

The Village now has added an ordinance authorizing prairie grass plantings as well as other non-traditional forms of yard plantings. Key definition and regulations below:

Managed Natural Landscape. Garden “area” or “bed” designated for the planting of native and naturalized plants, including but not limited to ferns, wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees grown in a managed landscape; provided, however, that noxious, invasive and nuisance weeds are prohibited and subject to destruction under § 66.0407 (1)(a)(b)(3), and 10.03(6) & 10.05(4) Village Code of Ordinances.

- i. Natural landscapes shall be managed in a healthy and vigorous condition, as opposed to one of impairment and decline in ways that adversely affect human health and safety.
- ii. Plantings shall be maintained so as not to present hazards to adjoining properties or to persons or vehicles traveling on public ways or to interfere with the vision corners.
- iii. Minimum setbacks in all zoning districts shall be 10 feet from the established property lines and no less than 15 feet from any street or road right of way. Maximum size for a single managed natural landscape “area” or “bed” in all zoning districts (excluding Agriculture, Conservancy, Commercial, and public lands) can be no larger than 400 sq. feet; neither single or multiple “areas” or “beds” can exceed 20% of the total lot size. For all Commercial zoned properties, the only sizing restriction is that the managed natural landscaping cannot exceed 20% of the total lot size. When calculating total lot size in any zoning district, property owners can exclude mapped 0.1 PCT Base Flood Elevations and wetland areas from the overall total.
- iv. A landowner who does not comply with this section shall be in violation. The Weed Commissioner shall issue a notice to comply.

Remember: the adoption of the Natural Landscape ordinance does not excuse unmanaged growth.