

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
ORDINANCE 2023-06

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10.03 PUBLIC NUISANCES:
WEEDS AND GRASS

- (1) It is the purpose of Chapter 10.03 to prohibit the uncontrolled growth of vegetation and to control noxious weeds, while permitting the planting and maintenance of planned natural landscaping using native plants to enhance pollinator habitat.
- (2) Subject to Section (3) below:
 - (a) Weeds and grass on unimproved lands shall be kept cut to a height not to exceed 18 inches and six inches on areas within 20 feet of the street curb and within 10 feet of undeveloped lots immediately adjacent to developed lots.
 - (b) Lawns on improved lots shall be maintained to a height not to exceed six inches. Weeds and grasses allowed to grow in excess of the height limitations shall be deemed "noxious weeds" under § 66.0407, Wis. Stats., and the Village may cause all such weeds to be cut and removed and the cost charged to the property owner. A property owner shall have five days from the date of notice or postmark to comply with the regulations on weeds and grasses.
 - (c) Lands located in the A-1 Agricultural District or CO-1 Conservancy District, woods, and lawns with special areas identified as "prairie grasses" are exempt from these provisions. Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved storm water management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots.
 - (d) Berms installed for the purpose of erosion control as shown on an approved storm water management plan shall be exempt from this requirement, as well as berms adjacent to undeveloped lots
- (3) Gardens identified as natural landscaping native plant pollinator areas pursuant to the terms of this Section (3) shall be exempt from Section (2).
 - (a) Definitions.
 1. Planned natural landscaping means a planned, intentional, and maintained planting area which may include, without limitation, trees, shrubs, and native plants, or vegetation associated with a rain garden.

2. Native plants include grasses (including prairie grasses), sedges (solid, triangular-stemmed plants resembling grasses), forbs (flowering broadleaf plants), groundcovers, vines, shrubs, and trees that are native to or naturalized to the State of Wisconsin. Refer to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources information for native plant specifics: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants.html> Native plants shall not include noxious weeds or noxious grasses as defined by the State of Wisconsin statutes (§ 66.0407 or §§ 23.235, Wis. Stats.).

(b) Types of plantings:

1. Plantings may include forbs, grasses, edible plants, shrubs, or trees.
2. Plantings may be designed as rain gardens with plantings and grading specifically designed to receive and infiltrate rainwater or clear water flows.
3. Plantings shall be deliberately selected and arranged as part of a coherent overall plan. Overgrowth of conventional turf grasses or weeds, or any other unmanaged vegetation growth, shall not constitute a planned natural landscaping area.
4. No species identified on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Regulated Invasive Plants list, Chapter NR 40, whether designated as Prohibited or Restricted, shall be permitted. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>

- (c) Registration of natural landscaping native plant pollinator habitat areas with the Village of Mount Horeb is required. Registration and a garden plan are to be submitted to the Public Services Director. A sign designating the area as a planned natural landscaping native plant pollinator area is encouraged.

Introduced and passed this 6th day of September 2023.

APPROVED:



Ryan Czyzewski, Village President

ATTEST:



Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk