

Ordinance O-22-43

ORDINANCE AMENDING SEC. 15.32.030 (D) OF THE WAUWATOSA MUNICIPAL CODE EXTERIOR PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW "NO MOW MAY"

The Common Council of the City of Wauwatosa do hereby ordain as follows:

Part I. Chapter 15.32.030 (D) - Lawn Areas of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

1. Lawn areas, where provided, shall not be allowed to deteriorate to such condition as to be a seriously blighting influence on the surrounding property or neighborhood, or the City of Wauwatosa in general. The growth of grass or weeds in excess of six inches in height or the maintenance of the property with a lack of vegetation which renders the yard areas unsightly and results in the diminution of the appearance of the property as compared with adjacent properties shall be considered a violation of the maintenance provision of this section, except in the month of May when grass shall be permitted to grow in excess of six inches;
2. Where lawn areas are not provided or have been removed such areas shall be landscaped with garden beds or other ground cover so as not to be a public nuisance or a serious blighting influence;
3. Whenever grass or lawn weeds on properties are six inches or more in height, or if noxious weeds are present, or if the overgrowth of vegetation is such as to cause a seriously blighting influence, the city may order the condition corrected within four days or other time limit set forth by the safety and building division. Orders to correct shall not be issued on grass in excess of six inches in the month of May. If the condition is not corrected within the specified time limit, the code enforcement officer is empowered to cause such grass, weeds and overgrowth of vegetation to be cut, and the cost therefore shall be placed on the tax rolls as a special charge against the property.
4. No-mow or short grass prairie areas are preferred as an alternative to mowed lawn areas upon approval by the development department, provided the seed mix utilized contains not more than eighty percent permanent native grass, sedge or forb species, is expected to grow not more than twenty-four inches in height, and is managed to effectively control the influx and growth of invasive or noxious plant species. Approval from the development department for grass in excess of six inches is not required in the month of May.

Part II. This ordinance shall take effect on and after its date of publication.

Passed and Dated December 20, 2022



City Clerk

Introduced: December 6, 2022

Referred to originating committee

Approved

December 20, 2022

Adopted: December 20, 2022



Mayor