

Don't Mow, Let it Grow Program

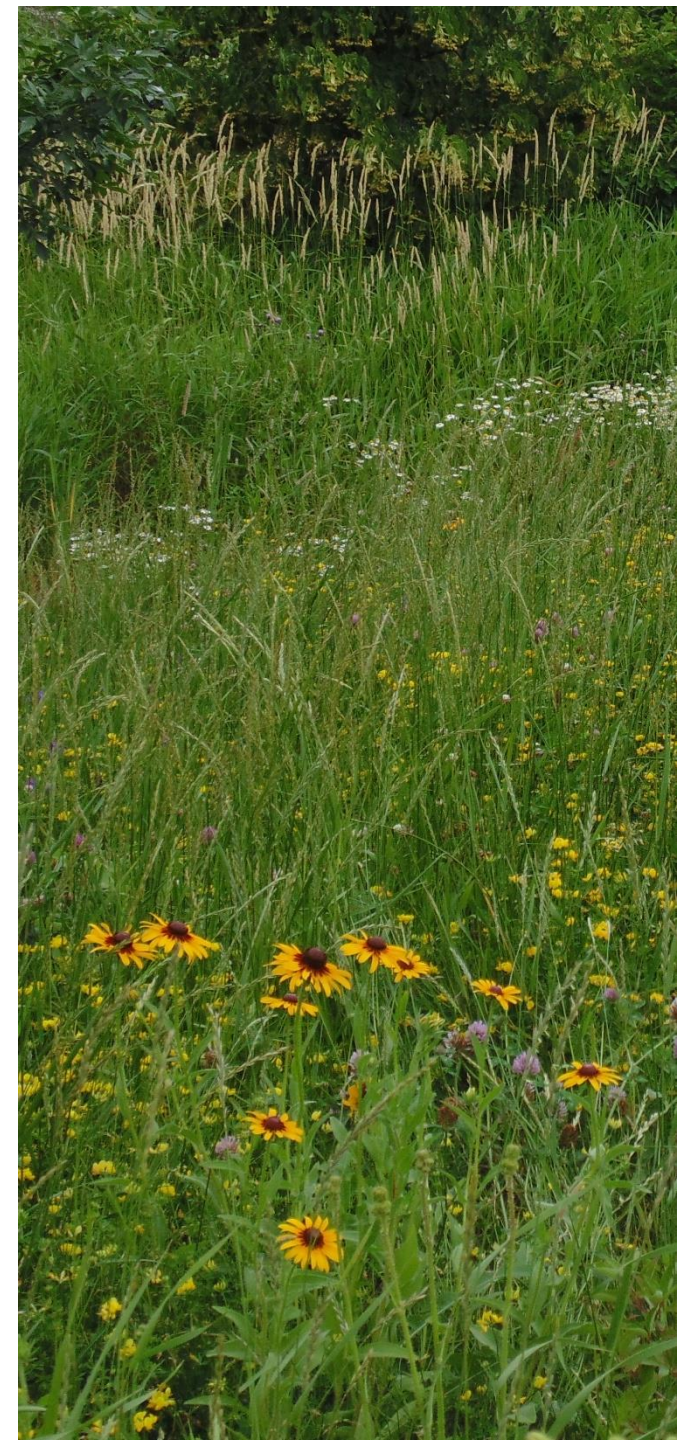
Environmental Advisory Committee

December 5th, 2023



Program Overview

- In 2018, the City of Brampton launched the Don't Mow, Let it Grow initiative
- focus is on converting select areas of public land covered by turf grass into pollinator habitats, meadows, shrub meadows, woodlands.
- Naturalizing "No Mow" areas result in many environmental, financial, and aesthetic benefits. For example, supporting pollinators and wildlife, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and helping manage stormwater.
- Don't Mow, Let it Grow helps achieve the goals and targets of the City's [Grow Green Environmental Master Plan](#), and the [Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy](#).

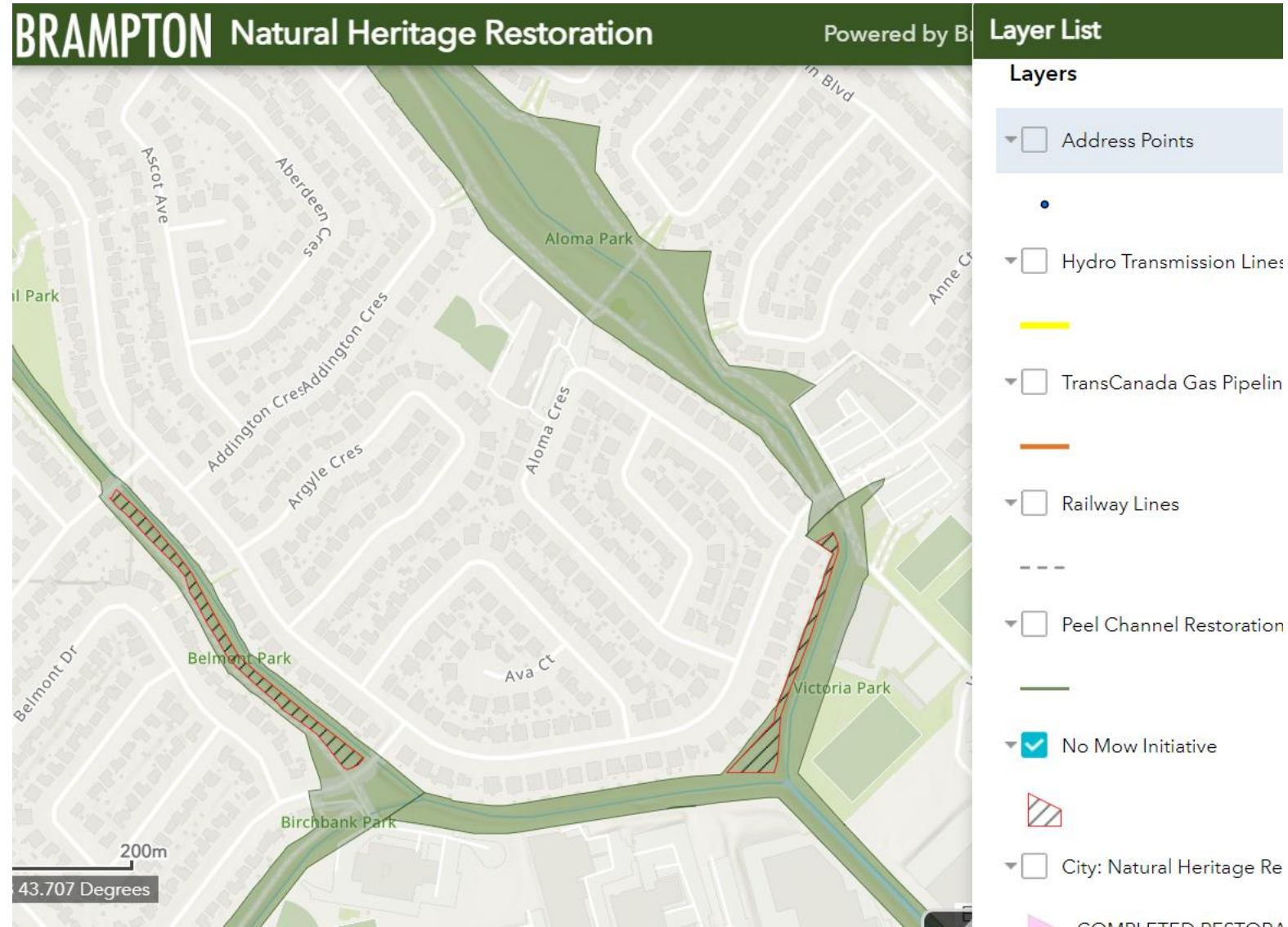


What you need to know

- Mowing program has been evaluated, staff identified a number of strategic locations where it makes sense to eliminate mowing.
- Cutting, mowing and manicuring grass has high environmental and economic costs:
 - It reduces biological diversity and habitat.
 - It contributes to air and water pollution.
 - It increases stormwater runoff.
 - It decreases soil structure and quality.
 - It costs taxpayers money.
 - It requires a significant amount of fuel and labour.
- Since 2018, the Don't Mow, Let it Grow Program has converted approximately **28 hectares** of turf grass into pollinator habitat, shrub meadows and early succession woodlands.
- To view our existing No Mow Sites, visit our [Natural Heritage Restoration Interactive Map](#) and select the "No Mow Initiative" layer.

Find a No Mow site near you

To view our existing No Mow Sites, visit our [Natural Heritage Restoration Interactive Map](#) and select the "No Mow Initiative" layer.



Public Communications and Engagement

- Site signage and door hangers provided to properties in close proximity of a new site
- Public planting events at No Mow locations (Fred Kline Park, Crawley Park etc.) with the CVC and TRCA
- No Mow Webpage on Brampton.ca/nomow
- Frequent posts on Grow Green Social Media



IS THE CITY STILL MOWING?

The City of Brampton is still mowing, we're just being more strategic. The City is implementing a "NO MOW" initiative in select areas to beautify Brampton and its environment, and make it a healthier, more resilient and environmentally sustainable city.

We evaluated our mowing program and identified a number of locations where it makes sense to eliminate mowing.

The "NO MOW" areas are being planted with native grasses and flowers to support pollinators and wildlife.

This initiative helps achieve the goals and targets of the Brampton **GROW GREEN** Environmental Master Plan, and the Natural Heritage and Environmental Management Strategy.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Improved biodiversity
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improved water quality

IS THIS AN EXCUSE TO SAVE MONEY?

Reduced mowing is an effective way to beautify and improve Brampton's environment. Smaller mowing areas translate to lower operating costs for the City.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE MEADOWS?

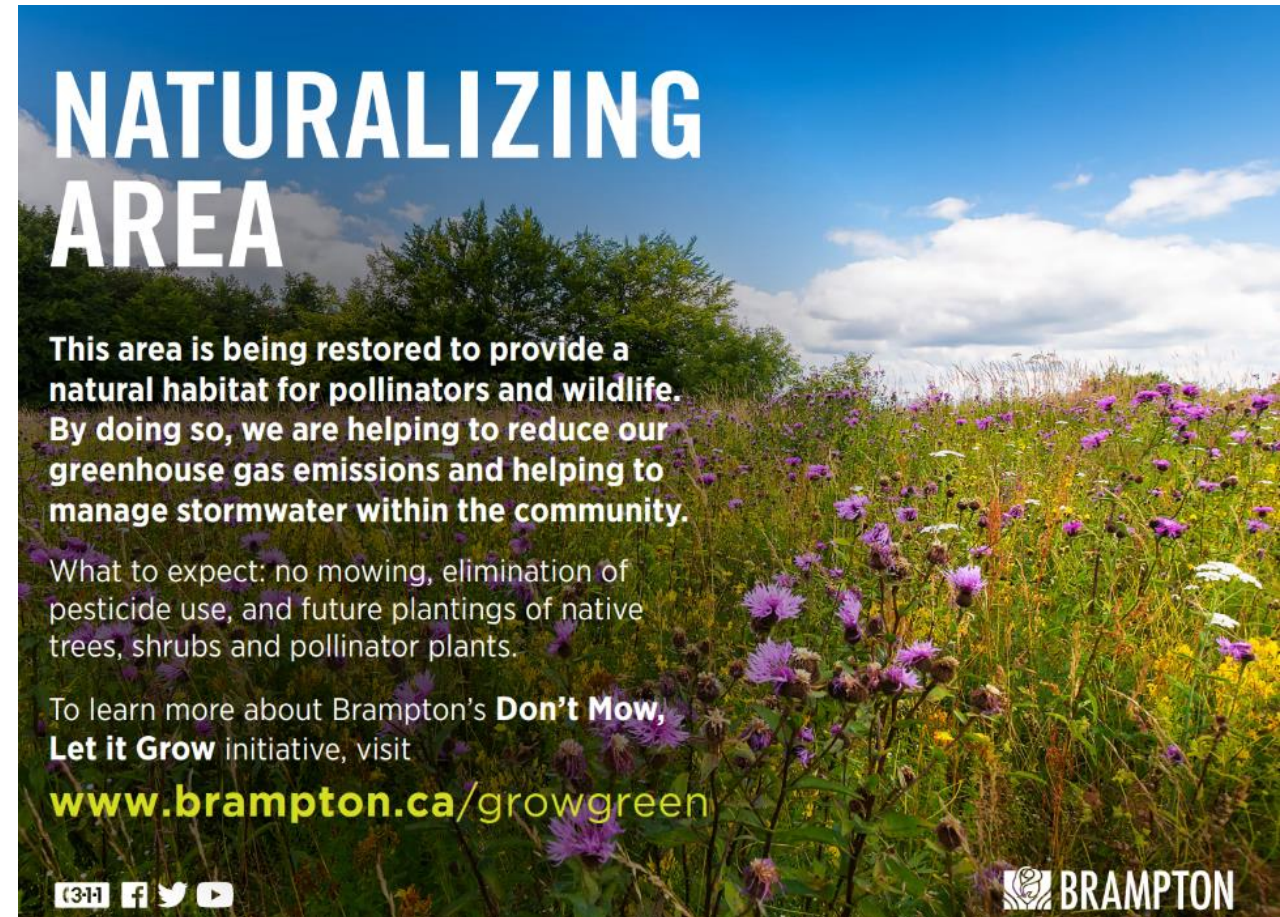
Keep a look out for the signs that identify "No Mow" areas. If you come across one, try and spot monarch butterflies, honey bees and birds!

Your ecosystem. Your home.

brampton.ca/growgreen

What's New for 2023

- All no mow locations will be equipped with “Naturalizing Area” signage by the end of 2024 (Installations have already started)
- Dearbourne Park Pollinator Habitat Project = first no mow community project
- No Mow monitoring program initiated in 2023
- Plantings complete at Crawley Park, Eastbourne Park, Dearbourne Park, Chris Gibson Park

A graphic for a 'NATURALIZING AREA' sign. The background is a photograph of a field of purple and yellow wildflowers under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.


NATURALIZING AREA

This area is being restored to provide a natural habitat for pollinators and wildlife. By doing so, we are helping to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and helping to manage stormwater within the community.

What to expect: no mowing, elimination of pesticide use, and future plantings of native trees, shrubs and pollinator plants.

To learn more about Brampton's **Don't Mow, Let it Grow** initiative, visit www.brampton.ca/growgreen

3-1-1 f t y

 **BRAMPTON**

What's Planned for 2024

- Environmental Planning is establishing a refreshed approach to identifying new No Mow locations as well as a naturalization strategy for established no mow locations.
- This approach will allow the City to:
 - Address invasive species existing in no mows or spreading to no mows
 - Streamline internal processes for the entire no mow program
 - Increase community engagement and participation opportunities
 - Create parameters around achieving a suitable naturalization state for each individual no mow

**DON'T
MOW,
LET IT
GROW**



Thank you

For additional questions or concerns, please get in touch
with growgreen@brampton.ca.