

## RESIDENT MEMO

**TO: Public Works and Sustainability Committee**  
**TO: Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee**  
**FROM: NICHOLAS HESS**  
**RE: Need for pollinator gardens and native plans in village parks**

## BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW

This past May, the Village Board approved a “No Mow May” resolution asking residents to refrain from mowing in the month of May. This resolution also encouraged residents to plant a variety of native plants that bloom from spring to fall. The goal of this and other initiatives is to support the native bee population that is being threatened by habitat loss, pesticides, disease and climate change.

## RESIDENT PROPOSAL

I would like to discuss and recommend that pollinator gardens and/or natural areas be established in all Village parks by 2030. The size of the pollinator garden/natural area should be at least 1/50<sup>th</sup> of the total park area and consist of plant species native to the area and that require minimal pruning and maintenance by village staff.

One example of this type of natural area is at Willow Run Park. The area northwest of the park consists of unmaintained natural habitat for all sorts of wildlife. While not all parks are able to have a natural area similar to Willow Run Park, landscaped areas of naturally flowing plants can also serve as a home for pollinators and serve to help educate the community on the beauty of pollinator gardens.

I would also ask that all future residential, commercial and industrial developments strongly consider adding in pollinator gardens/natural areas.

