

BLENDON TOWNSHIP
LIMITED HOME RULE RESOLUTION NO. _____
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
MANAGED NATURAL LANDSCAPE RULES, REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio (the “Township”), adopted a limited home rule form of government pursuant to Chapter 504 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, a limited home rule township, in accordance with Section 504.04 of the Ohio Revised Code may exercise the powers of local self-government, including the expenditure of funds that improve the health, safety, and general welfare of Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that managed natural landscapes can be beneficial to improve stormwater retention, water quality, and biodiverse

ty within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires, and believes that it is in the best interest of the Township, to establish rules, regulations, and a permitting process for the installation and maintenance of a managed natural landscape for private property located within the Township;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Township Trustees of Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. The Board hereby adopts and approves of the rules and regulations for the installation and maintenance of a managed natural landscape for private property located within the Township attached hereto as “Exhibit A” and is incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect at the earliest time allowed by law.

Following its introduction, the resolution was read by the Township Fiscal Officer by title only.

M____. _____ moved the adoption of the resolution and the motion was seconded by M____. _____ . Roll was called on the question of adoption and the results were:

Vote Record:	Yea	Nay
M____. Tim Adkins	_____	_____

M___. DeLena Ciamacco _____

M___. April Zobel _____

The resolution _____ (insert pass or failed).

First Reading: _____, 2026

Second Reading: _____, 2026

Effective: _____, 2026

Adopted: _____, 20__

**BOARD OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
BLENDON TOWNSHIP
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Attest: _____

Fiscal Officer

Township Trustee

Township Trustee

Township Trustee

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brosius, Johnson & Griggs, LLC
Blendon Township Law Director

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Fiscal Officer of the Board of Township Trustees of Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Board of Township Trustees of said Township and filed with the Township Fiscal Officer on _____, 2026.

Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer

Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

I, _____, Fiscal Officer of Blendon Township, Franklin Township, Ohio do hereby certify that a summary of this resolution was published pursuant to ORC 504.121 on the dates listed below:

_____ and _____, 2026

_____ and _____, 2026

Joann Bury, Fiscal Officer,
Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio

DRAFT

Blendon Township Managed Natural Landscapes

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Introduction

Many local governments in Ohio and elsewhere now allow or actively promote the use of native plants and natural landscaping on private property. The installation and maintenance of managed natural landscapes improve stormwater retention, increase water quality, and biodiversity of plants, birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects and species. An owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately owned lands may, consistent with this Limited Home Rule Resolution, and upon issuance of a permit, install and must maintain their managed natural landscape.

1. Definition

A “Managed Natural Landscape” is a planned planting of native or beneficial plants such as wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, or pollinator habitat intentionally cultivated to support wildlife, soil health, or ecological diversity. Managed Natural Landscapes may replace traditional turf grass in part or all of a yard.

2. Registration

Residents who wish to establish a Managed Natural Landscape shall submit a registration form to the township that includes the following information:

- a. The address of the property,
- b. The approximate location of the natural landscape area, including any backyard area or spaces behind privacy fencing, and
- c. A short description of the planting (example: “native pollinator garden,” “wildflower meadow,” etc.).

The property owner must complete or authorize the registration of the Managed Natural Landscape. Tenants or occupants may maintain the landscape, but the responsibility for compliance with this policy remains with the property owner.

Registration ensures that Blendon Township (the “Township”) understands the intent of the Managed Natural Landscape, but no fees, classes, certifications, or permits are required for a Managed Natural Landscape.

3. Maintenance Standards

In order to distinguish intentional plantings from neglected yards, Managed Natural Landscapes must meet the following basic standards:

- a. The area must show intentional design (example: plant groupings, mulched borders, paths, edging, mowed borders, etc.),
- b. Property edges adjacent to sidewalks, streets, or neighboring yards must be maintained (mowed strip, edging, or border recommended),
- c. Plants must not obstruct:

EXHIBIT A

- i. Sidewalks,
 - ii. Street signs,
 - iii. Visibility at intersections or driveways,
 - iv. Fire hydrants,
 - v. Utility access points, or
 - vi. Any area necessary for emergency access, visibility, or public safety.
- d. Invasive, noxious, or poisonous weeds, as defined by state law, must be controlled.
 - e. The Managed Natural Landscape must comply with the requirements for vision clearance in Article V of the Blendon Township Zoning Resolution.

Residents may install and maintain native plantings within the public right-of-way area between the sidewalk and street (commonly referred to as the “hellstrip”), provided the plantings do not obstruct sidewalks, traffic visibility, utility access, drainage, fire hydrants, or public safety. Because these areas remain within township or public utility access areas, residents acknowledge that landscaping in these locations may be disturbed, removed, or damaged during utility work, road maintenance, sidewalk repair, drainage work, snow removal, or other public service activities. The Township shall not be responsible for restoration or replacement of plantings within the right-of-way.

4. Height Exemption

Areas registered as Managed Natural Landscapes are exempt from the Township’s 8-inch grass height restriction. This exemption only applies to the designated Managed Natural Landscape area.

5. Signage

Provided all existing zoning regulations are complied with, residents may, but are not required to, place one (1) small educational sign identifying the area as one of the following:

- a. Pollinator habitat,
- b. Native plant garden, or
- c. Managed Natural Landscape.

6. Enforcement

The Township may request maintenance if a property shows clear signs of neglect rather than intentional design. Indicators of neglect may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Unmanaged invasive weeds,
- b. Complete lack of intentional planting or design, or
- c. Obstruction of public areas.

Before any enforcement action, the Township will attempt communication with the resident to resolve the issue.

7. Encouragement and Education

The Township encourages residents to support pollinators and native plants through the following:

- a. Voluntary educational resources,

EXHIBIT A

- b. Community outreach, and
- c. Partnerships with local conservation groups.

Participation in encouragement and education is voluntary and no certifications are required.

DRAFT