

What feedback, comments, or input do you want to share with Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation?

Is there a plan or strategy in place to communicate or address a possible increases tick presence. Any information about tick population increases would be great. Thanks!

Redwood Park on the Northeast corner of Platt and Redwood Ave. This is a tiny park, approximately one acre. A sign was placed yesterday (04/27/2023) regarding the "Pilot" program of not mowing until the second week of June. You did this last year as well. This park gets a lot of neighborhood dog walkers and allowing the grass to grow that tall was a real issue for the removal of their feces. In a larger park you can mow some areas and still retain fields for pollinators. Additionally I use the park to play bocce ball and badminton with my neighborhood friends and access for these recreational activities became impossible. I support the ideology behind the pilot program but this tiny parks' function is obliterated when you let the grass grow for that long. Sometimes even two weeks makes it difficult to pick up dog poop. The "No Mow" is best suited for larger city Parks like Gallup where the park is still functional during the "No Mow" season. Thank you for providing the opportunity for input.

Excellent initiative! Thank you. Adding more no-mow areas would be even better.

Love the no low ideas

I live at [REDACTED] Virginia. My apartment backs up onto the proposed no mowing area. I think it is a fantastic idea. My child and I would love to explore the effects of not mowing.

The No mow area in the southern portion of the park makes no sense. Please mow it

I loved no mow may, and also appreciate the push to add native plantings.

Let's keep both!!

Are all the boats that were to be auctioned sold, or are the still some available? Phil 7347174040

I was walking in Buhr Park last Tuesday; workers were mowing. I was walking in the same park this afternoon, May 2; workers were mowing again. Why do they mow once a week? Why are they not participating in No Mow May?

We're delighted with the alternative mow initiative. Already more space for pollinators!

The location of alternative mowing is in high pedestrian and dog walking areas, ie entrance and west border. Due to large number of deer and increased ticks, this would put these humans and dogs at high risk due to high grass. Ticks could then hitch rides to yards leading to more contact with kids. Perhaps less mowing could be on slopes by hill and not at entrance and west side between boundary and parking lot.

The long grass and weeds resulting from the "No Mow/Pollinator" program makes it much more difficult to find and clean up dog poop!

I appreciate the concept of trying to allow time for pollinators, however that must be balanced with the fact that this is a "city park". Buhr Park is literally my backyard. More and more space continues to be consumed by rain gardens and "no mow" areas. Please consider that folks want to throw a frisbee or otherwise enjoy a city park without the encroachment of these various efforts.

Our family absolutely loves the no-mow fields! There's so much violet and dandelion it feels truly magical. I think we see more butterflies too. It really makes the mowing costs seem utterly unnecessary. Our 8 month old really enjoys playing with the flowers too. I sincerely hope you continue this program as I learned recently how expensive lawn upkeep is and how it's essentially an ecological dead zone. I don't see any downsides to this aside from lawn-a-holics potentially being offended. Thank you, keep it up!

I love the flowers!

Wonderful! I love this!!!! Please do this every year. :) How can I support?

The original study for this was retracted because it had no science. Other research has found that mowing every two weeks is more beneficial as the bees can get to the weeds in the lawn as opposed to when the grass is too tall and crowds the weeds. It would be more beneficial to plant some clover or other things into the lawn and continue to mow on a reduced basis. Nevermind when the parks get too tall you can't even use them.

Overgrown grass and dandelions isn't what the pollinators need. Quit with the charades and just stop mowing so much land.

I walk through Wurster Park daily and am excited about the pilot. The park already has great wildlife like bats, hawks, and amazing fireflies and having some wild areas will support them. And the areas marked for no-mow are rarely used by visitors.

The only question I have is about sledding. That big hill is a key sledding destination. Will no-mow affect its suitability for sledding? If there's nothing too woody maybe we can sled right over it. Otherwise I could see switching the once-mow and no-mow areas and mowing or burning the sledding hill at the end of the season. Or cutting a swath for sledding. I bet A2 Parks has better ideas than I do :)

Thanks for doing this pilot! It would be cool to see the city track how much turfgrass it upgrades into habitat.

Such a beautiful place. I'm very happy to see the Alternative Mowing areas and Rain Garden.



Less mowing makes it less enjoyable to use the park. The benefits to mowing far outweigh the minimal environmental impact. Please mow regularly so I can enjoy the parks we pay to maintain.

Please make sure leaf and trash/litter collection does not suffer around the borders with resident property. The park is already terrible at this and I don't want it to get worse under the guise of sustainability.

Ticks very bad in my yard this year yet we still don't like to cut our grass but we have to because our kids and pets come in with ticks on them. Instead of a new mowing schedule for grass, please consider planting clover or other low growing species instead so that you don't have to mow at all and everything stays very short to reduce tick populations. Thank you!!!! I hate ticks ;)

They look terrible! Dandelion and other weeds are spreading their seeds to all yards, which promotes even more weeds. "Not Mowing" to you means "Not Spending" money on care and maintenance of our parks. Very disappointing!

Walk the park most days and it's terrible without the cut.

Buhr is a great space and has wonderful natural and uncut areas. It does NOT need no cut.

Some of the original research articles that seem to possibly be "source material" for this initiative have been formally retracted by the journals that published them as noted by PLOS, NIH etc.

I found these materials on Google and are sourced by the US government sites.

Do you have a bibliography on which you base your Initiative ?

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Will it increase the tick population to not mow?

The grass in the play area is over a foot tall.

Needs to be mowed

Please continue to decrease mowing anyway possible. the pollution and noise from large gas mowers is terrible for the environment. electric mowing, more meadows and wildflowers please!!!

Love this initiative!! I'm in favor of trying anything potentially helpful for pollinators and reducing emissions.

I appreciate the ingenuity of this program and agree that it will have at least some of the benefits you described. I would suggest that a short grass prairie program would provide much more ecological benefit for pollinators and stormwater runoff control. The tradeoff, of course, is that a no mow zone is free while prairie plantings would have an up front cost. Please keep innovating. We really appreciate they amazing facilities you provide us!

We love no mow May and the park looks great!

This is a great initiative and does not in any way diminish the beauty of the park. Please continue the initiative.

Thank you! It looks and feels more like a lovely field and the dogs and birds and bees and kids all love it! Hope this program "grows"! :)

I am commenting on Redwood Park, which is not listed as part of the pilot program but does have signs posted that it is part of the pilot program. Additionally, because you are not mowing my neighborhood park on Redwood, my neighborhood friends group that use it to play badminton and bocce ball decided to go to Pilgrim Park that is still in the neighborhood and has a large enough field to accommodate our activities. That park is also not being mowed, though there are no signs saying that Pilgrim Park is part of your Alternative Mowing Pilot. The field was also too overgrown for us to play on.

Not mowing our city parks reduces our ability to use and enjoy these facilities that our Parks Millage provides. A May 12, 2023 article in M LIVE stated the results of a survey done by the City previously, showed only 24% of the respondents were in favor of not mowing the parks for No Mow May, therefore 76% we not in favor of No Mow May for our parks, citing ticks being a major issue. This proportion is similar to surveys that show Americans support gun control by approximately 80% but the handful of people making the decisions do not act on their behalf.

City of Ann Arbor has an unfortunate history of diverting unused park funds to the "general" budget designation to pay for the new city hall that voters twice voted to deny a millage for. The park funds were made available by not mowing our city parks, sides of roads and other areas the City was responsible for. Private citizens took it upon themselves to mow some of the areas and a man was actually killed crossing the road with his mower at the intersection of Washtenaw and Stadium to mow the triangle of grass on the concrete divider where the two roads converged.

My concern is that a significant impetus to proceed with No Mow May, despite the results of the survey and despite the loss of our ability to utilize and enjoy our parks, is the money.

Perhaps is is time to start a "Grass" roots campaign. If that doesn't work we could quit approving millages for parks that we can't use for 4 weeks during the Spring/Summer season.

Just so you know.

You need to mow it because there are not any spaces for children to play when the weeds are waist high. Keep pollinating areas separate from parks so that they are still usable

As a homeowner along sugarbush i have been naturalizing with native plants the 'wooded' strip between my property and the mowed park for many years. i like the no mow idea a lot!. Except one

suggestion. There are a lot of walkers with and without dogs that walk along the northside until they get to the paved path. I would suggest making one small mowing strip along that 'path'. But get feedback from those walkers to confirm.

Research has shown that setting mow heights a little higher during May is the best alternative. Not mowing at all is harmful both to the grass and insects in the long run.

I love the no mow trial. Keep up the good work!

I have serious concerns about tick control and usage of our parks space for picnics and games in unmowed areas. Our children cannot use the hills of this park for play with the unmowed areas as marked.

Love the unmowed lawn!

I like the look of the longer grass under the walnut trees in the south area.

Noticed quite a few sumac plants moving into the no mow area under the black oak. That could become a problem, encroaching of the sumac. Discussion needed.

I appreciate the no mow may for what it does, but the benefit of a park for citizens is using it. There is lots of ticks in the tall grass so it is not ideal for using the bone mowed spaces

This spring we've been having hotter than usual temperatures and less rain than the ecosystem is accustomed to. The unmowed areas are still green and vibrant, where typically they would be brown and parched by this point. As a resident of the Sugarbush neighborhood I can clearly see the benefits of this program from both an aesthetic and ecological perspective.

I think the program is a great way to promote native plants and native pollinators

I appreciate the spirit of this experiment and hope it was deemed successful and will continue! I didn't pay close attention to the mowing rhythms at Buhr but my general sense is that it might be a good idea to mow a modest portion of these larger park spaces more regularly (so that they can be used for playing fields and the like) while letting the grasses and such grow for pollinators in the balance of the space. Thank you for seeking out creative ways to contribute to the health of our community, pollinators, and planet! :)

I disagree with the no-mow strategy for attracting pollinators. The main non-grass plant in parks and in private lawns is the dandelion. When those go to seed we get more dandelions, and we have two more weeks of ugly fields that are not usable for free play and walking. Instead? Increase planting areas with a variety of native plants. (PS--My own yard has no lawn and lots of natives.)