



full support for Ordinance No. 250637

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To Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

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Dear Council and Decisionmakers,

I am writing to give my full support to Ordinance No. 250637 for native plant landscaping and yard (turf grass) conversion to native plants to no longer be counted as rank weeds or a violation. Native plants are crucial to the survival of our local ecosystem, which we humans should be stewarding. Turf lawns provide no habitat or nutrition to any of our native animal species, while wasting water and contributing to the pollution of our air, soil, and water. Planting native species in one's yard helps to prevent erosion and flooding in neighborhoods, and helps draw water down into the soil, keeping it out of the sewers. Our lovely native grasses act as a carbon sink, storing carbon underground, reliably reducing greenhouse gasses. I personally have many native plants in my yard, and I have noticed many benefits, most noticeably, no longer accumulating huge puddles of rainwater on the lawn in various spots after storms because the plants help the water to be drawn down into the earth. I have also watched the biodiversity of my yard dramatically increase year after year- from virtually no birds, bees, or butterflies- to having many different species of each enjoying the plants in the yard.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Farstad