



Pest Management Advisory Committee

March 31, 2019

Emily Scully – City Clerk
City of South Portland
25 Cottage Road
South Portland, ME 04106

RE: Pest Management Advisory Committee 2018 Report

Dear Ms. Scully,

The members of South Portland's Pesticide Management Advisory Committee wish to provide the City Council with an update on our activities since the inception of the City's Pesticides Use Ordinance in September of 2016. As we near the three year mark of our phased in ordinance, we are also actively engaged in the process of evaluating the provisions of the ordinance, most specifically the waiver process, in order to share with you any recommendations we may have to improve the ordinance. We look forward to continuing our outreach and education to the community to better protect the health, safety, and well-being of South Portland's populace and environment.

Sincerely,

Ann Morrill, PMAC Chair

Other Current PMAC Members

Cathy Chapman
Fred Dillon
Bret LeBleu
Justin Nichols
Jesse O'Brien

cc: Julie Rosenbach – Sustainability Director

PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2017-18 REPORT – MARCH 31, 2019

In August 2016, the City Council enacted the [Pesticide Use Ordinance](#) and by the end of that year appointed a Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) consisting of seven members including the City’s Stormwater Program Coordinator who also serves as a standing member and PMAC Secretary. (The Arborist position is currently vacant but should be filled by June 2019). The ordinance directs the PMAC to provide an annual activity report to the Council in March of each year. The PMAC did not submit a report in 2018. Therefore, this report will include an activity summary since the start of official PMAC meetings in January 2017. All PMAC agendas and meeting notes are also available on the [City’s website](#).

The report is organized based on the PMAC’s primary duties as specified in the ordinance. These duties include:

- Assist Sustainability Director with **outreach & education** efforts and **encourage participation** in PMAC activities
- **Review waiver** applications
- **Seek expert advice** from professionals and practitioners in organic land care practices
- **Evaluate ordinance** on or before May 1, 2019 and every three years thereafter

OUTREACH & EDUCATION / ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

The primary initial goals for the PMAC were to promote widespread ordinance awareness while also encouraging the use of organic land care practices. The PMAC accomplished these goals by supporting the City’s development of a comprehensive Outreach & Education Plan (including the [Grow Healthy South Portland](#) website) and attending numerous public events to provide ordinance information by directly engaging with event participants and retail customers (Table 1).

Table 1: PMAC public outreach events

DATE	OUTREACH EVENT	# OF CONTACTS	NOTES
4/26/17	Brooks to Bay (SPHS)	16	Dispensed soil test kits; most already practicing organic land care
5/20/17	SPLT Plant Sale	30	Dispensed soil test kits; most already practicing organic land care
7/8/17	Willard Fest	45	Several mentioned reseeding lawns with clover
8/12/17	Art in the Park	90	Provided background info on SP’s ordinance to residents from neighboring communities interested in ordinances; most practice organic land care
5/5/18	Home Depot Greener Neighbors	12	
5/12/18	Cleaner Streams	8	
5/19/18	Broadway Garden	32	
5/19/18	Drillens	32	
5/26/18	Shoppers Hardware	15	
6/2/18	E-waste collection event	200+	Handed out brochures
7/14/18	Willard Fest	23	
8/11/18	Art in the Park	18	Visibility / location less than ideal
9/29/18	StonyFields Day	75	
3/19	Osewantha Garden Club	16	
TOTAL:		380	

The PMAC also distributed a number of outreach materials to the public, including:

- Created artistic and informative calendar (over 700 provided to public)
- Developed two brochures (“Top Ten Practices for Organic Land Care” and “What You Need to Know

About South Portland’s Pesticide Ordinance”)

- Yard signs (provided by Protect South Portland)
- Stickers
- Soil test kits

Additionally, the PMAC worked with USM planning workshop students in the fall of 2017 to identify web content ideas and develop a questionnaire to determine public attitudes toward pesticides in general and the ordinance in particular. These efforts were very helpful in developing and implementing the City’s outreach & education strategy.

REVIEW WAIVER APPLICATIONS

There have been two inquiries and three formal waiver requests since the ordinance became effective for City-owned properties in May 2017 and for private properties in May 2018. In April 2019, the Council rejected a formal request by representatives for oil storage facilities to exempt weed-clearing activities around tank farms (Table 2).

Table 2: summary of inquiries and formal waiver & exemption requests for Pesticide Use Ordinance

Request Date	Source of Request/Inquiry	Pest Issue/Concern	Request/Inquiry Summary	PMAC/City Response	Response Date	Additional Comments
12/20/17	Texas Instruments landscaping contractor	Goose control on land adjacent to Jet Port	Use of anthraquinone (active ingredient in Flight Control) to deter congregation of geese on TI field next to JetPort and reduce risk of bird/plane collisions	City attorney confirms that anthraquinone is a pesticide; geese are pests; airports can use pesticides to control geese but prohibited by South Portland's ordinance	2/9/18	Inquiry issued before ordinance requirements became effective on 5/1/18
2/26/18	Several oil companies with storage facilities in S. Portland	Weed control in areas immediately around oil storage tanks	Oil companies requested exemption from ordinance (and ordinance amendment) to apply synthetic pesticides in areas immediately around oil tanks	Denial by City Council due to availability of non-synthetic alternatives	4/10/18	Inquiry issued before ordinance requirements became effective on 5/1/18
6/13/18	Parks Department (WAIVER REQUEST DENIED)	Weed control along Wainwright Field fences	Use of glyphosate (Roundup) along fence lines	Denial by PMAC due to availability of non-synthetic alternatives	6/18/18	Flame thrower purchased for use in lieu of glyphosate
8/30/18	Bartlett Tree (WAIVER REQUEST DENIED)	Scale control for magnolia tree	Use of non-specified synthetic pesticide to control scale-producing pest(s)	Denial by PMAC due to availability of non-synthetic alternatives	NA	Staff missed waiver request for several days; staff informed applicant that more info needed to support request; applicant never responded.
9/12/18	SMCC landscaping contractor (WAIVER REQUEST DENIED)	Grub control for athletic field	Use of Dylox to control grubs in athletic fields	Denial by PMAC due to availability of non-synthetic alternatives; SMCC appealed to City Manager	9/13/18	Appeal to Manager denied

SOUGHT EXPERT ADVICE

The PMAC consulted with various professionals and organizations for guidance to assist with implementing the ordinance. PMAC members also attended numerous professional meetings, workshops and symposia on land care practices, some of which the City hosted. These include:

P.O. Box 9422 • South Portland, Maine 04116-9422 • Telephone (207) 767-7675 • Fax (207) 767-5697

- Maine Landscape and Nursery Association (MELNA)
 - November 2017 meeting
 - March 2017 meeting
- Osborne Organics
 - September 2017 public meeting (hosted by City)
 - November 2017 retailer meeting (hosted by City)
- Applicator’s Roundtable (1/29/19): jointly sponsored event by Cities of Portland & South Portland (a summary of feedback from this meeting will be provided in the ordinance evaluation report).

EVALUATE ORDINANCE

As specified in the ordinance, the PMAC will submit a separate report by 5/1/19 that evaluates the ordinance and offers recommendations for possible improvements or amendments.