

AS AMENDED ON OCTOBER 11, 2021
ORDINANCE NO. 2685

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY TO AMEND CHAPTER 8.08
BRUSH, WEEDS AND OBNOXIOUS GROWTH TO INCLUDE THE DEFINITION &
REQUIREMENTS OF MEADOW CULTIVATION AND TO ALLOW FOR THE
CULTIVATION OF MEADOWS IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury has determined there is a need for periodic review of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury desire to amend Chapter 8.08.080 to permit the cultivation of meadows subject to the terms and conditions provided hereinbelow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 8.08 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Brush, Weeds and Obnoxious Growth”, be and is hereby amended by adding the bolded and underlined language as follows:

8.08.080 Meadow Cultivation

Meadows are a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of grasses and wildflowers that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities, so not to include noxious weeds. The cultivation of Meadows shall be exempt from the requirements of Section 8.08.010 (Cutting or removal of grass, weeds, brush and plant growth required) if the following conditions are met:

- A. The Meadow shall be managed in a manner so not to become infested with weeds or to create a stagnant, foul-smelling condition;**
- B. The Meadow shall be managed so as not to contain noxious weed growth and must include at minimum, a majority of plants native to Maryland. For purposes of this Section, the term “noxious weed” is defined as any annual, biennial, or perennial weed or plant that adversely effects and/or threatens agricultural production, including but not limited to any noxious weed as defined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture;**
- C. The Meadow shall be set back not less than ten (10) feet from front property line;**
- D. The Meadow shall be set back not less than five (5) feet from side and/or rear property line;**
- E. No Meadow set back is required for side and/or rear property line if a fully opaque fence, at least five (5) feet in height, is installed between the Meadow and neighboring side and/or rear property;**
- F. The Meadow shall be cut to a height no greater than eight (8) inches a minimum of one (1) time annually between September 15 and March 15; and**
- G. All property owners who desire to participate in cultivating a Meadow must first register with the Housing and Community Development Department.**

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 2. It is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that each provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

Section 3. It is further the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable under applicable Maryland or federal law, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and all other provisions of this Ordinance shall remain and shall be deemed valid and enforceable.

Section 4. The recitals set forth hereinabove are incorporated into this section of the Ordinance as if such recitals were specifically set forth at length in this Section 4.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its final passage.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury held on the 27th day of September, 2021 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, in the meantime, was finally passed by the Council of the City of Salisbury on the 11th day of October, 2021.

ATTEST:



Kimberly R. Nichols, City Clerk



John R. Heath, City Council President

Approved by me, this 15th day of October, 2021.



Jacob R. Day, Mayor



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

To: Julia Glanz, City Administrator & Andy Kitzrow, Deputy City Administrator
From: Ronald Strickler Jr., Director of HCDD
Date: August 30, 2021
Re: Meadow Cultivation Code Amendment

At the direction of City Administrator Julia Glanz, the Housing and Community Development Department explored the possibility of adding Meadow Cultivation to the City of Salisbury Code. The Housing and Community Development team, along with Alyssa Hastings, Sustainability Specialist of the Department of Infrastructure and Development partnered to determine the best solution for the residents of Salisbury. On behalf of the Housing and Community Development Department and Department of Infrastructure and Development, we are requesting consideration of the proposed Meadow Cultivation Code Amendment which would allow for residents to register and cultivate meadows.

Through research conducted by Sustainability Specialist Alyssa Hastings, we are able to provide the benefits of allowing meadows within the City of Salisbury. Wildflower meadows are complex, interactive communities of plants that provide essential ecosystem services. Wildflower meadows are valuable habitat, providing pollen, nectar, and seed resources, nesting sites, and a protected environment for our native bee and butterfly species. Additionally, many birds thrive on the food and shelter that wildflower meadows provide. Meadows aid in the infiltration and filtration of stormwater, prevent erosion, and store carbon. Salisbury is proud to be a Bee City USA community, by allowing residents to create pocket pollinator meadows in their yards, the City of Salisbury is expanding habitat for the pollinators we all depend on.



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Lower Shore Land Trust

100 River Street

Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

443-234-5587

www.lowershorelandtrust.org

September 15, 2021

Jack Heath
Council President, City of Salisbury
125 North Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Re: A letter in support of the Pollinator Meadow Ordinance

Dear Council President Heath,

The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is submitting this letter of support for the City's update of Chapter 8.08 to allow the cultivation of pollinator meadows within the City of Salisbury.

The City of Salisbury has taken many steps recently to support wildlife and wildlife habitat within its boundaries including the City's certifications as both a Bee City and a Bird City. The approval of the changes to the Brush, Weed, and Obnoxious Growth ordinance would support these recent initiatives by allowing property owners within the City to cultivate and care for meadows that would provide critical urban habitat for pollinators and other wildlife and compliment the City's own efforts on City-owned properties such as City Park.

Proper management of these areas is critical to both the health of the meadows and the aesthetic appeal of the City. These meadows add beautiful color and texture to yards and can provide habitat for pollinators, birds, and other beneficial creatures year-round. Well managed meadows can also provide benefits for stormwater management as they can help increase infiltration rates and reduce runoff to the storm drains.

LSLT has been working with municipal landowners for years through our Pollinator Certification Program (Brochure attached). This program provides landowners with information on best practices for a pollinator-friendly garden. The proposed changes in the City ordinance would allow landowners to adopt many of the suggested pollinator certification criteria that they may not currently be able to under current regulations.

LSLT thanks the City for all of their efforts to increase well-managed wildlife habitat within its boundaries.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Patton".

Kate Patton
Executive Director, LSLT



209 East Market Street – Suite 209
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
443-366-5485
wicomicoenvironment.org

September 15, 2021

Salisbury City Council members
125 North Division St.
Salisbury, MD 21801

Re: Proposed Ordinance to Allow Maintained Meadows in Salisbury

Honorable Members:

The Wicomico Environmental Trust strongly supports the revisions to the City's property maintenance code that allows residents to plant maintained meadows in their yards, and we ask the Council to support this proposed ordinance.

There is growing scientific support for and public interest in regenerating habitat for wildlife and pollinators by converting lawn to more ecologically rich alternatives. An increasing number of homeowners are creating meadows, vegetable gardens, and pollinator gardens, all of which reduce stormwater runoff and provide vital habitat for bird, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

The proposed meadow ordinance revision to the property maintenance code provides specific, useful guidance for homeowners regarding invasive plants that the State of Maryland has determined should be avoided. It also lays out specific approaches, such as setbacks and annual mowing, for maintaining a meadow or garden that meets City code requirements and neighborhood aesthetics.

WET believes strongly that the City of Salisbury should encourage this trend toward replacing sections of lawn with native plant vegetation (flowers, shrubs, vegetables, grasses, and trees). Among many other benefits, this would help Salisbury to fulfill its commitments as a "Bee City" and a "Tree City."

Thank you for taking into account our input as you consider this update to the City Code.

Respectfully,


Madeleine Adams
President, Board of Directors

*The Wicomico Environmental Trust is a public charity recognized
as tax exempt by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3).*

SIGN UP TODAY!

TOGETHER WE WILL KEEP THE EASTERN
SHORE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY!

POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN INTEREST FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

GARDEN DESCRIPTION

WHAT IS YOUR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION?

URBAN SUBURBAN RURAL

HOW LARGE IS YOUR GARDEN SPACE?

LESS THAN 1/4 ACRE 1/4-1 ACRE
 1-5 ACRES 5-10 ACRES 10+ ACRES

WHAT TYPE OF RESIDENCE?

HOUSE TOWNHOUSE APARTMENT
 CONDOMINIUM FARM (HOME SITE)
 ASSISTED LIVING SCHOOL BUSINESS
 COMMUNITY GARDEN

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR YARD?

BIRDS BUTTERFLIES BEES

PLEASE COMPLETE & SEND FORM TO:

LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST
100 RIVER STREET, SNOW HILL MD 21863

OR SCAN AND EMAIL TO:

INFO@LOWERSHORELANDTRUST.ORG



COURTESY OF BARBARA SEABROOK'S POLLINATOR GARDEN

THANK YOU!

Your support for this program helps promote
our goal for protecting natural heritage on
the Lower Shore.

LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST

100 RIVER STREET, SNOW HILL MD 21863

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, EVENTS &
WORKSHOPS, CONTACT:

INFO@LOWERSHORELANDTRUST.ORG

VISIT WWW.LOWERSHORELANDTRUST.ORG

CALL US AT 443-234-5587

LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST

POLLINATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



*The Lower Shore Land Trust
Pollinator Certification Program
promotes best management
techniques to foster habitat for
pollinators and other wildlife*

LOWER SHORE
LAND 
TRUST

STEPS TO CERTIFY YOUR POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN

1. Review the certification criteria below (more information online), fill out the Pollinator Friendly Garden Interest Form on the back side and email to info@lowershorelandtrust.org, or mail to: LSLT, 100 River Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863.
2. Once we receive your interest form, we will send you an application and additional resource materials for habitat enhancement activities.
3. Fill out the application and send (with photos electronically) to LSLT for review.
4. Once approved, you'll receive your Pollinator Friendly sign and recognition from LSLT.
5. Look out for pollinator information and announcements from LSLT! Help spread the word about the benefits of pollinators to your friends and neighbors!

Check out our website for educational programs at www.lowershorelandtrust.org



CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION

FOOD SOURCES (AT LEAST 3)

- NATIVE PLANTS
- HOST PLANTS
- FRUITING TREES
- FEEDER
- DIVERSITY OF SCENT, COLOR, SIZE

WATER SOURCES (AT LEAST 2)

- POND, RIVER, STREAM
- BIRDBATH
- HANGING DRIP BOTTLE
- BUTTERFLY PUDDLE AREA

COVER SOURCES (AT LEAST 2)

- NATURAL SHELTER
- CONSTRUCTED SHELTER
- 3 CANOPY LAYERS
- BASKING/ NESTING SITE

CONSERVATION PRACTICES (AT LEAST 8)

- COMPOST
- RAIN GARDEN
- REDUCED LAWN AREAS
- XERISCAPE
- NATIVE SPECIES
- NO FERTILIZER USE

FIND MORE SUGGESTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF POLLINATOR GARDENS

- CLEAN AIR & WATER
- PREVENTS EROSION
- SUPPORTS BIODIVERSITY & ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
- ENHANCES PLANT PROPAGATION

THESE BENEFITS ARE CRUCIAL TO HUMANKIND AND ARE REFERRED TO AS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES; THE PROCESSES IN WHICH THE ENVIRONMENT PRODUCES RESOURCES.

Thanks to generous support from:



LSLT MISSION

LOWER SHORE LAND TRUST IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING RURAL LANDS, TO PROMOTING VIBRANT TOWNS, AND TO BUILDING A HEALTHIER AND MORE CONNECTED EASTERN SHORE.



POLLINATOR PROJECT VISION

OUR VISION IS TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR POLLINATORS ON THE EASTERN SHORE BY ENCOURAGING STEWARDSHIP OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROMOTING THE BENEFIT OF POLLINATORS THROUGHOUT OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES.

To keep this program sustainable, we ask for a \$25 dollar donation upon submitting your application. This helps us cover costs for printing, mailing, signage, and other resources and support to keep this program going!