

From: [Amelia Harshfield](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
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To the Honorable Members of the Kansas City Council-

Native plants are not merely an aesthetic choice; they are an essential tool for adapting to our changing climate. Their deep root systems are highly effective at absorbing stormwater, which is crucial for mitigating the increased risk of flooding and reducing strain on our municipal drainage systems. Furthermore, native vegetation helps to reduce the urban heat island effect by providing natural cooling and shade, making our public spaces and neighborhoods more comfortable during hotter summers.

Beyond their resilience, native plants offer tangible benefits to every Kansas Citian. By adapting to the local climate and soil, these species require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides to thrive. This translates into significant cost savings for residents and city departments, while also reducing harmful chemical runoff into our waterways. A landscape rich with native species also creates a healthier environment, supporting the diverse insect, bird, and pollinator populations that are essential to a thriving ecosystem. This enhanced biodiversity enriches our parks, gardens, and backyards, creating beautiful and vibrant spaces for all to enjoy.

Ordinance No. 250637 signals a new era for Kansas City, one where we use nature-based solutions to build a more resilient, sustainable, and beautiful city for current and future generations. We applaud your leadership in passing this important legislation and look forward to seeing its positive impact ripple throughout our communities.

Sincerely,

Amelia Harshfield

Long time resident of Kansas City Missouri