

City of Portland

Landcare Management Advisory Committee



Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email landcare@portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Landcare Management Advisory Committee meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

The Landcare Management Advisory Committee will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Access the meeting using this link:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/85884581298?pwd=aHFyMWU2ZVIYN1hMMm8xR283akRVUT09>

1. Review and accept minutes from Feb. 7
2. Citizen Comment
3. Presentation Regarding Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Programs and Resources
4. Committee Discussion
 - a. Review outreach efforts to educate the public and land care professionals about the amendments to the ordinance
 - b. Review Draft Annual Report and Vote on Acceptance
5. Election for Committee Chair
6. Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

City of Portland, ME
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee
Annual Report to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee
March 22, 2023

The City of Portland's Pesticide Ordinance requires the Pesticide Management Advisory Committee to provide a report to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee every year before March 31 in order to inform the City Council about the actions of the committee and to provide recommendations to the pesticide ordinance to enhance its environmental and public health benefits. This is the third annual report.

PMAC 2022

- Jesse O'Brien
- Avery Yale Kamila, Waiver Committee
- Carol Laboissonierre
- Priscilla Skerry
- Karen Snyder (*Chair, November 2021 to March 2023*)
- Troy Moon, City Staff
- Noah Tucker

Executive Summary

- During the past year, Portland Parks & Recreation reported achieving 100% organic management of the City's athletic facilities. This significant accomplishment demonstrates the City of Portland's commitment to building vibrant, livable communities.
- The PMAC received 40 applicator reports for 2022. Staff connected with all applicators that reported in 2021 and found full reporting compliance.
- The PMAC did not receive any waiver requests in 2022.
- There were twelve pesticide complaints registered on SeeClickFix in 2022, the majority for signage violations.
- The first fine for application in violation of the Pesticide Use Ordinance was issued in 2022.
- In September 2022, the Portland City Council approved amendments to the Pesticide Ordinance recommended by city staff and PMAC. The new Land Care Ordinance restricts the use of synthetic fertilizers in addition to the restriction of pesticides. These amendments go into effect on March 19, 2023.
- With this report, the PMAC does not make any new recommendations for 2023. The committee will continue to assist in educating the public about the City's Landcare Ordinance.

Portland Parks & Recreation Organic Land Care Highlights

During 2022, the Parks & Recreation Department achieved 100% organic management of the City's athletic facilities. This significant accomplishment demonstrates the City of Portland's commitment to building vibrant, livable communities.

- All of Portland's playing fields are maintained without the use of pesticides or synthetic fertilizers so that residents can gather and play without being exposed to harmful

chemicals. Examples of these spaces include Fox Field, Quinn Field and Deering Oaks Baseball Field, Back Cove Park, Payson A Field, and Presumpscot Field.

- This effort is with great thanks to Alex Marshall, Parks Director, and Pat Farrell, Ballfields Supervisor, who have led the Athletic Facilities staff toward a more sustainable, organic approach to turf management, and helping to meet the City's resilience goals.
- Portland's climate action plan, One Climate Future, set forth goals to adopt a fertilizer ordinance aimed at reducing synthetic fertilizer applications and further protecting the health of Casco Bay. In September 2022 the City Council adopted amendments to Chapter 34 of the City Code that prohibit the use of synthetic fertilizers and restrict the use of organic fertilizers.

Applicator Report 2022 Data

- The Pesticide Use Ordinance requires that licensed applicators submit an annual report outlining all pesticide treatments (both synthetic and organic) within the City of Portland. To notify applicators of this requirement, we utilized the MELNA and State of Maine Board of Pesticide Control lists and sent notice via email to all licensed applicators in Cumberland County. Information about the report and a Google Form to submit a report were also added to the Sustainability Office web pages within the City's website.
- We received reports from 40 businesses, which is 4 less than was received last year. 5 businesses that reported last year informed us they either had no applications in Portland in 2022 or their business was closed. There were 3 new reporters for 2022. For this reason, we received higher reporting compliance in 2022 than 2021.

Businesses that submitted reports include:

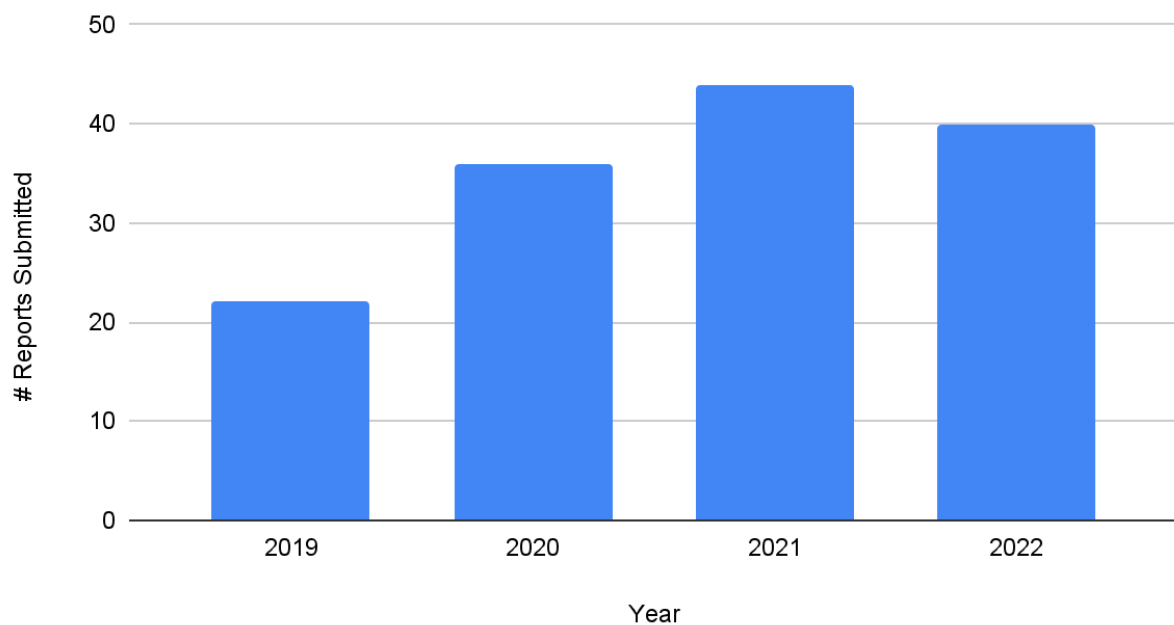
1. A-Man Landscaping & Sports Turf	15. Grass Geek LLC	28. Pest-End
2. A1 Exterminators	16. Green Pest Defense	29. Precision Pest Control, LLC
3. Ant Man Pest Control	17. Liberty Pest Control, Inc.	30. Protect Pest Services
4. Ants Etc Pest Control	18. Magic Carpet Cleaning & Restoration Inc	31. Rainbow International of Greater Portland
5. Atlantic Insect & Lawn Control	19. Maine Pest Solutions	32. Riverside Golf Club
6. Big Blue Bug	20. Maine Tick and Mosquito Control, LLC	33. Sea Dogs (Hadlock Field)
7. Bouchard Cleaning and Restoration	21. Mainely Grass Holding LLC	34. Seabreeze Property Services
8. Bullseye Pest Services, LLC	22. Mainely Ticks	35. Sterling Insect - Lawn Control Inc
9. Burnell Pest Services Inc	23. MD Weaver Corporation	36. Superior Pest Control
10. Cheverus High School	24. Modern Pest Services	37. Terminix
11. Davey Tree Expert Company	25. Mosquito Squad of Southern Maine	38. TruGreen
12. David W. MacDonald Inc. DBA Whitney Tree Service	26. Naturalawn of America	39. Turf Doctor Lawn & Pest Services
13. Erlich Pest Solutions	27. Octagon Cleaning and Restoration	40. Waltham Pest Services
14. EZ Pest Solutions		

Staff was pleased that these companies submitted reports detailing their pesticide applications during the calendar year 2022.

- *It is important to note that we do not know how many pest management and landscaping companies operate in Portland so we do not know how many firms are required to submit reports.*

City of Portland Commercial Applicator Annual Reporting Summary Data (2019 to 2022)

Reports Submitted



Portland Pesticide Annual Report Areas	2022	2021	2020	2019
# of Pesticide Annual Reports Submitted	40	44	36	22
Resident Complaints (Portland SeeClickFix)	12	6	12	0
# of Waivers Submitted	0	1	1	2
# of Waivers Submitted Approved	0	0	0	0
# of Education and Outreach Efforts Held	5	2	4	7

Education and Outreach Efforts in 2022

- City staff held a Landcare Professionals Forum in February 2022 with guest speakers Jeff Tarling and Alex Marshall from the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss their work to rehabilitate Fox Field using organic practices. Jeff Tarling also provided an update on Portland's efforts to manage the ongoing Brown Tail Moth outbreak. Attendees were able to ask questions and engage in discussions on the topic.
- Sustainable Landcare Fair was held on September 9th, 2022 at the farmers market in Deering Oaks Park. The event saw many residents stop by to view educational materials about the Landcare Ordinance presented by City staff and PMAC. Attendees were also able to learn from event partners such as MOFGA, UMaine Cooperative Extension, Eldredge Lumber, the Parks and Recreation Department, and State Entomologist Hillary Peterson.
- Sustainability Office staff launched a social media campaign in late summer to educate the public on the amendments to be made to the Pesticide Ordinance. Sustainability Office social media holds a great following of around 2,000 followers.
- Sustainability Office staff prepared educational materials on topics such as "best practices for putting your lawn to sleep for the winter", "top 10 practices to manage your lawn and landscape organically", "what you need to know about landcare in Portland", "Landcare Ordinance FAQs for Applicators", "Landcare Ordinance FAQs for residents", "Landcare Ordinance FAQs for Retailers".
- The City of Portland Landcare website was updated with the new ordinance information and continues to be updated regularly by City staff. See the website at portlandmaine.gov/landcare

Waiver Requests

There were no waiver requests submitted in 2022.

Portland See-Click-Fix Resident Complaints on Pesticide Use

- The City of Portland relies on community-sourced reporting through the See-Click-Fix (SCF) platform to monitor compliance with the Pesticide Ordinance. In 2022, residents filed twelve SCF reports about potential Pesticide Ordinance violations. Many of them note the lack of proper signage on applied lawns, specifically the lack of a chemical name and trade name as required by the ordinance.
- The Sustainability Office sent information about the ordinance to the owners of the properties identified by the See-Click-Fix report. Staff also included information about proper signage in our annual letter to applicators reminding them of the ordinance's reporting requirements. Staff will continue to respond to resident reports and encourage residents to use the platform to share concerns they may have about compliance.
- One SeeClickFix report resulted in the City fining the applicator for applications made in violation of the Pesticide Ordinance. A \$500 fine was enforced.

Summary

Portland's Pesticide Ordinance charges the Pesticide Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) with advising the Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainability and Transportation Committee about implementation of the ordinance and recommended amendments.

- The PMAC made numerous recommendations for ordinance amendments in 2022 that were approved by City Council and will take effect in March 2023. There are no further ordinance amendments recommended at this time.
- The PMAC will change its name to the Landcare Advisory Committee (LMAC) and will continue to assist in implementing an ongoing education and outreach program in coordination with the Sustainability Office that will inform residents, property owners, and landscaping companies about the ordinance and ways to manage their property organically.

The PMAC appreciates the opportunity to share this report with the Sustainability and Transportation Committee.