



Ordinance 250637

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

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"Currently, any plant over ten inches in height is considered a "rank weed" per the City's Nuisance Code (Chapter 48) and similar chapters. However, many native plants exceed ten inches when allowed to grow to their natural height and form. These native plants are beneficial to the environment and community by providing stormwater retention, increased water quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased biodiversity, and increased habitats for wildlife. The proposed amendments to the City's codes would expand allowances for native plants in "managed natural landscapes," meaning a premise, lot, tract, or parcel of land that consists of intentionally and continuously maintained vegetation allowing growth to its natural height for the purpose of benefiting the city's natural environment. In order for these managed natural landscapes to maintain their appearance, they must also meet additional requirements including no turfgrass ten inches or more in height, noxious plants, invasive plants, or rank weeds. The defined landscape area must have defined boundaries, no vegetation may encroach onto neighboring property or the right-of-way, and at least one unobstructed safety corridor three feet in width and seven and a half feet in height must be present. These requirements help to maintain the aesthetics associated with life in a large urban metro area, while still allowing for native plant yards and gardens so long as they are intentionally maintained.