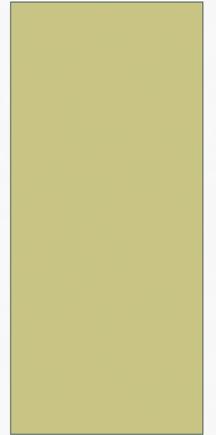


ORDINANCE REVIEW:  
CHAPTER 11. WEEDS

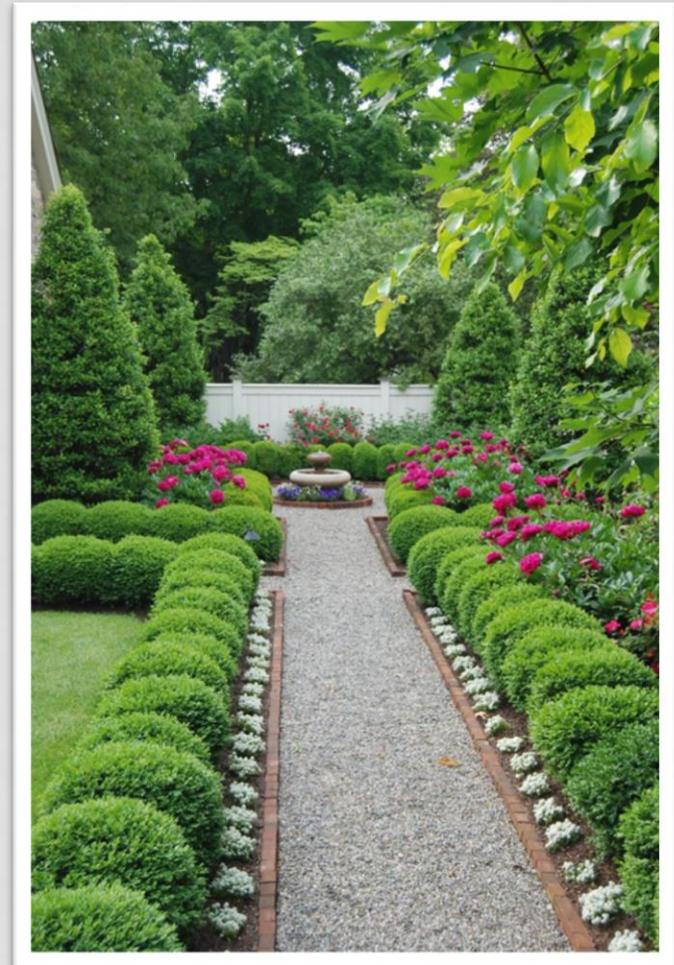


# THE AMERICAN LAWN

- **Roots in Europe**
  - Settlers brought plants, livestock, and culture
  - “manicured look”



Garden @ Palace of Versailles, 1662

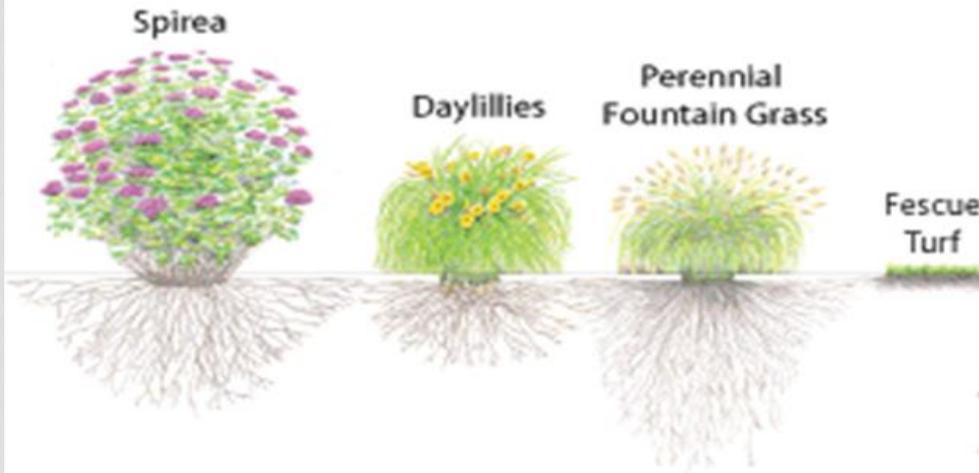


# THE AMERICAN LAWN

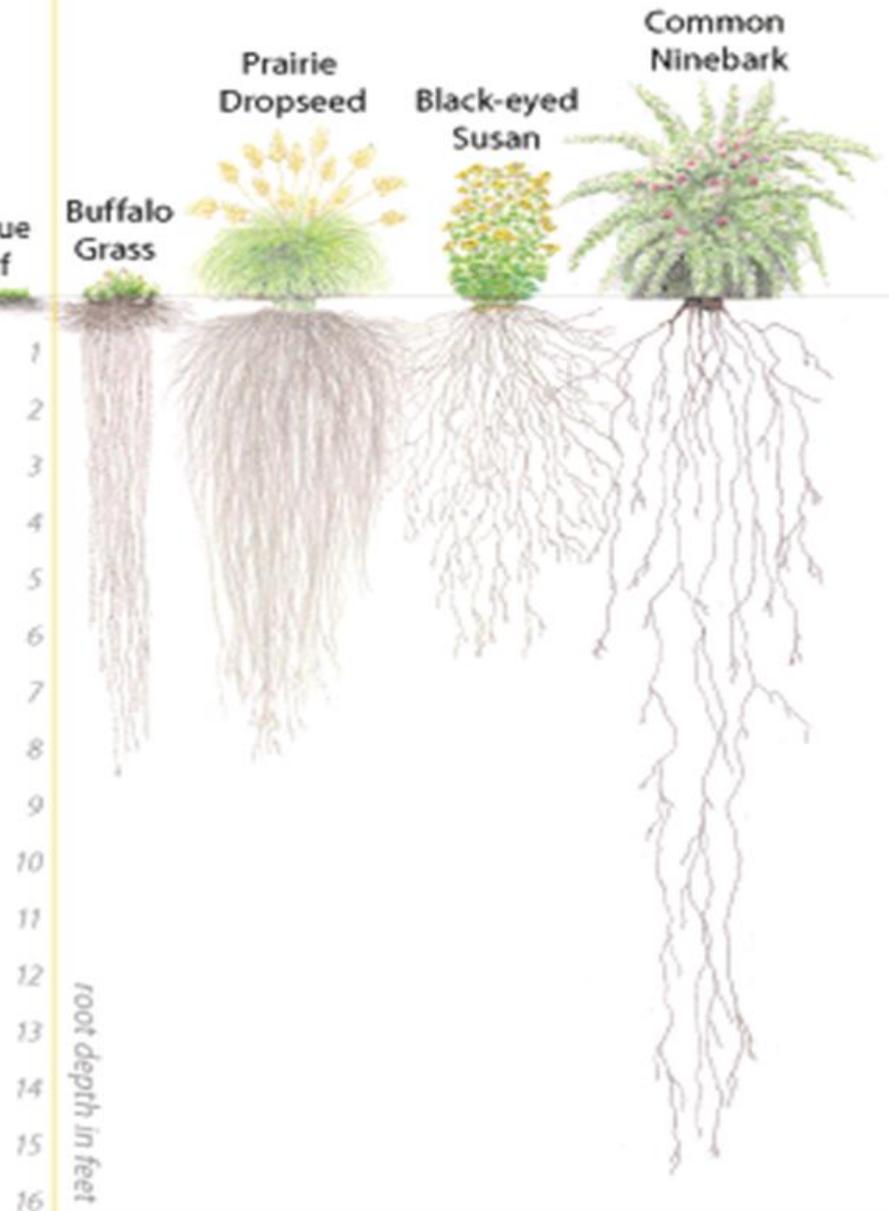
- **Roots in Europe**
- **1950's American Dream**



# Non-Natives



# Natives



- Extensive root systems reach more nutrients and water
- Save money, time, and water

# CO-EVOLVED WITH WILDLIFE

- **Resistant to insect damage**
  - Built-in defense mechanisms against insect herbivores
- **No pesticides**



Mary Anne Borge

**INDIRECT DRIVERS OF CHANGE**  
Demographic    Science and technology  
Economic        Cultural and religious  
Sociopolitical

**HUMAN WELL-BEING**  
Basic Material for good life  
Health  
Security  
Good social relations  
Freedom of choice and action

**DIRECT DRIVERS OF CHANGE**  
Climate change  
Nutrient loading  
Land use change  
Species introduction  
Overexploitation

**BIODIVERSITY**  
Number                      Composition  
Relative abundance      Interactions

**ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS**

<b>ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	
<b>GOODS</b> (provisioning services) Food, fiber and fuel Genetic resources Biochemicals Fresh water	<b>CULTURAL SERVICES</b> Spiritual and religious values Knowledge system Education and inspiration Recreation and aesthetic values
<b>REGULATING SERVICES</b> Invasion resistance Herbivory Pollination Seed dispersal Climate regulation Pest regulation Disease regulation Natural hazard protection Erosion regulation Water purification	<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b> Primary production Provision of habitat Nutrient cycling Soil formation and retention Production of atmospheric oxygen Water cycling

# PURPOSE OF REVIEW

## NUISANCE ORDINANCE SCALE

Most Prohibitive <-----> Least Prohibitive

<p>All "weeds" over an arbitrary height are restricted. Natives are not distinguished from weeds.</p>	<p>Homeowner's natural landscape is approved once application is approved by a majority of neighbors or by governing body.  (Green Bay, Wis.) (Lee's Summit, Mo.) (Gladstone, Mo.)</p>	<p>Modifying clause in nuisance ordinance grants permission for native landscapes without application approval by neighborhood or governing body.  (Lawrence, Kan.)</p>	<p>The use of native landscapes is actively promoted and no application is required for native plantings.  (Minneapolis, Minn.) (Cincinnati, Ohio) (Chesterfield, Mo.)</p>	<p>Native landscapes are actively promoted while non-native vegetation is restricted.</p>
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# **CURRENT ORDINANCE: CHAPTER 11. DIVISION 4. WEEDS**

**Sec. 11-251 to Sec. 11-256**

**Weeds defined.**

**All vegetation, other than commonly known and recognized trees, decorative shrubs and ornamental grasses, which has attained a height of 12 inches or more and which meets any one of the following tests:**

# 1) Vegetation which may exhale unpleasant or noxious odors.

**Callery pear**



**Ginkgo biloba**



**Boxwood**

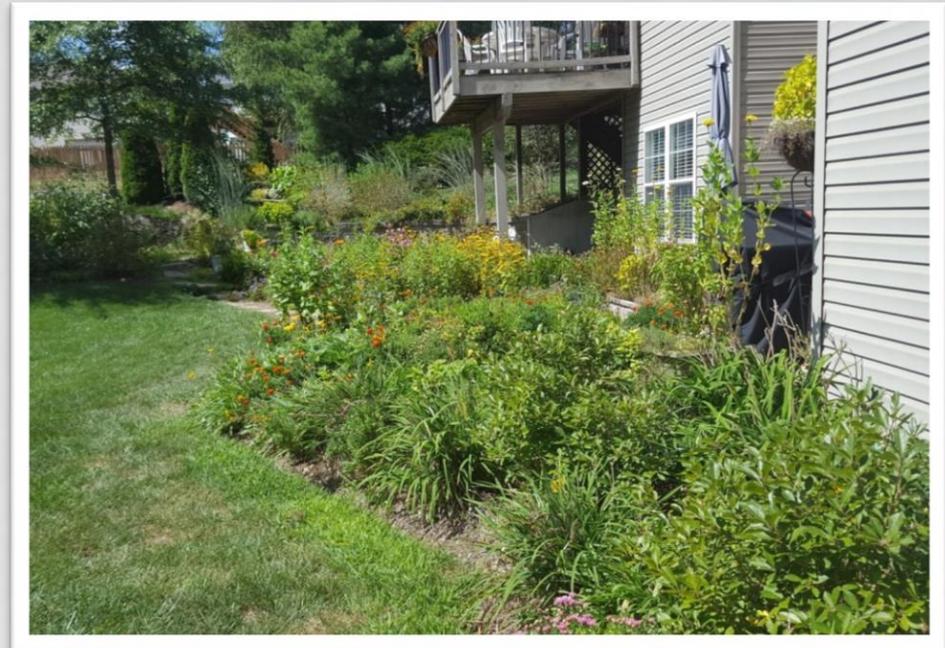


2) Vegetation which does or could conceal deposits of trash or other material or which does or could afford food or harborage for rats, mice or snakes.

**Non-native**



**Native**



**2) Vegetation which does or could conceal deposits of trash or other material or which does or could afford food or harborage for rats, mice or snakes.**



- **Native landscapes attract wildlife**
- **Healthy native landscapes are self-regulating ecosystems**

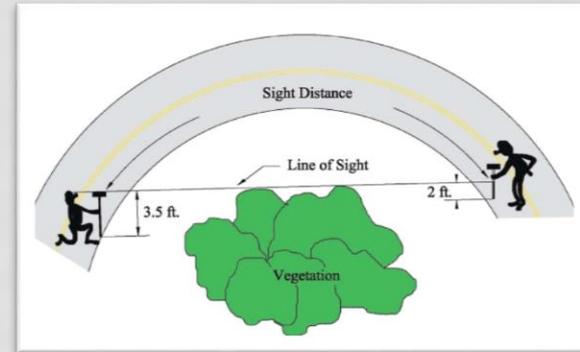


### 3) Vegetation which is commonly known and recognized as weeds and grasses.

- ...other than commonly known and recognized trees, decorative shrubs and ornamental grasses...
- Vegetation along MKT trail or roadsides
  - Many natives and invasive and/or noxious weeds



4) Vegetation which causes a safety hazard by obstructing the line of sight of a motor vehicle driver, bicyclist or pedestrian at a street intersection.



5) Vegetation which could interfere with the passage of motor vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians on any public right-of-way.



# RESEARCH

- **Other cities**

- Chesterfield, MO
- Creve Coeur, MO
- Fayetteville, AR
- Tacoma, WA



Native Landscape in Chesterfield, MO

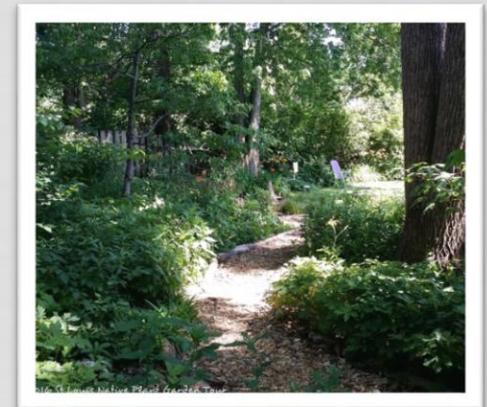


Native Landscape in St. Louis, MO

- **Primary literature**

- **Local vegetation management professionals**

- MO Department of Conservation
- MO Department of Natural Resources
- Ecologists from United States Geological Survey



Native Landscape in St. Louis, MO

# POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS

- **Change focus of ordinance from weeds to land management**
- **Definitions**
  - Landscape
  - “managed”
  - Invasive plant
  - Native landscape
  - Native plant
  - Noxious weed
  - Nuisance plant
  - Ornamental plants
  - Turf grass
  - Turf weed
  - Vermin harborage

# POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS

- **Definitions**

- **Landscape**: a managed alteration of surrounding landforms using ornamental and/or native vegetation including but not limited to trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.
- **“managed”**: a planned and designed yard or landscape with the intent to control, direct, and maintain the growth of vegetation including but not limited to ornamental flower gardens and native landscapes.

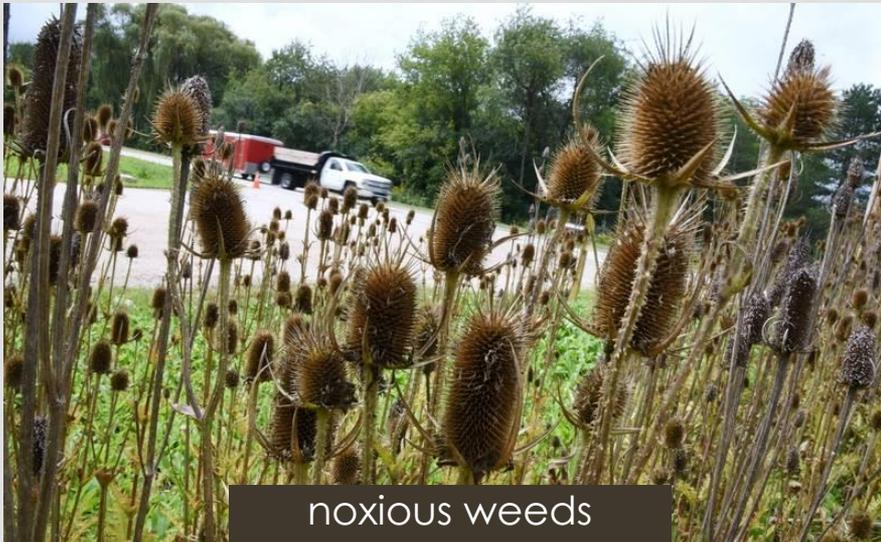
Managed



Unmanaged



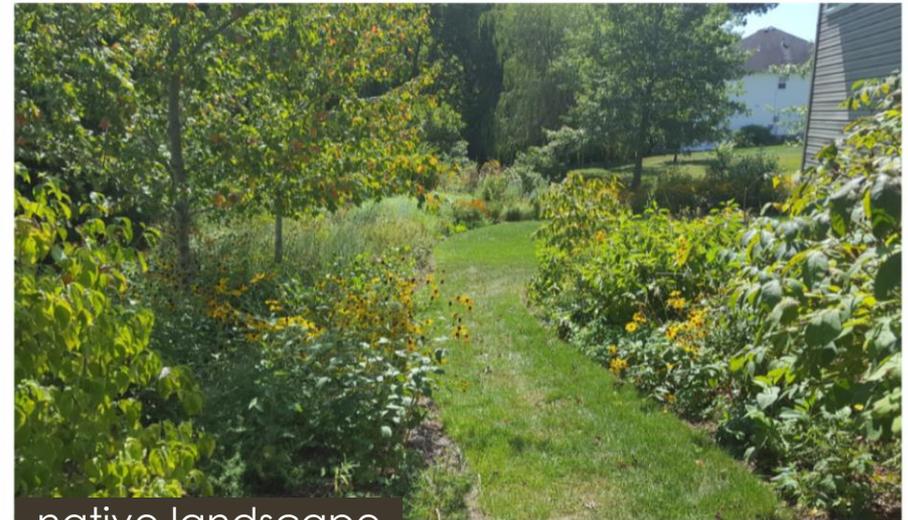
# A LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE WOULD NOT ALLOW:



# A LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE WOULD ALLOW:



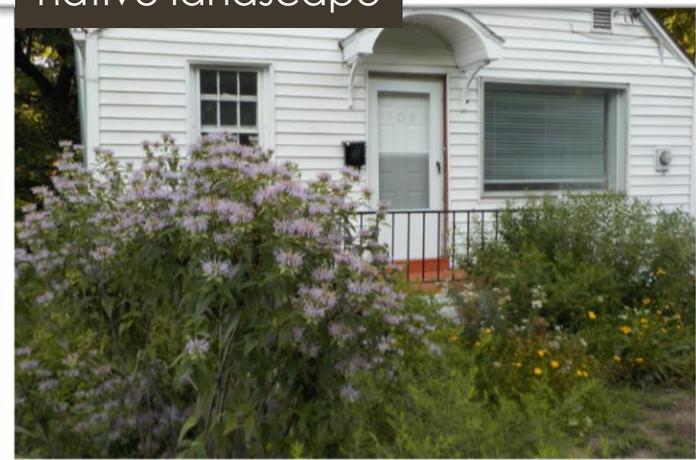
vegetable garden



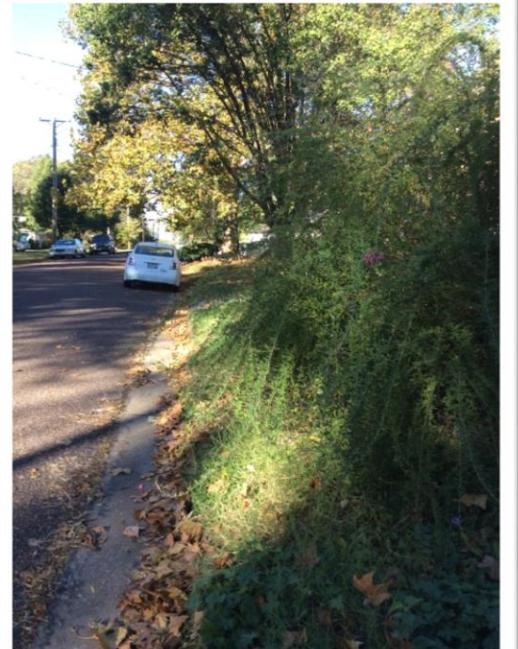
native landscape



non-native landscape



# NUISANCES



# COMPLIANT LANDSCAPES

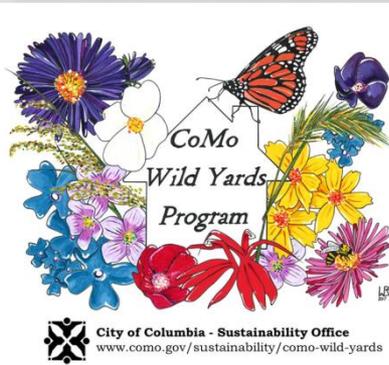
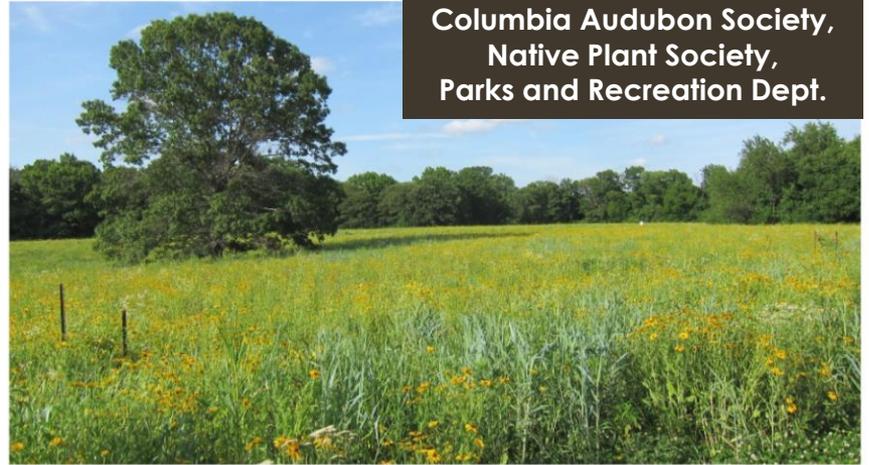


# CURRENT AND PAST PROJECTS

Columbia Public Schools



Columbia Audubon Society,  
Native Plant Society,  
Parks and Recreation Dept.



Sustainability Office

Public Works,  
Stormwater BMPs



Native Plant Workshop,  
Sustainability Office





## **Implications of a Landscape Management Ordinance**

- Empower citizens to be more environmentally friendly
- Support our ecosystem and declining pollinator populations
- Mitigate stormwater run-off issues
- Less chemicals (no pesticides or fertilizers)
- Reduce carbon emissions & increase carbon sequestration



**Questions?**