



Baltimore Commission on Sustainability

Mia Blom and Jared Lyles, Co-Chairs

REQUEST: City Council Bill #24-0507 – Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows

For the purposed of requiring the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council assessing the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining native plant communities (otherwise known as “urban meadows”) and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows; and providing for a special effective date.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve with the following amendments:

- On page 1:
 - in line 2, strike “Infrastructure and Urban Meadows” and substitute “Sustainable Vegetation Management”
 - in line 6, strike “self-sustaining” and substitute “ecologically beneficial”
 - in lines 7 and 8, strike “(otherwise known as “urban meadows”)”
 - in line 8, strike “transformed into urban meadows” and substitute “selected as sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices as alternatives to mown grass”
 - in lines 14, strike “otherwise known as” and substitute “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices including but not limited to”
 - in line 19, insert “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices including but not limited to” before “urban meadows”
 - in line 21, strike “transformed into” and insert “sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices including but not limited to”
 - in line 22, insert “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices including but not limited to” before “urban meadows”



- in line 24, insert “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices including but not limited to” before “urban meadows”
- On page 1:
 - in line 5, insert “up to” after “maintaining”
 - in line 7, strike “vacant lots and”
 - in line 7, insert “areas maintained by the City as mown grass and” after “existing”
 - in line 14, “up to” after “maintaining”
 - in line 15, strike “vacant lots and”
 - in line 15, insert “areas maintained by the City as mown grass and” after “existing”
 - in line 18, insert “up to” after “maintain”
 - in line 20, strike “vacant lots and”
 - in line 20, insert “areas maintained by the City as mown grass and” after “existing”
 - in line 22, insert “up to” after “maintaining”
- On page 1:
 - in line 15, insert “which are defined for the purposes of the study and by the USDA as “habitats dominated by grasses and other herbaceous species that can serve an important ecological role for the city's wildlife”” before “and mapping”
- On page 1:
 - at the end of line 19, insert “including evaluating and comparing the following factors for installing and maintaining low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices as alternatives to the current practice of installing and maintaining mown grass:
 - financial costs and savings
 - community impact and acceptance
 - environmental impact, including but not limited to greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration
 - safety
 - aesthetics
 - biodiversity
 - urban heat island effects or mitigation
 - opportunities for workforce development
 - legal implications”
 - in lines 24 and 25, strike (4) in its entirety.