

**AGENDA  
CITY OF MONONA  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
City Hall Conference Room  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
6:30 PM**

Due to the current state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be conducted via electronic videoconferencing/teleconferencing. As such, it is likely that some or all members of, and a possible quorum, may be in attendance via electronic means and not physically present. In accordance with Wisconsin law, the meeting will remain open to the public. The public may still attend in person at the location stated in this agenda. However, due to the need to maintain social distancing in accordance with Emergency Order #7 of Public Health Madison & Dane County dated July 1, 2020 and the limited physical space available, the public is encouraged and requested to also attend via electronic means. Directions to do so are listed at the bottom of this agenda. Upon reasonable notice, the needs of disabled individuals will be accommodated through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City clerk at 608-222-2525.

- 1) Call to Order – **6:30 PM**
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Minutes from the **December 8, 2022** Sustainability Committee Meeting
- 4) Appearances
- 5) Unfinished Business
  - A. None
- 6) New Business
  - A. Smart Salting Practices project update
  - B. Natural Lawn Permits
  - C. Upcoming Projects
    - i) Earth Day E-cycling event
    - ii) No Mow May
    - iii) Adopt-a-StormDrain and Leaf Management
    - iv) Other
- 7) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement
- 8) Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas
- 9) Adjournment

**Next Meetings: Thursday March 9, 2023 and Thursday April 13, 2023**

**Please notify Thor Jeppson at [tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us](mailto:tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us) if you cannot make it.**

**DIRECTIONS TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY**

You may attend via videoconference by downloading the free Zoom program to your computer at <https://zoom.us/download>. At the date and time of the meeting log on through the Zoom program and use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83003436872> or enter Meeting ID: 830 0343 6872.

You may attend via telephone conference by calling the following phone number:

PHONE NUMBER: 1-312-626-6799 / MEETING ID: 830 0343 6872, FOLLOWED BY #

Please Mute Your Phone When Not Speaking To Ensure Best Possible Audio Quality.

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE BY ZOOM**

Persons interested in publicly appearing before the Sustainability Committee via computer or phone on the Zoom application are asked to submit an [Appearance Before a City Committee form](#) so that we can accommodate all online and phone requests to speak. Please submit your form as soon as possible. Requests will be accepted before and during the meeting until the Appearances section is closed. Requests submitted after the Appearances section is closed will not be able to speak. Link to form: <https://www.mymonona.com/FormCenter/Committee-Application-11/Appearance-Before-a-Committee-Citizen-Co-82>

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

You can send written comments on agenda items by emailing [tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us](mailto:tjeppson@ci.monona.wi.us)

**NOTE:** Upon reasonable notice, the City of Monona will accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through auxiliary aids or services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the City Clerk at (608) 222-2525 (not a TDD telephone number) Fax: (608) 222-9225 or through the City Police Department TDD telephone number 441-0399. The public is notified that any final action taken at a previous meeting may be reconsidered pursuant to the City of Monona ordinances. A suspension of the rules may allow for final action to be taken on an item of New Business. It is possible that members of and a possible quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information or speak about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility. Any governmental body at the above stated meeting will take no action other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Agenda Posted 2/2/2023 on the City Hall Library, and Community Center bulletin boards and on the City of Monona's website mymonona.com.

**CITY OF MONONA**  
**Sustainability Committee**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2022**  
***Meeting Minutes – DRAFT***

**1. Call to Order**

6:35 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Teresa Radermacher.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Alder Teresa Radermacher, Alder Patrick DePula, Sue Vogt, Ken Walz, Sarah Smith, and Ashley Gries

**Absent:** Dan Costello

**Others Present:** Assistant Planner Thor Jeppson

**3. Approval of Minutes from the November 10, 2022 Sustainability Committee Meeting**

A motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Gries, for approval of the minutes of November 10, 2022 carried with no corrections.

**4. Appearances**

Mr. Krishna Elwell, a representative of Monona Grove High School, was in attendance to observe the Committee. He stated that we was there to identify youth engagement opportunities for sustainability in Monona and learn about the City's Sustainability Plan implementation.

Alder Radermacher stated that she previously worked with Mr. Elwell on the High School's rooftop solar project.

There were no other appearances.

**5. Unfinished Business**

None

**6. New Business**

**a. Smart salting practices report out and planning**

Ashley shared that the project team met with Allison Madison of Wisconsin Salt Wise to learn about available resources. The team reached out to the City Public Works Department and learned that they have already implemented several smart salting best practices, such as Salt Wise trainings, spot-salting, and calibration of spreaders. The team is focusing on community outreach and plans to reach out to businesses, broadcast PSAs, distribute flyers,

and send out mailers. The team is looking for a slogan and aims to distribute materials after the New Year.

Alder Radermacher shared the work plan. She said that the project team initially planned to create yard signs, but determined they were not appropriate for the winter. Thor will look into the costs of sending out mailers, and the team will explore sponsorships to help reduce cost. Sue suggested the team put an article in the Herald Independent and work with partners at the School District. Ashley suggested the possibility of creating small cards for resident which give guidance on proper salt usage by ambient temperature.

Mr. Walz joined at 6:39. He noted that concerns about safety and liability drive salt usage, so the team should focus on reducing the number of areas which receive salt. For instance, encouraging businesses to rope off areas and guide movement through designated salted areas.

Ken asked how about metrics of success. He suggested salt usage by the City fleet, but noted that salt usage is weather-dependent, so yearly salt usage doesn't tell the whole story. Ashley suggested chloride monitoring as a long-term goal. Teresa said that the Committee could spread awareness of existing City work to reduce salt. Thor shared that Dane County will send educational materials to addresses where over-salting is reported. Sarah suggested looking into salt recycling, where leftover salt is swept up and brought to the City for re-use. This could be a measure of success and reduce cost, but further exploration with Public Works is needed.

**b. Upcoming Projects**

Alder Radermacher shared that Thor and Brad will lead planning efforts for the E-Cycle event in April. Thor shared that the contractor has the April 15<sup>th</sup> reserved for the City, but Ahuska Park is booked that day for the Midwest Horse Fair. Nichols School is being considered.

The Committee discussed if there were risks with moving the event from Ahuska and if the parking lot and Nichols would work. They decided that the circular nature of the parking lot would work well and that it could be a benefit to collaborate with the School District. Rotating where the event is held may increase it's exposure. Sarah suggested using the event as an opportunity to distribute flyers and No Mow May yard signs.

Alder Radermacher asked the committee for ideas for No Mow May. She shared that there are nine yard signs remaining, and they cost approximately \$20 per sign. Ken suggested charging the full price for yard signs this year. Alder DePula said that proceeds could be used to fund a contest for No Mow May participants. Sarah recommended new yard signs be foldover signs, as they are more versatile.

Alder Radermacher said that there is a push to allow for taller grass beyond May, but that would require an ordinance change in Monona. Sue offered to look into the ordinance and other communities' ordinances. Thor shared that the current ordinance allows for natural lawns, but a permit is required. There is no information on the City website about natural lawn permits. Thor will look into the process and how many have been issued. The Committee explored ways to simplify the ordinance to make it easier to have a natural lawn.

Thor will check with Leah about Natural Lawn Permit numbers. The Committee checked the City's website and there's no info besides the reference within the Code. Ken shared that the ordinance requires a Natural Lawn Management Plan. The Committee explored updates to the ordinance to simplify it. Sue suggesting reviewing the ordinance together at the next meeting.

**c. Dane County Cities and Villages Association funding opportunities for sustainability**

Alder Radermacher shared that she, the Mayor, Ken, and Thor attended a webinar from the Dane County Cities and Villages Association about renewable energy funding opportunities from the Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The bill created a 30% credit for municipal, residential, and commercial renewable energy, energy storage, and energy reduction projects. She stressed the need for the City to be ready to take advantage of the opportunity by updating the 25 by 25 strategy.

Ken shared that the credit makes energy projects very financially attractive, and would likely make solar projects immediately cash-flow positive. He said that the application process is still unknown. Teresa suggested the Committee assist with grant writing and determining how the process works. She said the next steps are to meet with the City Finance Director, get updated energy usage data from Public Works, and update the energy plan. She also said the Committee should promote tax credit opportunities to residents and businesses.

Ken suggested leveraging partnerships with Dane County and other communities. He said that the timing is great with the potential for a new Public Safety building, as the credits could make renewable energy projects more viable. He suggested the Committee arrange a tour of the Madison Fleet Services Building to observe its renewable energy projects.

**d. Sustainability Plan Review**

Alder Radermacher shared that Ken reviewed the 25 by 25 Energy Plan. The City is currently at 20% renewable energy. Getting to 25% by 2025 partially depends on what Madison Gas and Electric does to increase renewable energy production. He said the City also has a 100%

renewable energy goal by 2050 and should discuss how to get there. Madison Gas and Electric also has a 100% renewable energy goal, so the City could rely on them to meet the goal. However, it would be financially beneficial to find ways to generate renewable energy, especially with the IRA funding available. Ken mentioned that an electric vehicle fleet would greatly increase energy demand. He stressed the need to plan ahead if the City will pursue grants.

Alder Radermacher suggested the Committee explore updated energy and transportation plans. Thor will work with Brad to get updated energy usage data for City facilities.

Alder Radermacher presented the Sustainability Plan work plan. She said that the Committee and City have done a good job of implementing the Sustainability Plan, but need to improve on demonstrating successes. She shared a spreadsheet developed by Brad that the City had used from 2015-2019 to track progress on Sustainability Plan goals. She suggested the Committee update and revive the spreadsheet.

Sue asked if the Committee should explore other ways to reduce carbon emissions, such as recycling and composting. Sarah said the Committee has previously explored municipal composting but it was not financially viable. Teresa encouraged Sue to research what the City and other communities are doing for those issues, but stressed that the Committee should focus on updating the Work Plan.

**7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Discussion Items – Projects, Programs, Policies, or Budget Considerations for Council Advisement**

None.

**8. Important Updates from Committee Members or Items to Consider for Future Agendas**

None.

**9. Actionable Items**

None.

**10. Adjournment**

A motion by Alder DePula, seconded by Ms. Smith, to adjourn carried (8:17PM).

Submitted by,

Thor Jeppson, Assistant Planner

**SaltWise Outreach & Education**

**Project Objectives:** (1) Raise resident's understanding, awareness of proper salt use and the dangers of over-use. (2) Understand current DPW salting practices and (3) If needed/if possible, make small changes to DPW practices to align with sustainable best practices or make residents aware of the good work being done.

**Why this project:** Salt harms the health of our lakes and waterways' eco-systems. Over-salting also causes costly damage to sidewalks, streets, and other structures.

**Reference to Monona Sustainability Plan (MSP):** Surprisingly, working to reduce salt use is not part of the strategies listed in the MSP, however the Committee would like to pursue this project in light of the harm associated with salt use, and our community's proximity to Lake Monona.

**Project Lead(s):** Ashley Gries and Kristin Gunther

Date Last Updated	Task Description	Focus Area	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot
12/5/22	Create talking points for PSAs	Residential	12/19/2022	Kristin	Completed	TR; 12/19; Ready for everyone's review . Record pre-holidays, and queue up for airing after Jan 1.	
1/5/23	Create and PRINT a window cling for sponsors	Muni/Business	12/19/2022	Ashley	Completed	1/12/23; TJ; Window clings printed! 1/5/23; TR; We will do this. Ashley will coordinate printing. 1/5/23; TR; 50 clings are \$85.00. Dimension is 5x5 inches. The act of reaching out alone will be valuable in terms of having conversations and understanding current practices. We should keep track of who we approach, and a few other data points about each: For example, Is the business maintaining their own lot, do they hire? 12/30/22; TR; If we move forward on business outreach and create the clings, we will need money from DPW, and in that case, I'd like to see a mention/recognition of the Department of Public Works and Monona Sustainability Committee on the bottom of the cling, as a way to recognize and shine positive light on this good work and collaboration. 12/28/22; AG; Created design for approval, sent via email. 12/15/22; TR; I added "Muni/Business" to the Focus Area field. I think this is correct, but please change if it's not.	
12/5/22	Go live with social media	Residential	1/6/2023	Thor	Completed	12/27; TR; Per meeting with Brad Bruun, Thor can post to Sustainable Monona FB site, then we need to ask other departments to cross-share on their own sites. City FB, Sustainable Monona FB, Nextdoor 1/20; TJ; Posted City Salt Wise website on FB page 1/23; TJ; Salt Awareness Week content shared	
1/5/23	Create content for community newsletter - January	Residential	1/7/2023	Kristin, Ashley	Completed	1/23/23; KG; Ashley's graphics and my short article were included in the January Newsletter 1/5/23; TR; Teresa will make an email introduction w Community Media	
12/14/22	Create content for community newsletter - February	Residential	2/3/2023	Kristin, Ashley	Not started	12/14; TR; if not an entire article, at least one of Ashley's graphics	
12/19/2022	Dane County Report Spot Oversalting	Business		All	Not started	<a href="https://forms.countyofdane.com/Forms/report-oversalting">https://forms.countyofdane.com/Forms/report-oversalting</a>	
12/27/22	Deliver bookmark to municipal distribution sites	Municipality		Thor	Completed	12/27; TR; City Hall front desk, Senior Center, Library, Police station (?) 1/16; TJ; Bookmarks delivered to City Hall, Community Center, Senior Center, and Library	
12/27/22	Deliver bookmark to any business that will distribute them	Business		All	Not started	12/28/22; (AG) Happy to visit local businesses to distribute - would be good to take business window clings at same time ; potential cost of window clings (5x5)"= \$85 12/27; TR; I think locally-owned shops are best b/c they don't need to get permission from corporate to set them out, they just know right away if they will or won't. Coffee shops, the Restore, locally-owned restaurants, Booth 121, Cozy Home, Hair salons, etc.	
12/27/22	Deliver bookmarks to Sal's	Business		Teresa	Not started		
1/5/23	Facebook post 1 - Ask other departments to share our post to their page	Residential		Thor	Completed	1/23/23; TJ; Parks Dept shared post 1/5/23; TR; During Salt Awareness Week, we re-post whatever SW posts. Before and after SAW, we post our own "Don't be Salty" messages. Whenever we post, we ask all other city Departments to RE-post our posts. 12/27; TR; I'm just taking a guess that we would have 5 posts scattered throughout the month of January? Also, remember that part of our FB strategy was to simply re-post whatever SaltWise is posting on THEIR FB page for the "Salt Week" that happens in January 23-27	
12/27/22	Facebook post 2- Ask other departments to share our post to their page	Residential		Thor	Completed		
12/27/22	Facebook - post 3 - Ask other departments to share our post to their page	Residential		Thor	Completed		
12/27/22	Facebook - post 4 - Ask other departments to share our post to their page	Residential		Thor	Completed		
12/27/22	Facebook - post 5 - Ask other departments to share our post to their page	Residential		Thor	Completed		
1/17/23	Record the PSAs ! Whooo hooo!	Residential	1/10/2023	Ashley/Kristin	Finished	1/24/23; KG recording PSA #2 with Will Nimmow 1/12/23; KG recorded PSA #1 with Will Nimmow 1/5/23; TR; Teresa already made an email introduction, re-sent on 1/5/23. 12/27; TR; You can contact Will Nimmow and/or Brennen Hechimovich to set this up and record. I sent an email introduction, you can take it from here.	

**SaltWise Outreach & Education**

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**Project Lead(s):** Ashley Gries and Kristin Gunther

Date Last Updated	Task Description	Focus Area	Due Date (sort order)	Assigned	Status	Notes	Parking Lot
1/5/23	Track business outreach, start a list	Business		Ashley/Kristin	Started	1/23/23: KG; I'm starting a list of businesses for window clings 1/5/23; TR; List could track who was contacted, whether they manage their own lots or hire, challenges they face, ways we might help	
1/23/23	Deliver window clings with flyers to businesses	Business		Ashley/Kristin	Started	1/23/23; KG; Ashley will make flyer. Kristin has the window clings.	



**§ 263-5. Regulation of natural lawns.**

- A. Natural lawns defined. "Natural lawn," as used in this section, shall include common species of grass and wild flowers native to North America which are designed and purposely cultivated to exceed eight inches in height from the ground. Specifically excluded in natural lawns are the noxious grasses and weeds identified in § 263-4 of this chapter. The growth of a natural lawn in excess of eight inches in height from the ground surface shall be prohibited within the City corporate limits unless a natural lawn management plan is approved and a permit is issued by the City as set forth in this section. Natural lawns shall not contain litter or debris and shall not harbor undesirable wildlife.
- B. Natural lawn management plan defined.
- (1) "Natural lawn management plan," as used in this section, shall mean a written plan relating to the management and maintenance of a lawn which contains a legal description of lawn upon which the planted grass will exceed 12 inches in length, a statement of intent and purpose for the lawn, a detailed description of the vegetational types, plants and plant succession involved, and the specific management and maintenance techniques to be employed.
  - (2) Property owners who wish to plant and cultivate a natural lawn must submit their written plan and related information on the form provided by the City. "Property owner" shall be defined to include the legal title holder and/or the beneficial owner of any such lot according to the most current City records. Natural lawn management plans shall only indicate the planting and cultivating of natural lawns on property legally owned by the property owner. Applicants are strictly prohibited from developing a natural lawn on any City-owned property, including street rights-of-way. This shall include at a minimum the property located between the sidewalk and the street or a strip not less than 10 feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk, whether the area is under public or private ownership. In addition, natural lawns shall not be permitted within 10 feet of the abutting property owner's property unless waived in writing by the abutting property owner on the side so affected. Such waiver is to be affixed to the lawn management plan.
  - (3) Any subsequent property owner who abuts an approved natural lawn may revoke the waiver, thereby requiring the owner of the natural lawn to remove the natural lawn that is located in the ten-foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. Such revocation shall be put in writing and presented to the City Clerk by the subsequent abutting property owner. Upon receiving the written request to revoke the original waiver, the Weed Commissioner shall contact the owner of the approved natural lawn and direct the owner to remove the natural lawn located in the ten-foot section abutting the neighboring property owner. The Weed Commissioner shall revise the approved natural lawn management permit accordingly. The owner of the approved natural lawn shall be required to remove the ten-foot section abutting the neighboring property owner within 20 days of receipt of the written notification from the

City, provided the notification is received sometime between May 1 and November 1. Property owners who receive notification from the City between November 1 and April 30 shall be required to remove the ten-foot section abutting the neighboring property owner no later than May 20 following receipt of the notification.

C. Application process.

- (1) Property owners interested in applying for permission to establish a natural lawn shall obtain and complete an application form available from the City Clerk. The completed application shall include a natural lawn management plan. Upon submitting a completed application, a nonrefundable filing fee prescribed by the City's Fee Schedule will be assessed by the City. Upon receiving payment, copies of the completed application shall be mailed by the City to each of the owners of record, as listed in the office of the City Assessor, who are owners of the property situated wholly or in part within 300 feet of the boundaries of the properties for which the application is made. If within 15 calendar days of mailing the copies of the complete application to the neighboring property owners the City receives written objections from 51% or more of the neighboring property owners, the Weed Commissioner shall deny the application. "Neighboring property owners" shall be defined as all those property owners who are located within 300 feet of the proposed natural lawn site.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) If the property owner's application is in full compliance with the natural lawn management plan requirements and less than 51% of the neighboring property owners provide written objections, the Weed Commissioner shall issue a two-year permit to install a natural lawn. Permit renewals shall follow the same procedure used for original applications.

D. Application for appeal. The property owner may appeal the Weed Commissioner's decision to deny the natural lawn permit request to the Common Council at an open meeting. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within 15 calendar days of the notice of denial of the natural lawn management plan. The decision rendered by the Common Council shall be final and binding.

E. Safety precautions for natural grass areas.

- (1) When in the opinion of the Fire Chief of the Department serving the City of Monona the presence of a natural lawn may constitute a fire or safety hazard due to weather and/or other conditions, the Fire Chief may order the cutting of natural lawns to a safe condition. As a condition of receiving approval of the natural lawn permit, the property owner shall be required to cut the natural lawn within three days upon receiving written direction from the Fire Chief.
- (2) Natural lawns shall not be removed through the process of burning unless stated and approved as one of the management and maintenance techniques in

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1. Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. II).

the lawn management plan. The Fire Chief shall review all requests to burn natural lawns and shall determine if circumstances are correct and all applicable requirements have been fulfilled to ensure public safety. Burning of natural lawns shall be strictly prohibited unless a written permit to burn is issued by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief shall establish a written list of requirements for considering each request to burn natural lawns, thereby ensuring the public safety. In addition, the property owner requesting permission to burn the natural lawn shall produce evidence of property damage and liability insurance identifying the City as a third-party insured. A minimum amount of acceptable insurance shall be \$300,000.

F. Revocation of an approved natural lawn permit. The Weed Commissioner shall have the authority to revoke an approved natural lawn permit if the owner fails to maintain the natural lawn or comply with the provisions set forth in this section. Notice of intent to revoke an approved natural lawn permit shall be appealable to the Common Council. All applications for appeal shall be submitted within 15 calendar days of receipt of the written notice of intent to revoke the approved natural lawn management plan. Failure to file an application for appeal within the 15 calendar days shall result in the revoking of the natural lawn management plan permit. All written applications for appeal filed within the fifteen-calendar-day requirement shall be reviewed by the Common Council in an open meeting. The decision rendered by the Common Council shall be final and binding.

G. Public nuisance defined; abatement after notice.

(1) The growth of a natural lawn, as defined in this section, shall be considered a public nuisance unless a natural lawn management plan has been filed and approved and a permit is issued by the City as set forth in this section. Violators shall be served with a notice of public nuisance by certified mail to the last-known mailing address of the property owner.

(2) If the person so served with a notice of public nuisance violation does not abate the nuisance within 10 days, the enforcement officer may proceed to abate such nuisance, keeping an account of the expense of the abatement, and such expense shall be charged to and paid by such property owner. Notice of the bill for abatement of the public nuisance shall be mailed to the owner of the premises and shall be payable within 10 calendar days from receipt thereof. Within 60 days after such costs and expenses are incurred and remain unpaid, the City Clerk shall enter those charges onto the tax roll as a special tax as provided by state statute.

(3) The failure of the City Clerk to record such claim or to mail such notice or the failure of the owner to receive such notice shall not affect the right to place the City expense on the tax rolls for unpaid bills for abating the public nuisance as provided for in this section.

H. Penalty.

(1) Any person, firm or corporation which does not abate the nuisance within the

required time period or who otherwise violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to the general penalty found in § 1-4 of the Code.

- (2) In addition to any penalties herein provided, the City may issue stop-work orders upon owners of lots where work is unfinished under a previously issued building permit for any violation of this section.

**§ 263-6. Regulation of length of lawn and grasses.**

- A. Purpose. This section is adopted due to the unique nature of the problems associated with lawns, grasses and noxious weeds being allowed to grow to excessive length in the City of Monona.
- B. Public nuisance declared. The Common Council finds that lawns, grasses and noxious weeds on nonagricultural lots or parcels of land, as classified under the Zoning Code, within the City of Monona, which exceed eight inches in length, adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that they tend to emit pollen and other discomforting bits of plants, constitute a fire hazard and a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interfere with the public convenience and adversely affect property values of other land within the City. For that reason, any nonagricultural lawn, grass or weed on a lot or other parcel of land which exceeds eight inches in length is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, except for property located in a designated floodplain area and/or wetland area or where the lawn, grass or weed is part of a natural lawn approved pursuant to § 263-5 above.
- C. Nuisances prohibited. Except during the month of May, no person, firm or corporation shall permit any public nuisance as defined in Subsection B above to remain on any premises owned or controlled by him or her within the City. **[Amended 4-18-2022 by Ord. No. 4-22-752]**
- D. Inspection. The Weed Commissioner or his or her designee shall inspect or cause to be inspected all premises and places within the City to determine whether any public nuisance as defined in Subsection B above exists.
- E. Abatement of nuisance. If the Weed Commissioner shall determine with reasonable certainty that any public nuisance as defined in Subsection B above exists, he or she shall immediately cause written notice to be served that the City proposes to have the lot's grass or lawn cut so as to conform with this section and § 263-5. **[Amended 10-16-2017 by Ord. No. 9-17-689<sup>2</sup>]**
- F. City's option to abate nuisance. **[Amended 10-16-2017 by Ord. No. 9-17-689]**
- (1) In any case where the owner, occupant or person in charge of the property shall fail to cut his or her lawn, grass or weeds as set forth above, then and in that event the City may abate the nuisance pursuant to § 312-7 of the Code.
- (2) The City shall cut or cause to be cut all grass and weeds from the subject's

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2. Editor's Note: This ordinance also repealed original Subsections E(2) and F, which immediately followed.

property and shall charge the expenses of so doing at a rate as established by resolution by the Common Council. The charges shall be set forth in a statement to the City Clerk who, in turn, shall mail the same to the owner, occupant or person in charge of the subject premises. If said statement is not paid in full within 30 days thereafter, the City Clerk shall enter the charges in the tax roll as a special tax against said lot or parcel of land, and the same shall be collected in all respects like other taxes upon real estate or as provided under § 66.0907(3)(f), Wis. Stats.

**APPLICATION FOR NATURAL LAWN PERMIT FEE: \$25.00**

**CITY OF MONONA - 5211 SCHLUTER ROAD - MONONA, WISCONSIN 53716**

To the City Clerk of the City of Monona:

I/We hereby apply for a permit to install a natural lawn during the license period ending on the date specified below, said installation to be conducted on the following described property within the City, under the provisions of Section 8-1-5 of the Code of Ordinances, as amended, and other laws governing such installation and maintenance.

**Resident's Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Resident's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We have reviewed the provisions of sections 8-1-4 and 8-1-5 of the Monona Code of Ordinances and understand all natural lawns must be installed and maintained in accordance with the restrictions stated therein.

I/We hereby swear or affirm that the information stated herein is true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and that I/we are the owner(s) of the above listed property.

I/we understand and agree that failure to install and maintain the natural lawn in accordance with the above ordinances shall be grounds for revoking the permit. I/we further agree that upon any revocation or non-renewal of the permit we shall remove the natural lawn and maintain a conventional lawn in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_

The application fee and a written Natural Lawn Management Plan must be submitted with this Application as described in Section 8-1-5 of the Monona Code of Ordinances. Copies of this Application and Management Plan will be mailed to all property owners within 300 feet of the above listed property. If within 15 calendar days of this mailing the City receives written objections from 51% or more of the neighboring property owners, the Application shall be denied.

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**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

**Weed Commissioner Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permit Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Issued:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Expires:** \_\_\_\_\_ (2 years from Approval)

# NATURAL LAWN MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PLOT PLAN

## PLANT LIST

**Note:** Must include provisions for buffers a minimum of ten (10) feet adjacent to the street where there is no sidewalk and within ten (10) feet of the abutting property owner's property unless waived in writing by that property owner. Attach written waiver. (May attach separate Plot Plan if more space needed.)

	<b>KEY</b>	<b>PLANT NAME AND SUCCESSION</b> (Continue on back if more space needed.)	<b>HEIGHT</b>
Property Owner(s): _____ Property Address: _____ Property Legal Description: _____  Intent and Purpose of Natural Lawn: _____	Specific management & maintenance techniques to be used: _____  Intent to burn: YES _____ NO _____ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Fire Chief Acknowledgement/Date: _____ <b>NOTE: THIS IS NOT A BURN PERMIT</b>		

## Monona Sustainability Committee

### Annual Outreach Calendar

Below is a proposed annual Outreach Calendar for the Sustainability Committee, which includes a mix of set events and seasonal outreach campaigns that are relevant to the Committee's work. After the calendar is a short description of the work that goes into each event or campaign.

Month	Events	Seasonal Campaign
January		SaltWise/smart salting practices
February		SaltWise/smart salting practices
March		
April	Earth Day E-Cycling Event	
May	Memorial Day Parade	No Mow May
June		
July	Monona Community Festival	
August	National Night Out	Forestry fundraising
September		Forestry fundraising
October	Fall Festival	Adopt-a-Stormdrain
November		Adopt-a-Stormdrain
December		

#### Events

##### Earth Day E-Cycling Event

- Coordinate with Michele Westphal from Resource Solutions and Jake Reynolds from Reynolds Urethane Recycling about the event date. City staff will sign the Resource Solutions event contract.
- Staff (Brad) can coordinate with the Parks and Police Departments to have the Ahuska Park parking lot closed off the night before the event.
- Publicize the event (City website, Facebook event/posts, City Newsletter article, NextDoor posts, PSAs on WVMO, etc).
- Recruit and coordinate with volunteers prior to the event.
- Prepare any materials that will be handed out to event attendees.

##### Memorial Day Parade

- Submit an entry registration form to the parade organizers.
- Recruit and organize volunteers to be in the 'Lawn Mower Brigade'.
- Coordinate/design signage for the parade entry.

##### Community Festival/National Night Out/Fall Festival

- Work with event organizers to secure a table for a Sustainability Committee display.
- Recruit and coordinate with volunteers to table at the event.
- Decide what outreach information or activities are most appropriate for the event.
- Help with setting up, tabling and cleaning up on the day of the event.



## **Seasonal Campaigns**

### Wisconsin SaltWise

- This is a winter campaign that encourages residents, businesses and other community members to use smarter salting practices in the winter, to improve the water quality of our lakes.
- Wisconsin SaltWise often sends out a Social Media kit with pre-written posts and graphics that can be posted on the Facebook page.
- These educational posts could be expanded upon for other outreach activities.

### No Mow May

- Marketing/outreach efforts can include: Facebook posts, City Newsletter articles, PSAs on WVMO, etc.
- The Committee should budget for printing more yard signs in the 2023 operating budget. Yard signs can then be printed (City Staff will have the artwork files) and distributed to residents. The Committee could also choose to charge residents for the yard signs, and payment can be coordinated with City Staff.
- There is a spreadsheet with contact information from people who signed up for yard signs in 2022 that City Staff have access too. In 2023 and beyond, those people could be emailed directly to remind them to put out their yard signs, or to be notified when more yard signs are available.

### Forestry Fund

- The City has a dedicated Forestry Fund that can accept charitable donations from residents to cover the cost of replacing the many Ash trees that need removal.
- Fundraising for the forestry fund in the late summer/early fall will integrate well with the Public Works Department's timeline for ordering and planting trees. Jeff places orders for trees towards the end of the year (after the capital budget is approved), and the trees are then planted in the spring. If funds are raised in the fall, then Jeff will know how many extra trees to order for spring planting.

### Adopt-a-Stormdrain

- The Adopt-a-Stormdrain program encourages residents to improve the water quality of Lake Monona by keeping the storm drains near their homes clear of leaves before it rains.
- Brad generally manages this program, coordinating with residents about which storm drains they want to adopt. The Committee could help in promoting the program.
- There are some printed educational materials about the importance of stormwater quality, and the Committee could coordinate promoting the program on the City's website, Facebook, newsletter and other communications outlets.
- This can be promoted year round, but extra emphasis should be placed on this program in the fall, when leaves are falling and are more likely to clog storm drains.