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**AN ORDINANCE
of the
CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS**

By Gordon

**Amending Title 11, Chapter 227 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances
relating to Health and Sanitation: Nuisances Generally.**

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 227.90 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

227.90. Offensive conditions and vegetation declared. *(a) In general.* No owner, agent or occupant of any privately owned lands or premises shall place upon, or permit upon the owner's premises any noxious weeds as are defined in Minnesota Statutes or Minnesota Rules, dirt or rubbish, or any swill, offal, garbage (except in authorized containers), ashes, barnyard litter, manure, yard cleanings, dead animals, inoperable vehicle as defined in the Zoning Code, or any other foul or unhealthy material, or any other condition on said premises, in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance. Except as part of a managed natural landscape as defined in this section, ~~Any~~ weeds or grass growing upon any lot or parcel of land in the city to a greater height than eight (8) inches or which have gone or are about to go to seed are hereby declared to be a nuisance condition and dangerous to the health, safety and good order of the city. ~~Exception:~~ Ground cover planted and maintained above earth-sheltered buildings need not comply with the height limitation of this section; however, such ground cover shall not contain noxious weeds. Fallen trees, fallen tree limbs, dead trees, dead tree limbs, which in the opinion of the director of inspections constitute a health, safety or fire hazard, are declared to be a nuisance condition. Further, when in the opinion of the director of inspections, trees, brush and plant growth, which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property when such growth is in violation of sections 244.1580 or 427.280 shall also constitute a nuisance condition.

(b) Right to install and maintain a managed natural landscape. An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands or premises may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules and ordinances, install and maintain a managed natural landscape.

(1) Definitions.

Managed natural landscape means a planned, intentional and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings.

Meadow vegetation means grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, the State of Minnesota, and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, not including noxious weeds.

Noxious weed shall have the meaning assigned by Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.77, Subd. 8.

Ornamental plants means grasses, perennials, annuals and groundcovers purposefully planted for aesthetic reasons.

Rain garden means a native plant garden that is designed not only to aesthetically improve properties, but also to reduce the amount of stormwater and accompanying pollutants from entering streams, lakes and rivers.

Turf-grass lawn means a lawn comprised mostly of grasses commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas (such as but not limited to bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass blends), intended to be maintained at a height of no more than (8) inches.

(2) Findings. The city council finds that the installation and maintenance of managed natural landscapes is beneficial to the city's environment and its residents and serves to further adopted city goals in that managed natural landscapes require fewer potentially harmful and costly inputs, improve stormwater retention, increase water quality and biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide habitat for wildlife such as birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects and species.

(3) Requirements.

a. Managed natural landscapes may include plants and grasses in excess of eight (8) inches in height and which have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds and must be maintained so as to not include unintended vegetation.

- b. Managed natural landscapes may not include any plantings, which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property when such growth is in violation of sections 244.1580 or 427.280.
- c. Managed natural landscapes shall not include turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state.