



Report Number: EC2025-0309

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 March 11

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Roadside Naturalization and Mowing Reduction

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Penner, Spencer

WHEREAS Roadsides have been largely planned and maintained to be low-care single turf areas with little (re)investment and maintenance;

AND WHEREAS Many roadsides no longer offer visual appeal and have reduced ecological benefits, being overcrowded by weeds and invasive species due to turf species not best suited for the soil quality of roadsides;

AND WHEREAS Roadsides have the opportunity to increase biodiversity and contribute to ecological resilience;

AND WHEREAS Naturalized roadsides using native plant species can improve soil quality, water retention, carbon sequestration, and habitat;

AND WHEREAS The roadside naturalization pilot has been proven to save the city money over the course of time;

AND WHEREAS Opportunities to naturalize roadsides post road construction where staging has happened are ideal opportunities to implement longer term naturalized solutions;

AND WHEREAS The City has already implemented 'shoulder cuts' in some areas to reduce mowing currently;

AND WHEREAS Reducing long term costs to the city budget in both capital and operating exists through naturalization and reduced mowing alongside roadways with a dedicated strategy;

AND WHEREAS Residents and communities are looking to partner with the City on the beautification on neighborhood boulevards and roadways;

AND WHEREAS Connecting with residents through dedicated initiatives and opportunities to contribute to the work creates a sense of community as well as has the potential to reduce labour costs;

AND WHEREAS Reduced mowing and roadside naturalization are supported by city polices such as the Parks Connect Plan, Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Strategy, and the Municipal Development Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to:

1. Develop an implementation plan for naturalization of major roadways, boulevards, and sides of pathways/sidewalks/multi-use-pathways which prioritizes biodiversity, climate mitigation, and safety while still considering aesthetics;
2. Include naturalization into new road construction projects as part of capital construction costs for projects starting in 2026;

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3. Develop an education campaign to increase resident awareness in future volunteer opportunities related to naturalization of residential areas.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOVLED that Council direct Administration to report back through Infrastructure and Planning Committee no later than Q2 2026 with respect to timing of implementation and budget requirements as needed.

Attachments:

1. Notice of Motion Checklist
2. Briefing - Roadside Naturalization Pilot Project Results - EC2023-1115