

CODE OF ORDINANCES

Chapter 32

LANDCARE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I. PESTICIDE USE

**Sec. 32-1. Title.**

This Article shall be known as the "City of South Portland Pesticide Use Ordinance."

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-2. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to safeguard the health and welfare of the residents of the City and to conserve and protect the City's waterways and natural resources by curtailing the use of pesticides for turf, landscape and outdoor pest management.

**Sec. 32-3. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

**Broadcast application.** The spreading of pesticides over an entire area.

**Commercial Agriculture.** The production of crops for sale, crops intended for widespread distribution to wholesalers or retail outlets and any non-food crops.

**EPA.** The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**FIFRA.** The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, 7 U.S.C. § 136 et seq.

**Golf course.** An area of land laid out for playing the game of golf with a series of 9, 18 or more holes. Mini-golf courses are not considered golf courses.

**Golf course playing surfaces.** The tees, fairways, greens and roughs of a

golf course.

**Golf course non-playing areas.** Areas of golf courses that are not golf course playing surfaces, such as lawns, driveways, paths, patios, trees, shrubs, ornamental plantings and gardens.

**Inert ingredient.** Any substance (or group of structurally similar substances if designated by the EPA), other than an active ingredient, that is intentionally included in a pesticide product.

**Infrastructure.** Any physical structure such as roads, sidewalks, buildings, stationary equipment, and power lines.

**Invasive Species.** A plant or insect that is not native to a particular ecosystem, and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species include those plants listed under the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Natural Areas Program as currently invasive, potentially or probably invasive, and highly likely but not currently invasive, as well as those insects listed by the Maine Forest Service as threats to Maine's forests and trees.

**Landcare Management Advisory Committee (LMAC).** The Landcare Management Advisory Committee as described in this Chapter.

**Natural, organic or "non-synthetic."** A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a "synthetic" process as defined in the Organic Foods Production Act, 7 U.S.C. § 6502(21), as the same may be amended from time to time.

**Organic pest management.** An extension of the principles and practices of organic agriculture to the care of turf and landscape.

**Performance turf.** Grounds devoted to athletic fields and golf courses.

**Person.** Any individual natural person, partnership, joint venture, society, association, company, club, trustee, trust or corporation; or any officer, agent, employee, or personal representative of any thereof, in any capacity acting either for her or himself or for any other person under either personal appointment or pursuant to law.

**Pest.** This term shall have the same meaning as the term set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 152.5, as the same may be amended from time to time.

**Pesticide.** Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest; any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant. It does not include multicellular biological controls such as mites, nematodes, parasitic wasps, snails or other biological agents not regulated as pesticides by the EPA. Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and rodenticides are considered pesticides.

**Pests of significant public health importance.** Pests listed by the EPA, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as pests of significant public health importance.

**Preemptive application.** The application of pesticides as a measure against something possible, anticipated or feared, *i.e.*, as a preventive or deterrent measure.

**Public utility.** Any transmission and distribution utility, telephone utility, water utility, gas utility, or natural gas pipeline utility that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

**Rescue treatment.** The application of an otherwise prohibited pesticide to clear established vegetation that threatens to damage infrastructure in order to establish an organic program.

**Synthetic.** A substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring sources, except that such term shall not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.

**Waiver Committee.** The Waiver Committee as described in this Chapter.

**Water body.** Any great pond, river, stream or tidal area as those terms are defined in the City's Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances.

**Wetland.** A coastal or shoreland freshwater wetland as those terms are defined in the City's Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-4. Applicability of Pesticide Use Ordinance.**

(A) Allowed and prohibited pesticides.

For turf, landscape and outdoor pest management activities in the City, the following shall apply:

- (i) Synthetic substances are prohibited unless specifically listed as "allowed" on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (the "National List");
- (ii) Non-synthetic substances are allowed unless specifically listed as "prohibited" on the National List;
- (iii) Pesticides determined to be "minimum risk pesticides" pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

and listed in 40 C.F.R. § 152.25(f)(1) or (2), as may be amended from time to time, are allowed; and

(iv) The use or application of pesticides (whether natural, organic, "non-synthetic," synthetic or otherwise) within 75 feet of a water body or wetland is prohibited.

(B) Exempt pesticides.

(i) The following activities or materials are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance (and so are allowed):

- (a) Commercial agriculture;
- (b) Pet supplies, such as shampoos and tick and flea treatments, when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer;
- (c) Disinfectants, germicides, bactericides, miticides and virucides, when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer;
- (d) Insect repellents when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer;
- (e) Rat and rodent control supplies when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer;
- (f) Swimming pool supplies when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer; and
- (g) General use paints, stains and wood preservatives and sealants when used in the manner specified by the manufacturer.

(ii) The following applications are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance (and so are allowed):

- (a) Specific health and safety application - Prohibited pesticides may be used to control plants that are poisonous to the touch, such as poison ivy; pests of significant health importance such as ticks and mosquitoes; and animals or insects that may cause damage to a structure, such as carpenter ants or termites;
- (b) Golf course playing surfaces application - Prohibited pesticides may be used on non-City owned golf course playing surfaces and on the tees and greens of City-owned golf courses *provided that* the course is designated through Audubon International as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary;
- (c) Grub control on performance turf - Products with only the active ingredient chlorantraniliprole are permitted for the control of root feeding white beetle grubs on performance turf; provided, however, that such applications are limited to one every other year;
- (d) Invasive insect application - Prohibited pesticides may be used to control the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Browntail Moth and other insects identified as invasive by the Maine Forest Service; and
- (e) Right-of-way spraying - Prohibited pesticides may be used by a public utility that maintains a right-of-way through the City.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-5. Waivers.**

(A) In situations that threaten the public health and safety, or for the control of invasive species that pose a threat to the environment, or for the application of a rescue treatment to prevent damage to infrastructure, persons may apply to the Waiver Committee for a waiver from the provisions of this ordinance prior to the use of a prohibited product or prior to the conduct of a prohibited application.

(B) The waiver application shall be filed with the Waiver Committee, on a form prescribed by the LMAC, and shall include the following: the proposed location(s); details on the timing(s) of use, substance(s) and amounts to be applied; date(s) of application; management plan that excludes broadcast and preemptive applications; a pest identification and threshold report; and reason for requesting the use/application of a prohibited pesticide.

(C) In order to approve a waiver application, the Waiver Committee must first find that all of the following criteria are met:

- (i) A situation exists that threatens the public health and safety and/or where invasive species pose a threat to the environment and/or a rescue treatment is needed to prevent damage to infrastructure;
- (ii) The applicant has carefully evaluated all alternative methods and materials;
- (iii) The applicant will, to the greatest extent practical, minimize the impact of the application on abutting properties; and
- (iv) The grant of the waiver will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-6. Public Notifications and Signage.**

If prohibited pesticides are to be used/applied through an exemption pursuant to Sec. 32-4(B) (ii) or through an approved waiver application pursuant to Sec. 32-5, the following posting requirements shall be complied with by the property owner or applicator.

(A) The owner or applicator shall post warning signs in compliance with this ordinance. These signs must be posted before application activities commence and left in place for at least 48 hours after actual application or until expiration of the restricted entry interval or reentry time indicated by the pesticide label, whichever is longer.

(B) All signs shall be at least five inches high and four inches wide in size. Signs shall be attached to the upper portion of a dowel or other supporting device so that the bottom of the sign is not less than 12" and the top of the sign is not more than 48" above the ground. The signs shall be of rigid, weather resistant material substantial enough to be easily read

for at least 48 hours when placed outdoors.

(C) All notification signs must be light colored (white, beige, yellow or pink) with dark, bold letters (black, blue or green). They shall have lettering that is conspicuous and clearly legible.

(D) The sign must include the following:

- (i) The word "CAUTION" in 72 point type;
- (ii) The words "PESTICIDE APPLICATION" in 30 point type or larger;
- (iii) The Maine Board of Pesticides Control designated symbol;
- (iv) Any reentry precautions from the pesticide labeling;
- (v) The name and telephone number of the entity making the pesticide application;
- (vi) The date and time of the application; and (vii) A date and/or time to remove the sign.

(E) All notification signs shall state the chemical and trade name of the pesticide, the date to be applied, the length of time to remain off the treated area as indicated by the pesticide label, and a phone number of the responsible party for more information.

These requirements are in addition to any requirements that may also apply to State of Maine licensed applicators subject to the Maine Board of Pesticides Control rules regarding public notification.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-7. RESERVED**

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-8. Other Applicable Provisions.**

The generally applicable landcare management provisions of Article V of this Chapter are incorporated into this ordinance by reference.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-9-32-19. [RESERVED]**

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**ARTICLE II. FERTILIZER USE**

**Sec. 32-20. Title.**

This Article shall be known as the "City of South Portland Fertilizer Ordinance."

**Sec. 32-21. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to safeguard and protect the

environmental health of the City's soils and waterways by curtailing nutrient run-off from the excessive use and/or misapplication of fertilizers on turf.

**Sec. 32-22. Definitions.**

The following words, term and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

**Compost:** A soil amendment made from decomposing organic matter used to improve soil structure and nutrient holding capacity. For the purposes of this ordinance, compost is not considered a fertilizer.

**Environmentally sensitive areas:** Areas that are particularly vulnerable to fertilizer nutrient loss and/or where direct transmission of fertilizer nutrients to surface water or ground water is likely. This includes coastal and freshwater wetlands, beaches and sand dunes, streams and tributary streams as those terms are defined in Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances (especially those impaired for nutrients), areas within the Shoreland Area Overlay District pursuant to Chapter 27 of the Code of Ordinances, areas with steep topography, and areas with exposed bedrock.

**Fertilizer:** A substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients and used for its plant nutrient content. State law requires that all fertilizer products be registered with its department of agriculture prior to distribution.

**Heavy rain event:** A rain event producing 0.5 inch or more of precipitation in an one hour period.

**Hydro-seeding:** The process of seeding by pumping seed in a mixture of water through a nozzle that sprays the mixture onto a seedbed. The water mixture may also contain add-ins such as fertilizer and certain mulches.

**Landcare Management Advisory Committee (LMAC):** The Landcare Management Advisory Committee as described in this Chapter.

**New development:** Any alteration of land for the purposes of construction or redevelopment that results in soil disturbance and/or compaction, vegetation removal, and/or regrading.

**Organic fertilizer:** Fertilizer derived from either plant or animal products that contain nutrients for plant growth. It is acceptable for the materials in these fertilizers to have been subjected to biological degradation processes under normal conditions of aging, rainfall, suncuring, air drying, composting, rotting, enzymatic, or anaerobic/aerobic bacterial action, or any combination of these. In order to qualify as organic fertilizer, the materials in these fertilizers may not be mixed with synthetic materials or changed in any physical or chemical manner from their initial state except by manipulations such as drying, cooking, chopping, grinding, shredding,

hydrolysis, or pelleting in order to qualify as organic fertilizer. Organic fertilizers are broken down by, and feed, the microbial life in the soil.

**Organic landcare:** A landcare management technique that integrates cultural, biological, and mechanical practices to build soil health, including practices such as mowing at higher levels, aeration, top dressing with compost, over-seeding, and watering deeply but infrequently, and technique can reduce, if not eliminate, the need for toxic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

**Organic material:** The organic matter component of soil, consisting of plant and animal detritus at various stages of decomposition, cells and tissues of soil microbes, and substances that soil microbes synthesize. **Over-seeding:** The application of additional turfgrass seeding to existing turf.

**Penetrometer:** An instrument used to give a quantitative measurement of the consistency or hardness of a substance by measuring the depth or rate of penetration of a rod or cone-shaped into it.

**Performance turf:** Grounds devoted to athletic fields and golf courses.

**Prills:** A small aggregate or globule of a material, most often a dry sphere or pellet. Fertilizers and some detergent powders are commonly manufactured as prills.

**Re-establishment:** A procedure involving complete turf removal and seeding or laying sod to establish new turf. Does not encompass renovation.

**Regulated development:** Any alteration of land for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, renovation, relocation, alteration, demolition, or enlargement of any structure that results in 2,000 square feet or more of soil disturbance, compaction, vegetation removal, and/or regarding on the site that will not be covered with impervious surfaces.

**Renovation:** Improvement of turf involving replanting into existing live and/or dead vegetation. Does not encompass re-establishment.

**Slope:** The ratio of elevation change to horizontal distance, expressed as a percentage. Slope is computed by dividing the vertical distance by the horizontal distance, and multiplying the ratio by 100. For purposes of this Chapter, a slope shall include only those areas with a horizontal distance of at least 50 feet.

**Soil:** The outer, weathered layer of the Earth's crust which can potentially support plant life and made up of inorganic particles, organic matter, organisms, water and air.

**Soil amendment:** A soil amendment is material added to soil to improve its physical properties, including, but not limited to, the substances listed on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, 7

C.F.R § 205.601, as the same may be amended from time to time. For the purposes of this ordinance, a soil amendment is not considered fertilizer.

**Soil microbes:** Living organisms in soil (such as bacteria and fungi), which feed on organic matter and decompose rapidly.

**Soil quality permit:** A permit required pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

**Soil test:** A test designed to analyze soil acidity, organic matter, and essential nutrients available for plant growth. A "standard soil test" indicates soil pH, levels of essential nutrients such as potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, and sulfur, level of organic matter, whether there is lead contamination, and it will provide recommendations for corrective amendments to address deficiencies. A "comprehensive soil test" includes all the elements of a standard soil test, plus an analysis of the available nitrogen in the soil.

**Starter fertilizer:** A fertilizer formulated for a one-time application at planting or near that time to encourage root growth and to enhance the initial establishment of turf. This is typically a water-soluble product that contains high levels of phosphorus to allow for robust root growth.

**Steep topography:** Slope lengths exceeding 50 feet (horizontal distance) on slopes greater than 15%.

**Summer dormancy:** The period during mid-summer most commonly observed in un-irrigated lawns when turf growth ceases. Dormancy is characterized by brittle texture and a loss of green color.

**Synthetic fertilizer:** Any fertilizer manufactured from one or more synthetic materials containing no animal parts, animal byproducts, manures or renderings. Synthetic fertilizer bypasses the microbial life in the soil and is taken up by the plant directly.

**Total nitrogen:** The sum of all fertilizer nitrogen species, including water soluble nitrogen forms, slow release nitrogen forms, and water insoluble nitrogen forms. The percentage of total nitrogen appears as the leftmost number of the grade on fertilizer labels.

**Turf:** A community of herbaceous plants that can be mowed, including grass and sod; a surface layer of the earth with grass growing on it, usually mowed, including lawns, grass covered medians, athletic fields, golf courses, outdoor event spaces, and the like.

**Waiver Committee:** The Waiver Committee as described in this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 6, 9/21/2021 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

## **Sec. 32-23. Applicability of Ordinance.**

The following provisions shall apply to the use of fertilizer on turf within the territorial limits of the City, on both public and private property.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-24. Prohibitions & Allowed Applications**

- (A) The following prohibitions apply for all fertilizer applications on all turf types:
- (i) Applications within 75' of a water body or wetland or other environmentally sensitive area are prohibited.
  - (ii) Applications on frozen ground or saturated surfaces are prohibited.
  - (iii) Applications when a heavy rain event is forecast or is occurring are prohibited.
  - (iv) Applications during summer dormancy or when the ground is partially or wholly frozen are prohibited.
  - (v) Applications on impervious surfaces are prohibited; if spills occur on impervious surfaces, they must be swept up immediately.
  - (vi) Applications with phosphorus are prohibited except where a soil test conducted within the last three years indicates a need for phosphorus, or phosphorous is being used for new development/re-establishment, as specified in subsection (B) below.
  - (vii) Applications of synthetic fertilizer are prohibited except where a waiver has been granted pursuant to Sec. 32-25 below.
  - (viii) Applications of organic fertilizer not in compliance with subsection (B) below are prohibited.
- (B) The following applications of organic fertilizer are allowed within the limits for the specific application as set forth below:
- (i) Except as specified in subsections (ii), (iii), and (iv) below, applications of organic fertilizer on turf, including residential lawns, are allowed as long as a standard soil test is conducted every two years. Two fertilizer applications are permitted in one calendar year. For each application, total nitrogen may not exceed 1 lb. per 1,000 square feet. Applications of organic fertilizer may not contain nutrients in excess of the amount recommended by the completed soil test. Only phosphorus-free, organic fertilizer is allowed for these applications, unless the soil test indicates a need for phosphorus.
  - (ii) Applications of organic fertilizer on performance turf are allowed as necessary provided that total nitrogen does not exceed 4 lbs per 1,000 square feet per year.
  - (iii) Applications of organic starter fertilizer for new development may contain phosphorus without a soil test. The fertilizer must be incorporated into top soil 2-3 inches deep. Two fertilizer applications are permitted for one calendar year from the date of first application only. For each application, total nitrogen and phosphorus may not exceed 1 lb. per 1,000 square feet.
  - (iv) Applications of organic fertilizer for re-establishment of turf may contain phosphorus without a soil test. Unless the application is through hydro-seeding or overseeding, the organic fertilizer must be incorporated into the soil 2-3 inches deep. Fertilizer applications may not exceed 1 lb. of

nitrogen and phosphorus per 1,000 square feet per application. Total nitrogen and phosphorus may not exceed 2 lbs. per 1,000 square feet per calendar year from the date of last application.

**Sec. 32-25. Soil Quality Requirements for Regulated Development.**

- (A) Soil Quality Permit Required; Written Verification of Regulated Development Compliance with Soil Quality Standards Required.
- (i) A soil quality permit is required for all regulated development as defined in Sec. 32-22.
  - (ii) Application for a soil quality permit shall be made to the Code Enforcement Office by submission of a completed written application on forms provided for this purpose, accompanied by a non-refundable fee as specified in the Schedule of License, Permit, Inspection and Application Fees established by City Council order.
  - (iii) A soil quality permit shall be required prior to the issuance of a building or a demolition permit, if one is required, and shall be in addition to any other permits or approvals, including site plan, special exception, subdivision, and shoreland zoning permits or approvals, that may be required by law.
  - (iv) A soil quality permit for a project that is subject to Planning Board review and approval shall be obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer prior to the issuance of any building permit (or if no building permit is required, prior to commencement of new development), but the Planning Board shall impose one or more conditions on its approval that requires compliance of regulated development with the standards set forth in this Article prior to Planning Board project completion.
  - (v) A soil quality permit is a license to proceed with the regulated development in compliance with this Article and shall not be construed as authority to violate or set aside any of the provisions of the Article. All regulated development must comply with the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B) upon completion.
  - (vi) Written verification of compliance of the regulated development with the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B) is required within six months of completion of the regulated development.
- (B) Soil Quality Standards.

For areas of soil disturbance on the site that are not covered with impervious surfaces, the following standards are required to be met at the completion of soil disturbance and/or compaction, vegetation removal, and/or regrading for the project:

- (i) Sub-soil compaction cannot exceed a penetrometer reading of 300 psi to a depth of at least 10 inches below the surface except when ledge is present, in which case sub-soil

compaction cannot exceed a penetrometer reading of 300 psi to a depth of at least 6 inches below the surface; and

- (ii) At least 6 inches of topsoil containing a minimum of 4.5% organic material and a pH level between 5.8 and 7.2 must be present.
- (C) Procedure for Obtaining Written Verification of Regulated Development Compliance with Soil Quality Standards.
- (i) The Site Contractor shall notify the City or the City's contracted inspector to schedule an inspection immediately after soil has been applied for final grades as specified in the project plans.
  - (ii) The City's contracted inspector shall visit the site to measure compaction and take soil samples.
  - (iii) Within 5 weeks of that site visit, the City's contracted inspector shall provide the permit applicant and the Code Enforcement Officer with the test results.
  - (iv) If the test results show that the soil fails to meet the required soil quality standards, corrective action must be taken, and a re-inspection must be scheduled with the City's contracted inspector within two (2) weeks of the failed test.
  - (v) A re-inspection fee equal to the original inspection fee amount shall be charged for each subsequent inspection determined by the Code Enforcement Officer or the City's contracted inspector to be necessary to ensure compliance with the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B).
  - (vi) Upon receipt of evidence of regulated development compliance with the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B), the Code Enforcement Officer shall provide written verification of such compliance by certifying in such format as determined to be appropriate that the regulated development has been found to be in compliance with the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B).

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 6, 9/21/2021 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-26. Waivers.**

- (A) Persons may apply to the Waiver Committee for a waiver in order to use a synthetic fertilizer on performance turf or for new development, prior to the actual use of the synthetic fertilizer, if one or more the following conditions exists:
  - (i) The soil temperature is less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit and reasonable grounds exist to justify fertilizer use at that location and at that time;

- (ii) The turf is experiencing high stress due to high use and must be ready for high performance play when the sports season(s) begin; or
  - (iii) A suitable organic product that meets the nutrient needs of the soil as specified in a soil test is unavailable.
- (B) The waiver application shall be filed with the Waiver Committee, on a form prescribed by the LMAC, and shall include the following: the proposed location(s), preferably in map format; photo of proposed location(s); type(s) and amounts of synthetic fertilizer to be applied; date(s) of application; management plan; and reason for requesting the use/application of synthetic fertilizer. The management plan shall identify the soil testing results, and, if applicable, organic landcare practices and implementation schedule; fertility practices and implementation schedule; and application of other inputs (e.g., pesticides, soil supplements) and application schedule.
- (C) In order to approve a waiver application, the Waiver Committee must first find that all of the following criteria are met:
- (i) The application submitted is complete;
  - (ii) The applicant has demonstrated that at least one of the conditions that would necessitate the use of synthetic fertilizers on performance turf or new development as set forth in subsection (A) above exists;
  - (iii) The applicant has demonstrated that reasonable grounds exist to justify use of synthetic fertilizer on performance turf or for new development at the proposed location and time; and
  - (iv) The applicant has demonstrated a commitment to the organic landcare practices detailed in their management plan.
- (D) Any person granted a waiver for synthetic fertilizer use shall include the synthetic fertilizer use applications within the total allowable limits for nitrogen and phosphorus set forth in Sec. 32-24(B) above.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 6, 9/21/2021 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-27. Other Applicable Provisions.**

The generally applicable landcare management provisions of Article V of this Chapter are incorporated into this ordinance by reference.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 6, 9/21/2021 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Secs. 32-28--32-49. [RESERVED]**

ARTICLE III. [RESERVED]



ARTICLE IV [RESERVED]



**ARTICLE V. LANDCARE MANAGEMENT GENERALLY**

**Sec. 32-50. Landcare Management Advisory Committee (LMAC).**

(A) Composition; appointment; terms of office.

The Landcare Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is hereby established. The LMAC shall consist of seven members as follows:

- (i) The City's Stormwater Program Coordinator or a City employee with experience in landcare management, as determined by the City Manager and Sustainability Director;
- (ii) One practicing agronomist, if available in the community;
- (iii) Two Maine Board of Pesticides Control-licensed landscape professionals, at least one of whom has experience in organic land care management and is accredited by the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Organic Land Care, if available in the community; and
- (iv) Four resident or taxpayer representatives.

The seven LMAC members shall be appointed by the City Council, each nominated by a City Councilor, and there shall be no more than three (3) members from any one voting district. The terms of office shall be three year terms, except that the initial appointments after the establishment of the LMAC shall be such that the terms of office of no more than two members shall expire in any single year. The terms of office for the City employee LMAC member shall be for as long as the employee holds said employment position.

(B) Duties.

The duties of the LMAC include serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council and the Sustainability Director to oversee this ordinance through the following:

- (i) Advising the City Council and the Sustainability Director of any problems encountered or amendments that may be required to achieve the full and successful implementation of this Chapter;
- (ii) Reviewing and acting upon waiver applications when applicable;
- (iii) In coordination with the Sustainability Director, developing and implementing outreach and education as specified in this Chapter;
- (iv) Seeking the participation, advice and counsel of experts in the fields of organic turf and landscape management, maintenance of trees and shrubs, and organic pest protocol;
- (v) Encouraging broad community participation, from parents, schools, advocates, and local arboriculture and landscaping businesses, in the activities of the LMAC;
- (vi) Reviewing annual data and issuing a summary report annually to the City Council;

(vii) On or before May 1, 2019, and every three years thereafter, conducting an evaluation of this Chapter, including a review of pilot project results and reporting data, and providing recommendations to the City Council and the Sustainability Director for any Chapter amendments it deems appropriate; and

(viii) Additional responsibilities as may be deemed necessary by the City Council.

(C) Officers, meetings and records.

(i) The members shall annually elect a chair from their membership. If not provided to the LMAC by the City Manager, the members shall also annually elect a secretary for the purpose of taking minutes and related duties.

(ii) All meetings of the LMAC shall be open to the public. Notice of each meeting shall comply with the City's notice policies and Maine's Freedom of Access Act.

(iii) A quorum shall consist of four members.

(iv) The LMAC shall meet regularly.

(v) Minutes shall be kept of all meetings with a copy filed with the City Clerk.

An annual report of the LMAC's activities shall be submitted to the City Council in March of each year.

The chair and one other member, at least one of whom must be a Maine Board of Pesticides Control-licensed landscape professional, shall serve as the Waiver Committee, authorized to review and decide waiver applications. The LMAC shall annually designate the two members who shall serve as the Waiver Committee for the ensuing year.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 31, 6/6/2023 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 23-24/25, 2/4/2025 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-51. Process for Consideration of Waiver Applications.**

(A) Waiver applications must be filed with the Waiver Committee, with a copy provided to the Sustainability Director. The Waiver Committee shall act upon a waiver application within five business days of receipt of a completed application. Both members of the Waiver Committee must agree that approval of the application is appropriate in order for the application to be approved; otherwise, the application is deemed denied.

(B) In approving any waiver application, the Waiver Committee may prescribe conditions and safeguards as are appropriate to further the purposes of this ordinance. The decision of the Waiver Committee shall be in writing, with copies provided to the applicant, LMAC, Sustainability Director and City Clerk.

(C) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Waiver Committee shall have five business days to appeal the decision of the Waiver Committee to the full LMAC. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state the basis for the appeal. The LMAC shall act upon the appeal within ten business days of receipt of the appeal. The appellant shall be given an opportunity to provide oral and documentary evidence to the LMAC without regard to whether it was presented to the Waiver Committee. Waiver Committee members may

participate in any appeal to the LMAC. A decision to grant an appeal shall be by majority vote of those LMAC members present and voting. The decision of the LMAC shall be in writing, with copies provided to the appellant, City Manager, Sustainability Director and City Clerk. Decisions of the LMAC may be appealed to Superior Court within thirty (30) days of the LMAC's written decision.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

#### **Sec. 32-52. Outreach and Education.**

(A) The Sustainability Director or his/her designee shall publish notice of this Chapter in a newspaper of general circulation in the City upon adoption of this Chapter or any amendments thereto and shall provide periodic notice of this Chapter to identified retailers and lawn, garden, and tree-care providers serving South Portland as well as to churches, schools, and other institutions in South Portland.

(B) The LMAC shall work with the Sustainability Director to prepare and publish materials designed to educate the community about the role of fertilizers and pesticides in the local environment and best practices regarding pesticide and fertilizer use as well as organic landcare practices. Outreach methods may include:

- Development of a recognition or certification program for organic properties;
- Healthy soils campaign (wrapping together pesticides and fertilizers);
- Website and social media;
- Press releases and newspaper articles;
- Posters and brochures made available at City events and applicable locations that serve the public;
- Workshops, trainings, and demonstration projects;
- A toolkit for retailers consisting of educational materials and signage that can be customized, printed, and placed in stores, and training for all retail employees who recommend and sell pesticides and fertilizers highlighting the following:
  - a) South Portland's local pesticide and fertilizer regulations;
  - b) principles of organic landcare; and
  - c) proper use/application of pesticides and fertilizers;and
- Any additional methods deemed appropriate by the LMAC.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

#### **Sec. 32-53. Violations.**

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Chapter or failing or neglecting or refusing to obey any order or notice of the Sustainability Director and/or the LMAC issued hereunder shall be subject to enforcement action as provided herein.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-54. Enforcement.**

- (A) It shall be the duty of the Code Enforcement Officer, for whom the Sustainability Director shall provide investigative assistance, to enforce the provisions of this Chapter. The Sustainability Director shall work with alleged violators of this Chapter to bring them into compliance by providing the individual(s) with educational materials and advice on the use of organic landcare practices to achieve their desired results.
- (B) For any violation that represents the failure to meet the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B) of Article II, the penalties contained in 30-A M.R.S. § 4452, as amended from time to time, shall apply.
- (C) For any violation of this Chapter other than a violation that represents the failure to meet the soil quality standards set forth in Sec. 32-25(B) of Article II, any person who is found to be in violation of this Chapter shall be initially subject to a letter of warning. A second violation shall be punishable by a civil penalty of two hundred dollars (\$200); a third violation shall be punishable by a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500); and any subsequent violation shall be punishable by a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
- (D) Each violation of a separate provision of this Chapter, and each day of violation, shall constitute separate offenses. Violators may be subject to legal action brought by the City seeking any and all remedies to which it is entitled pursuant to State and local laws, including, without limitation, declaratory and injunctive relief and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 30-A M.R.S. § 4452, as the same may be amended from time to time. All civil penalties shall inure to the benefit of the City of South Portland.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000]; Ord. No. 6-21/22, 9/21/2021 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-55. Severability.**

Should any section or provision of this Chapter be declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-56. Conflicts with Other Ordinances.**

Whenever a provision of this Chapter conflicts with or is inconsistent with another provision of this Chapter or of any other ordinance, regulation or statute, the more restrictive provision shall control.

(Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

**Sec. 32-57. Effective date.**

This Chapter first became effective as of September 27, 2016. Amendments to this Chapter as evidenced by Ordinance #8-20/21 shall become effective pursuant to Section 225 of the City Charter.

(Ord #2-16/17, 8/15/16; [fiscal note: less than \$1,000]; (Ord. No. 8-20/21, 11/5/2020 [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])