

Originating Committee: Environment and Ecology

Authors: Lydia Jefferson, Robert Breeding, Tessa Cecchin, Erica Eyerly, and Abigail Farris (CLC)

Intended Recipient: Missouri Municipal League

Support for Pollinator Habitats and Native Species Gardens in Missouri Municipalities

WHEREAS, many municipalities have nuisance codes that do not allow “rank weeds and grasses” to grow over a certain height on any lot, parcel of land, or along the sidewalk, street, or paved alley adjacent to said lot or parcel of land; and

WHEREAS, municipalities often have a Code of Ordinances that define native plants as weeds and prohibit plants that exceed certain heights; and

WHEREAS, the rationale of prohibitions behind limiting native plants and grasses in residential areas can be based on perceived aesthetics and impacts on public health, safety, and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, landcare practices of native landscaping are intentional by design to maintain aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, planting native species in residential lawns could reduce mowing, thereby reducing air pollution, noise pollution, and fuel consumption by lawn maintenance while native plants require less irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticide; and

WHEREAS, native pollinators that require native plants, including the bumble bee species and the monarch butterfly, are facing significant population declines in Missouri and many other areas of the world due to native plant availability, agricultural practices, and the proliferation of non-native/invasive species; and

WHEREAS, society is dependent on pollinators for food production and the health of natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, planting a diversity of native plants attracts pollinators by providing food and nectar, therefore increasing their populations and diversity; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as Monarch Watch and the National Wildlife Federation encourage individuals to register their pollinator habitats and native species gardens as a “Monarch Waystation” and “Certified Wildlife Habitat®”, respectively, conveying the importance of the habitat to onlookers; and

WHEREAS, urban native plant gardens are supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Prairie Foundation’s “Grow Native!” program and the National

Wildlife Federation to increase the amount of pollinator habitat through native species gardens;
and

WHEREAS, these programs can inspire others to learn more about how traditional landscaping practices are detrimental to native invertebrate populations; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled in Osage Beach, MO, this 12th day of March 2022, requests the Missouri Municipal League to encourage policies and ordinances that promote urban pollinator habitats.

Searchable Keywords: Monarch butterflies, pollinator habitat, pollinator, bumble bees, native plants

Expires: March 12, 2027