



# No Mow 'til Mother's Day

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Overview

#### What is the "No Mow 'til Mother's Day" campaign and why is Lombard supporting the effort?

The Village and the Public Works and Environmental Concerns Committee want to raise awareness throughout the community of opportunities to support our environment and local habitats for wildlife. No Mow 'til Mother's Day invites residents to avoid mowing their lawn, or a portion of their lawn, through Mother's Day to help support the local ecology, the habitats of pollinators and other wildlife.

Due to the overwhelming response to the "No Mow 'til Mother's Day" pilot program that was introduced in 2023, the Village has made changes to the Village Code to allow for all residents to participate in 2024..

### How the Program Works

#### How do residents get involved?

The Program allows for grass, both on private property and the parkway, to exceed the maximum height of 8" until the Saturday following Mother's Day. Residents participating will not need to sign up with the Village nor will the Village provide signage. Residents who participated in 2023 may display the sign that was provided last year, but signage is not required for participation.

### Lawn Maintenance

#### Do I have to let my entire lawn grow?

No. You can choose to let the grass grow on your entire lawn, including the parkway, or just a small section of it. If you feel your lawn is too long, you may cut it at any time. This initiative is about supporting habitats for pollinators, but also about raising awareness of the small things we can do as a community to create a better environment for pollinators.

#### What can I do if dandelions go to seed in my yard?

If a yellow dandelion goes from a flower to a seed, it is no longer a benefit to pollinators, so please feel free to cut off the seed head so the seeds don't have a chance to spread. There are usually younger dandelions beginning to flower below the seeding plants, so try to cut the seeding dandelions individually or set your mower deck on a higher level to avoid cutting the new yellow dandelion flowers.

## Code Enforcement

### What if a neighbor complains about my grass getting too long?

The Village will begin enforcement of the Village Code provision on the second Sunday in May. We ask for your patience during this program as it aims to benefit our local ecology. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the Village at (630) 620-5740.

### Do I have to cut my grass on Mother's Day?

Participating properties are expected to be mowed no later than the Saturday following Mother's Day.

## More information

### What else can I do to help pollinators?

Want a more sustainable solution to No Mow May? How about planting native gardens as a lawn alternative? It's a great long-term solution to enhancing our bee population, as well as other beloved pollinators. Maybe you can reduce the size of your lawn to accommodate a small native garden, filled with easy to maintain perennials that will thrive in our area and help our pollinators populate.

### Here are some other helpful tips:

- Avoid using pesticides
- Plant colorful native wildflowers
- Grow flowers in clusters
- Plant a wide variety of flowering plants that bloom during different times throughout the year
- Plant trees, herbs, flowering fruits, and vegetables
- Leave some areas, even small areas, undisturbed
- Create a nesting shelter

### Additional resources on pollinators and conservation efforts may be found at:

- Lombard Garden Club – <http://lombardgardenclub.org/>
- The Morton Arboretum - <https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/>
- University of Illinois Extension - <https://extension.illinois.edu/mg>
- The Conservation Foundation Conservation @Home Program - <https://www.theconservationfoundation.org/conservation-home/>

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/gardeners/>

For more information about this program, contact the Public Works Department at [publicworks@villageoflombard.org](mailto:publicworks@villageoflombard.org)