

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Council Bill 24-0507**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Conway  
Introduced and read first time: April 8, 2024  
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable, with Amendments  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: November 4, 2024

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Study and Report – ~~Infrastructure and Urban Meadows~~ Sustainable Vegetation  
Management**

FOR the purpose 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 up to 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining ecologically beneficial native plant communities (otherwise known as “urban meadows”) and mapping vacant lots existing areas maintained by the City with mown grass and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows; selected to be used as sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices that are alternatives to mown grass; and providing for a special effective date.

**SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

(a) For the purposes of this study, the term “urban meadow” is, per the United States Department of Agriculture, defined as “habitats dominated by grasses and other herbaceous species that can serve an important ecological role for the City’s wildlife”.

(b) ~~(a)~~ No later than ~~120~~ 180 days from the enactment of this Ordinance, the Baltimore City Administrator, in consultation with the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability and the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability, shall submit a report, as fully described in subsection (b) of this section, to the Mayor and City Council assessing the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining up to 100 acres of otherwise known as “urban meadows” low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows, and mapping vacant lots existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1           (c) ~~(b)~~ The report required by this section shall include:

2                   (1) a cost and benefit analysis of an initiative to install and maintain up to 100  
3                   acres of urban meadows low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial  
4                   vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows, in the  
5                   City; City, including evaluating and comparing the following factors for  
6                   installing and maintaining low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial  
7                   vegetation types and management practices as alternatives to the current  
8                   practice of installing and maintaining mown grass:

9                               (i) financial costs and savings;

10                              (ii) community impact and acceptance;

11                              (iii) environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emission and carbon  
12                              sequestration;

13                              (iv) safety;

14                              (v) aesthetics;

15                              (vi) biodiversity;

16                              (vii) urban heat island effects and mitigation;

17                              (viii) opportunities for workforce development;

18                              (ix) legal implications; and

19                              (x) operational impacts on City agencies and partners; and

20                   (2) a map of existing ~~vacant lots~~ existing areas maintained by the City as mown  
21                   grass and existing areas with packed dirt and minimal vegetation that could be  
22                   transformed into sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial  
23                   vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows; and

24                   (3) a logistical analysis of installing and maintaining up to 100 acres of urban  
25                   meadows, and low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types  
26                   and management practices, including urban meadows.

27                   ~~(4)~~ an assessment of the environmental impact of installing and maintaining urban  
28                   meadows in the City.

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1       **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
2 enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this 18 day of November, 2024



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President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 18 day of November, 2024



\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this 27th day of November, 2024



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Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency

This 22nd Day of November, 2024.

*Elena R. DiPietro*

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Chief Solicitor