

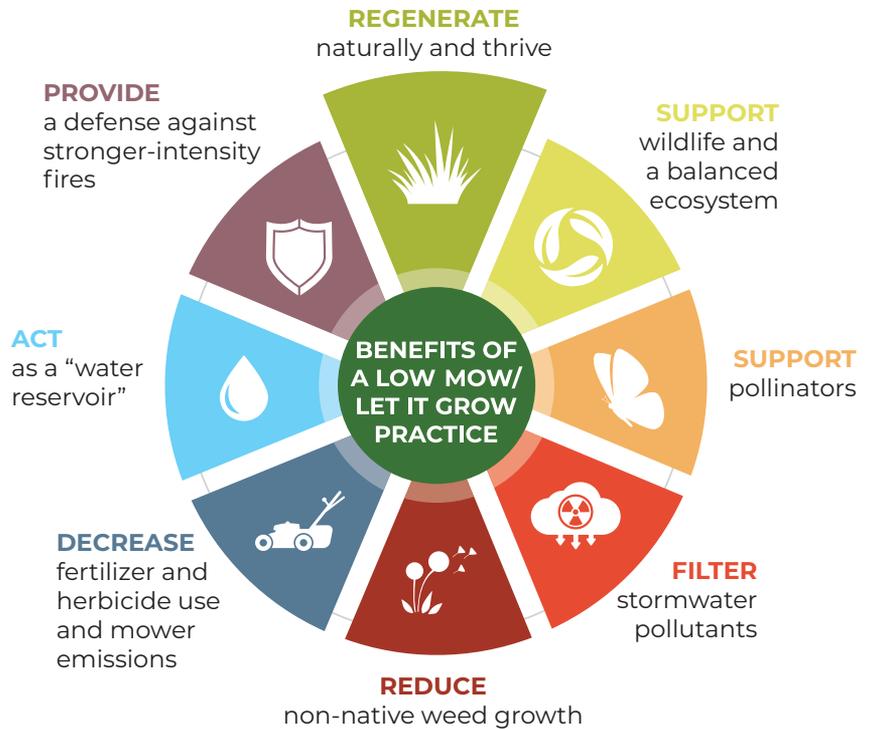
Low Mow/Let it Grow

Maintenance practice for open space and natural areas

The Arvada Parks and Open Space division takes great pride in maintaining both our irrigated and non-irrigated lands. The division maintains more than 2,500 acres of non-irrigated land throughout the city. Each growing season, our parks staff mows approximately 1,350 acres of open space areas bordered by hundreds of private properties. In an effort to maintain the health and aesthetics of the city's natural areas and trail corridors, the City of Arvada has adopted a Low Mow/Let it Grow practice for open space and natural areas within the city. This practice is similar to policies that other municipalities have enacted and is recognized as a best practice in open space maintenance.

Low Mow/Let It Grow benefits

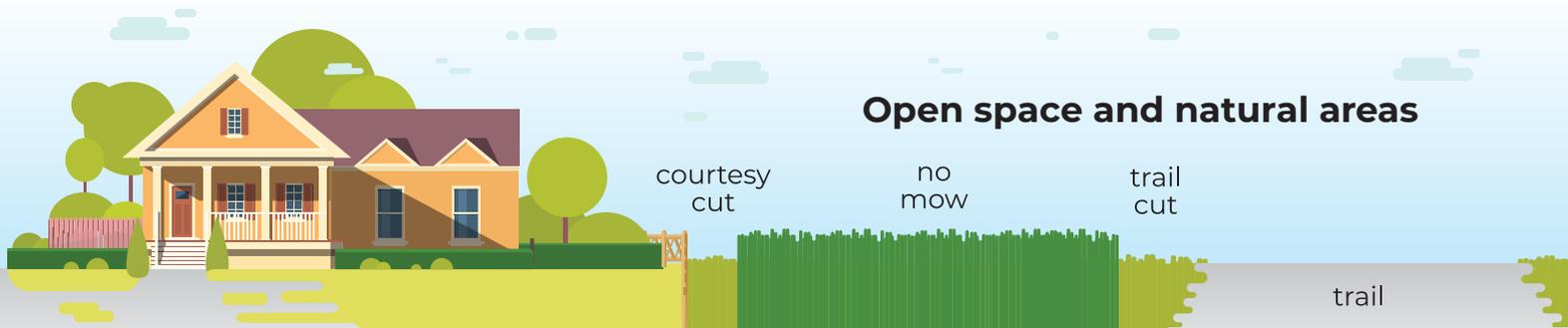
The Low Mow/Let It Grow practice allows native grasses to regenerate naturally and thrive, which in turn supports wildlife and a balanced ecosystem with increased biodiversity. Healthy native grasses support pollinators, filter stormwater pollutants and reduce non-native weed growth. Additional benefits result from the elimination of fertilizer and herbicide use and lawn mower emissions. And contrary to popular belief, a low mow approach to open space maintenance does not increase fire risk. In fact, healthy, tall, non-dormant native grasses act as a “water reservoir” and provide a level of defense against a stronger-intensity wildfire.



Low Mow/Let It Grow Areas

The Low Mow/Let It Grow areas are important places of special use for Arvada's wildlife and conservation interests that are different from neighborhood parks and athletic fields in use and maintenance. These open space and natural areas are non-irrigated lands that receive water only from rain and snow and would exist as-is in their natural condition if left undisturbed by humans. They include designated native grass landscapes, designated natural areas, wildlife resting/habitat and trail corridors along with undeveloped City-owned open space properties.

What does this approach look like in practice?



Want to know more about No Mow/Let it Grow practices in the City of Arvada? Visit [arvada.org/no-mow](https://www.arvada.org/no-mow).