chikungunya, dengue and a host of other bacterial and viral diseases.

## » A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE HAS...

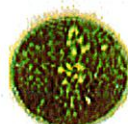
Not all grass, plants or trees are healthy. Healthy landscapes take effort, skill and know-how.



**HEALTHY  
SOIL**



**NO PLANT-  
DAMAGING PESTS  
OR DISEASE**



**FEW  
WEEDS**



**HEALTHY  
GRASS, SHRUBS  
& TREES**

## » ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The value of managed lawns and landscapes extends beyond the backyard and into the community at large.



**CLEAN & PURIFY AIR**



**PROVIDE OXYGEN**



**MINIMIZE NOISE**



**PROTECT WATER SOURCES  
FROM UNHEALTHY RUNOFF**



**ACT AS NATURAL COOLANTS**

To learn more about the benefits a healthy, managed landscape offers your family, community and the environment, visit  
**LOVEYOURLANDSCAPE.ORG**

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES ARE  
**THE ROOT OF  
HAPPINESS**

Learn More (</media/20351/benefits-landscaping-infographic-resized.pdf>)

We recently updated our **Privacy Policy**. (<https://www.loveyourlandscape.org/privacy-policy/>) By continuing to use this website, you acknowledge that our revised Privacy Policy applies.