



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**Mission Statement**

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee will be responsible for matters concerning public safety, including, but not limited to; emergency preparedness, police services, fire/EMS, and the executive, administrative, and operational functions of the city government and libraries.*

**The Honorable Mark Conway  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2024**

**1:01PM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Ordinance 24-0507**

**Study & Report – Infrastructure & Urban Meadows**

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## SYNOPSIS

**Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations**

**Bill: 24-0507**

### Study and Report - Infrastructure and Urban Meadows

**Sponsor:** Councilmember Conway

**Introduced:** April 8, 2024

**Purpose:** 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 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.

**Effective:** On the day it is enacted

### AGENCY REPORTS

City Solicitor	Approved for Form & Legal Sufficiency
Office of Sustainability	Support with amendments
Dept of Recreation & Parks	Supports
Dept Public Works	No Objection
Commission on Sustainability	Support with amendments
City Administrator	
Dept of Finance	Does not oppose

### ANALYSIS

#### Bill Summary

If enacted this bill would require the Baltimore City Administrator, the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability, & Baltimore Commission on Sustainability to produce a report on the cost & benefits of installing & maintaining 100 acres of urban meadows in the City Of Baltimore – including a mapping of vacant lots and other dirt packed areas that could be converted into urban meadows.

The report would include

- A cost benefit analysis to install and maintain 100 acres of urban meadows.
- Map of vacant lots & other areas that could be converted into urban meadows.
- Logistical analysis of installing & maintaining 100 acres of urban meadows.
- Assessment of the environmental impact of the installing and maintaining of the urban meadows.

The report would be due 120 days after enactment

The Department of Public Works notes in its report that the installation and maintenance of these urban meadows may take a great deal of effort citing factors such as:

- Soil Amendment
- Finding the right plants for different microclimates in the City.
- Community education
- Creation of maintenance plans
- Legal protections and needs such as easements for the meadows.

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### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** 24-0507 1<sup>st</sup> reader, Agency Reports, Baltimore City Code

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Analysis by: Anthony Leva  
Analysis Date: September 24, 2024

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 24-0507  
(First Reader)**

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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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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Office of the City Administrator,  
Department of Finance, Office of Sustainability, Commission on Sustainability

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows**

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

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

10 (a) No later than 120 days from the enactment of this Ordinance, the Baltimore City  
11 Administrator, in consultation with the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability and the  
12 Baltimore Commission on Sustainability, shall submit a report, as fully described in  
13 subsection (b) of this section, to the Mayor and City Council assessing the costs and  
14 benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of otherwise known as “urban  
15 meadows” and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be  
16 transformed into urban meadows.

17 (b) The report required by this section shall include:

18 (1) a cost and benefit analysis of an initiative to install and maintain 100 acres of  
19 urban meadows in the City;

20 (2) a map of existing vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt and minimal  
21 vegetation that could be transformed into urban meadows;

22 (3) a logistical analysis of installing and maintaining 100 acres of urban meadows;  
23 and

24 (4) an assessment of the environmental impact of installing and maintaining urban  
25 meadows in the City.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 24-0507**

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**24-0507  
AGENCY REPORTS**

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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September 18, 2024

The Honorable President  
Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary  
409 City Hall  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0507 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill is 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 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.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate “in furtherance of its legislative function.” 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may “exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City,” and may “pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City.” City Charter, Art. II, §§ (27), (47). Moreover, Section 2(a) of Article VII of the Charter allows for ordinances to give additional duties to “a department, officer, commission, board or other municipal agency” so long as those duties are “consistent with the Charter and subject to the supervision of a superior municipal officer or agency.” Charter, Art. VII, § 2(a).



Therefore, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ashlea Brown', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ashlea Brown  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor  
Stephen Salsbury, Deputy Solicitor  
Nina Themelis, MOGR  
Elena DiPietro, Chief, General Counsel  
Hilary Ruley  
Michele Toth  
Desiree Luckey



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o Khalil Zaied
<b>FROM</b>	Khalil Zaied, Acting Director, Dept of Public Works 
<b>DATE</b>	July 15, 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>City Council Bill 24-0507 (Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows)</b>

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

7/15/24

**Position: No Objection**

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

City Council Bill 24-0507, if enacted, would require the Baltimore City Administrator, the Office of Sustainability and the Commission on Sustainability, to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council that assesses the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining native plant communities (urban meadows) and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows. The report would be due no later than 120 days from the date of the bill's enactment.

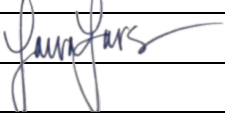
Establishing urban meadows on vacant lots with compacted dirt would not be a low maintenance endeavor, would require extensive soil amendment, and could take years to find and sustain the right plant combinations to suit each micro-climate. Community education and acceptance would be critical for the protection and success of these meadows, as would maintenance plans, easements, and other legal protections. City Council Bill 24-0506 would support urban meadow development by amending the Health and Exterior Property Maintenance Codes to allow for managed natural landscapes to be cultivated with certain plants that could exceed the current maximum 8-inch plant heights. This companion bill also recognizes that native plants and plants adapted to the State of Maryland are acceptable for propagation. This distinction is important to consider with climate change beginning to shift plant hardiness zones to the north as the U.S. grows warmer.<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Public Works has no objection to the passage of City Council Bill 24-0507 and is willing to contribute any relevant Public Works information and perspective to the report.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/shifting-planting-zones-2023>



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
<b>DATE</b>	September 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	24-0507 Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

**Position: Does Not Oppose**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-507, Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows, 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 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.

**Background**

Council Bill 24-507, Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows would require the City Administrator, the Office of Sustainability and the Commission on Sustainability, to submit a report to the Mayor and City Council that assesses the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of low-maintenance and self-sustaining native plant communities (urban meadows) and mapping vacant lots and existing areas with packed dirt that could be transformed into urban meadows.

**Fiscal Impact**


The cost benefit analysis requested in the ordinance will take into account the upfront and recurring costs of establishing urban meadows. These costs may include property acquisition and remediation, planting, and any recurring maintenance. The analysis will also factor in potential benefits, both economic and non-economic. The results of this analysis would inform any future funding requirements to establish urban meadows.

**Conclusion**

The Department of Finance anticipates no financial impact of the proposed ordinance; however, future recommendations from the requested report may have a financial impact.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 24-507.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis

<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Reginald Moore Executive Director <i>Reginald Moore</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	Agency Name & Address	Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks 3001 East Drive, Baltimore, Maryland (MD) 21217		
	Subject :	City Council Bill 24-0507 Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows		

DATE: May 1, 2024

**TO:** The Honorable City Council President Nick Mosby  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

I am herein reporting on City Council 24-0507 introduced by Councilman Mark Conway, 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”).

BCRP’s mission is focused on the health and wellness of our citizens as well as the preservation of our natural resources. The exploration of the “urban meadow” and the possible benefits, may give us additional opportunities to advance that agenda.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Morgan at [jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov).

# **Tree Removal Mitigation Bill Summary**

## **Introduction**

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) Forestry Division has jurisdiction over, and maintenance responsibility for, the trees within the City's street rights-of-way and on City parkland [park property]. The Forestry Division is the primary agency responsible for the City's goal to increase our tree canopy to 40%.

## **What is the current Tree Removal Mitigation Policy?**

Each year, for various reasons, trees are removed from public streets and parkland and those removals are required to be mitigated for by either replacing the tree(s) or paying a fee-in-lieu amount. Aligned with implementing our 40% tree canopy goal, for or almost two decades, BCRP has administered a policy of inch for inch replacement for trees removed, both in the rights-of-way and parkland. When development activities result in more caliper inches removed than can be replaced on site, BCRP accepts a fee-in-lieu or oversees offsite plantings. Funds accepted as fee-in-lieu are used to increase the City tree canopy – to purchase, plant, and maintain trees, as well as for forest management efforts. This policy is also aligned with the goals of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) and builds upon the FCA by protecting individual trees that would not otherwise be protected.

## **Why do we need this bill?**

This bill will codify the mitigation requirements for tree removal in the rights of way and on parkland – exactly as they are practiced today. The current code gives jurisdiction over said trees to BCRP Forestry, and says replacement may be required, however, it does not specify any details on replacement. The current code also allows for fines to be administered when trees are removed without a permit or approval.

Adopting this code aligns with implementing the Sustainability Plan's intent to “develop and implement policy to manage parks after construction projects (making sure trees impacted are replaced/mitigated)”; goal to “classify trees and forests as public infrastructure (require the same level of consideration for trees as is currently given to infrastructure such as streets and utility lines)”; and, lastly, achieves the goal to “Adopt a Tree Ordinance.”


Adding the mitigation requirement to the code will make permanent the agency's long-standing policy of tree replacement. Additionally, it aligns the City's code with the State's Roadside Tree Permit, which requires replacement.

If this code is not adopted all mitigation fees that have been applied on public lands are vulnerable to challenge in a court of law. For example, the fees paid by BGE to replace several hundred trees removed for a new pipeline could be up for debate in a legal forum.

## **Bill Specifics:**

- Requires inch for-inch replacement for the removal of street trees (in street rights-of-way)
- Requires inch for-inch replacement for the removal of park trees eight inches and above in diameter.
- Accepts fee-in-lieu payment when in-kind replacement is not an option.

- Determines location for where fee-in-lieu funds are deposited and how they are spent.

FROM	NAME & TITLE	AVA RICHARDSON, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #24-0507/ Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows		

**TO** The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: September 24, 2024

**Position: Support with Amendments**

At a special meeting on September 23, 2024, the Commission on Sustainability considered 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.

In its consideration of this bill, the Commission on Sustainability met on May 30th and prepared a list of questions to submit to the bill sponsor, Councilman Mark Conway. The Commission on Sustainability held a special meeting on September 23rd, during which the Commission reviewed the bill report submitted to the City Council by the Office of Sustainability in support of City Council Bill #24-0507. Councilman Conway attended the meeting and addressed questions from the Commission.

The Commission on Sustainability is generally supportive of the intent of this bill. In its consideration of the bill, the Commission suggested that the intent of the bill may be expressed more clearly by shifting the focus from “urban meadows” specifically to a scope that would evaluate the costs and benefits of a variety of sustainable land management practices that the City could pilot in locations currently maintained as mown grass.

Although generally supportive of the bill, the Commission on Sustainability expressed concerns about the scope of the study and the resources that will be made available to the Office of Sustainability to complete the study. The Commission recognizes that the City Council does not have the authority to dedicate funds outside of its role in adopting the annual Ordinance of Estimates.

The Commission on Sustainability adopted the following, with nine members being present (nine in favor):



RESOLVED, that the Commission on Sustainability recommends that City Council Bill #24-0507 be **approved with amendments** by the City Council.

A report containing the recommended amendments and questions from the Commission on Sustainability is attached.

If there are any questions about this bill report, please contact Mia Blom and Jared Lyles, Co-chairs of the Commission on Sustainability, at [miajblom@gmail.com](mailto:miajblom@gmail.com) and [jarednyles@gmail.com](mailto:jarednyles@gmail.com) respectively, and copy [sustainability@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sustainability@baltimorecity.gov).

AR/agb

attachment

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office  
The Honorable Mark Conway, Councilmember, District 4  
The Honorable Phylicia Porter, Council Representative to the Commission on Sustainability  
Mr. Chris Ryer, Director of Planning Director  
Ms. Amy Gilder-Busatti, Sustainability Manager  
Ms. Valerie Rupp, Climate & Resilience Manager  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services  
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD  
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Department



## 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.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**24-0507  
TESTIMONY**



**Date:** September 25, 2024

**Bill:** 24-0507 Study and Report - Infrastructure and Urban Meadows

**Position:** Support

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Dear Chair Conway and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **Council Bill 24-0507 – Study and Report – Infrastructure and Urban Meadows**. The legislation would require a report on the costs and benefits of installing and maintaining 100 acres of urban meadows in Baltimore City.

Urban meadows of native grasses and flowering plants improve the quantity and quality of green spaces in cities, housing native species and providing essential habitat to support local biodiversity. Urban meadows are planted with cost-effective self-sustaining plants that support improved stormwater management by absorbing more water than hard-packed vacant lots.

In addition to their ecological and economic benefits, urban meadows also provide social benefits and opportunities to build community. Green spaces improve neighborhood aesthetics, and increased access to and engagement with nature supports improved physical and mental health and wellbeing. Establishing and maintaining additional urban meadows can support increased green space equity by offering more Baltimore City residents with the multiple benefits that green spaces provide and could help address environmental justice concerns throughout the City.

We believe a study and report on urban meadows can and should align with relevant existing initiatives such as Baltimore’s Sustainability and Green Network Plans. It is timely and appropriate that the City of Baltimore assess and report on the ecological and social benefits that urban meadows provide City residents. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Bill 24-0507.**

Contact:

**Ryan Fredriksson**  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
410-385-8276  
[rfredriksson@aquarium.org](mailto:rfredriksson@aquarium.org)

**Maggie Ostdahl**  
Sr. Conservation Policy Manager  
410-385-8275  
[mostdahl@aquarium.org](mailto:mostdahl@aquarium.org)

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**24-0507  
ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 24-0507  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reader Copy)**

By: Councilmember Conway

{To be offered to the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee}

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Infrastructure and Urban Meadows**” and substitute “**Sustainable Vegetation Management**”; and, on that same page, in line 5, after “maintaining” insert “up to”; and, on that same page, in line 6, strike “self-sustaining” and substitute “ecologically beneficial”; and, on that same page, in lines 6 and 7, strike “(otherwise known as “urban meadows”)”; and, on that same page, in line 7, strike “vacant lots” and substitute “existing areas maintained by the City with mown grass”; and, on that same page, in line 8, strike “transformed into urban meadows;” and substitute “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, on that same page, before line 10 insert:

“(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”.”;

and, on that same page, in lines 10 and 17, strike “(a)” and “(b)”, respectively, and substitute “(b)” and “(c)”, respectively; and, on that same page, in line 14, after “maintaining” insert “up to”; and, on that same page, in lines 14 and 15, strike “otherwise known as “urban meadows”” and substitute “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows;”; and, on that same page, in line 15, strike “vacant lots” and substitute “existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass and”; and, on that same page, in line 18, after “maintain” insert “up to”; and, on that same page, in line 19, strike “urban meadows” and substitute “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows;”; and on that same page, in that same line, strike “City;” and substitute “City, 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:

- (i) financial costs and savings;

(ii) community impact and acceptance;

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

(iv) safety;

(v) aesthetics;

(vi) biodiversity;

(vii) urban heat island effects and mitigation;

(viii) opportunities for workforce development;

(ix) legal implications; and

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

and, on that same page, in line 20, strike “vacant lots” and substitute “existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass”; and, on that same page, in line 21, strike “transformed into” and substitute “sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including”; and, on that same page, in that same line, after “meadows;” insert “and”; and, on that same page, in line 22, after “maintaining” insert “up to”; and, on the same page, in that same line, strike “urban meadows; and” and insert “low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows.”; and, on that same page, strike lines 24 and 25 in their entirety.



COUNCIL BILL 24-0507

UNOFFICIAL REPRINT TO SHOW CONTEXT  
OF AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY COUNCILMEMBER CONWAY (v3)

A BILL ENTITLED

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 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.

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

- (1) a cost and benefit analysis of an initiative to install and maintain up to 100 acres of ~~urban meadows~~ low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows, in the City; City, 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:
  - (i) financial costs and savings;
  - (ii) community impact and acceptance;
  - (iii) environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emission and carbon sequestration;
  - (iv) safety;
  - (v) aesthetics;
  - (vi) biodiversity;
  - (vii) urban heat island effects and mitigation;
  - (viii) opportunities for workforce development;
  - (ix) legal implications; and
  - (x) operational impacts on City agencies and partners; and
- (2) a map of existing ~~vacant lots~~ existing areas maintained by the City as mown grass and existing areas with packed dirt and minimal vegetation that could be transformed into sites to pilot low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows; and
- (3) a logistical analysis of installing and maintaining up to 100 acres of ~~urban meadows; and~~ low-maintenance and ecologically beneficial vegetation types and management practices, including urban meadows.
- (4) ~~an assessment of the environmental impact of installing and maintaining urban meadows in the City.~~

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