

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
A PROCLAMATION RELATING TO
2022 OBSERVANCE OF “NO MOW MAY”



Whereas, there are more than 4,000 native bee species in North America, along with introduced honey bees; and

Whereas, bees are an essential part of ecosystems, pollinating many wild plants and allowing them to produce the seeds, nuts, and fruit that are vital food sources for wild animals; and

Whereas, bees are an essential part of agriculture, pollinating many of the cultivated foods people eat such that the health of bee populations directly impacts our food security; and

Whereas, bees have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, pesticides, disease, and climate change; and

Whereas, more than half of bee species in North America are in decline with 1 in 4 species at risk of extinction; and

Whereas, at least one bee species at risk of extinction, the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, lives in the Village of Shorewood Hills; and

Whereas, municipalities have embraced their responsibility for conserving these important animals by taking steps to install and promote native and pollinator-friendly landscapes and reduce pesticide and herbicide use in their communities; and

Whereas, some municipalities, such as the City of Appleton, Wisconsin, have supported pollinator conservation, in part, through a “No Mow May” community science initiative that encourages property owners to limit their lawn mowing practices during the month of May to provide vital early spring flowers for bees that emerge from hibernation; and

Whereas, in 2020, 435 Appleton property owners registered for the initiative, which ended up providing 40 additional acres of land with food resources for pollinators; and

Whereas, the City of Appleton found that No Mow May lawns had a fivefold increase in bee abundance and a threefold increase in bee diversity in comparison to nearby parkland that was mowed regularly; and

Whereas, the City of Appleton found strong community enthusiasm with the majority of participants willing to continue this initiative and other pollinator friendly practices at their homes; and

Whereas, the Village of Shorewood Hills participated in No Mow May in 2021 and also found strong community enthusiasm with 55 single family homes (~9% of single family homes in the Village) registering for the event and 79% saying they would participate again in 2022; and

Whereas, the Village of Shorewood Hills is a leader in sustainability, recognizes that urban landscapes provide critical habitat for pollinators, and wishes to encourage its citizens to play an active role in conserving pollinators through the management of their own land; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, the Shorewood Hills Village Board hereby proclaims May 1st – 31st, 2022 as “No Mow May” in the Village of Shorewood Hills, Wisconsin, and encourages all residents, businesses and property owners to refrain from mowing their property to promote pollinator-friendly habitat and awareness; and

Be it further resolved, the Shorewood Hills Village Board encourages all residents, businesses and property owners to grow a variety of native plants that bloom across the season – early spring through fall – so that food resources are always available to pollinators, leave the leaves in yards through the fall to help provide winter nesting sites for bees, and refrain from using lawn or plant pesticides and herbicides that can harm or kill pollinators.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Village President _____

David J. Benforado