

**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Davis/Erickson

**RESOLUTION 25-028**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE HOMER AREA BEEKEEPERS  
ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE “NO MOW MAY” FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer recognizes the vital role that pollinators, such as bees, play in supporting local ecosystems, agriculture, and food security; and

WHEREAS, Dandelions, often viewed solely as invasive weeds, are an important early-season food source for bees and other pollinators, providing nectar and pollen during a critical time when other floral resources may be scarce; and

WHEREAS, The Homer Area Beekeepers Association (HABA) has reached out to the City to propose a “No Mow May” initiative to encourage homeowners, businesses, and public entities to refrain from mowing lawns and grassy areas where dandelions are in full bloom, typically during the month of May (though sometimes beginning in April in warm springs, or continuing into early June in colder years) thereby supporting pollinator populations; and

WHEREAS, HABA acknowledges that mowing may resume to manage seed heads once dandelions transition from blooming to seeding, balancing pollinator support with property maintenance needs; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is committed to fostering sustainable practices and supporting community efforts that enhance environmental health and biodiversity within the city and the broader Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer manages public lands, including parks and grassy areas, and has the opportunity to lead by example in adopting pollinator-friendly practices; and

WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough oversees large grassy areas around schools and other public facilities within the Homer area, and collaboration with the Borough can amplify the impact of the “No Mow May” initiative; and

WHEREAS, Supporting “No Mow May” aligns with the City’s values of community engagement, environmental stewardship, and partnership with local organizations like HABA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer hereby supports the efforts of the Homer Area Beekeepers Association (HABA) to promote “No Mow May” as a means to protect and sustain pollinator populations by preserving dandelion blooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City encourages homeowners and businesses within Homer to voluntarily refrain from mowing those portions of their lawns and properties where dandelions are in full bloom, while recognizing that mowing to remove seed heads is advisable once blooming has ceased.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer directs its staff, including those in the Public Works and Parks Departments, to refrain from mowing dandelion patches on city-managed properties, except where safety, accessibility, or other operational needs require otherwise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer will reach out to the Kenai Peninsula Borough to request their cooperation in adopting similar practices by discouraging the mowing of dandelion patches in large grassy areas around schools and other Borough-managed properties, in support of this pollinator-friendly initiative.

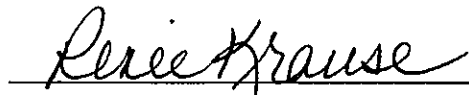
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will promote awareness of "No Mow May" through its communication channels, including the City website, social media, and community outreach, to educate residents and businesses about the benefits of supporting pollinators and participating in this effort.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

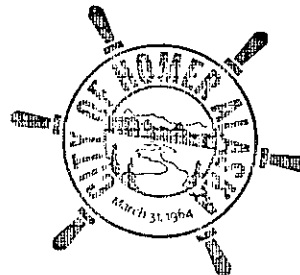
CITY OF HOMER

  
RACHEL LORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal information: NA





# MEMORANDUM

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**Resolution 25-028, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting the Efforts of the Homer Area Beekeepers Association to Promote “No Mow May” for the Protection of Pollinators. Davis/Erickson.**

**Item Type:** Backup Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor Lord and City Council  
**Date:** April 14, 2025  
**From:** Homer Area Beekeepers Association

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Homer has seen a continuing cooling pattern with increased rainfall and little to no sunshine which depletes the honeybees first feed of the spring: pollen and nectar. Our main nectar and pollen flow is late June through July, a very short window for our bees to gather nectar. Dandelions are an abundant source of both nectar and pollen.

The American Beekeeping Federation has requested funding for critical research as honeybees are the backbone of the agriculture industry. Did you know that 1 out of every 3 bits of your food is direct result of the bees' pollination? The annual loss of beehives nationwide has increased to 70-80%.

Over the past two years, the BUZZ for NO MOW MAY has gained momentum in Homer and surrounding communities. Please join Homer Area Beekeepers Association (HABA) in supporting this nationwide movement of NO NOW MAY by displaying a poster or sign at your business/residence. Signs will be supplied by your local beekeeping organization, HABA.

NO MOW MAY offers several options to support our local pollinators:

1. You can forgo mowing in the month of May.
2. You can choose to “strip” mow which leaves a portion of your lawn “natural” this supplies a habitat in your yard enabling the bees to feast on dandelions, their first feed of the season.
3. Incorporate a few pollinator friendly plants in your yard/garden to attract pollinators. This offers you a firsthand view of the magnificent pollination process

HABA encourages you to join us in lending a helping hand to our local honeybees and giving them a leg up on their short yet busy season in Homer.

**Attachment:** Beekeeper Map

# Homer-area Bee Yards HABA hives

## Hives in Homer Area

- 2 hives - Joan S '24
- 5 hives - Jennifer F '24
- 1 hives: Mary Arndt '24
- 4 hives - Loc#2 R.T. - West 24
- 4 hives - Loc#1 R. T. - East
- 2 Hives - G.S.'24
- 3 hive - Cheryl Illg '24
- 3 hives - Shawn Dickson '24
- 0 hive - Don Tonkovich '24
- 2 hives - Joe Isenhour 24
- 1 hive - Ty Gates '24
- 2 hive - K. Perkins '24

