

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, The City of Manitou Springs (City) supports a healthy environment for the community and have determined that a formal policy on Organic Land Management is needed to promote and protect this healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that a balanced and healthy ecosystem is vital to the health of the City, its' citizens, employees, visitors and the natural ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, The City recognizes that it is in the best interest of public health to eliminate, the use of chemical pesticides and inorganic fertilizers on City owned and City managed land in order to protect inhabitants from exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, The City will further encourage the use of organic pesticide and fertilizer on non-City properties that have large turf areas and large agency and/or privately property area where organic practices can be of benefit to the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City finds and declares that a policy is needed in order to eliminate the use of toxic pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides and other non-organic chemicals on City owned parks, open spaces and on lands around City owned buildings, or in City held rights-of-way in order to promote a healthy environment and protect the public from the hazards associated with the use of these chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have drafted a policy for adoption, and this policy supports current park management practices of the City and will memorialize and assure these continued practices and expand these practices to all land held or managed by the City; and


WHEREAS, it is the City's intent to operate in a sustainable manner and adoption of this policy will encourage the implementation of sustainable land management practices, advocate reduction and elimination of the use of toxic pesticides on public property, introduce and promote natural, chemical free land management practices, and, when necessary, control pest and weed problems on public land.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO, THAT:

The Organic Land Management Policy as amended is hereby adopted and will thereby be followed by the staff of the City of Manitou Springs for all management of public lands, and all property owners in the City are encouraged to follow this policy in an effort to promote a sustainable community for generations to come.


Adopted at the meeting of the City Council of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, on this 5th day of June, 2018.

Mayor and Council:

By:  _____

Ken Jaray, Mayor

Attest:

 _____

Donna Kast, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A—ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted by Resolution 2018-

1. PURPOSE

The CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS hereby finds and declares that it shall be the policy of the City of Manitou Springs, (hereafter labeled "City"), to eliminate toxic pesticide (e.g. herbicides, insecticides, etc.; see "definitions") use on City owned land in order to promote a healthy environment and protect the public from potential hazards therein.

2. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The City recognizes that a balanced and healthy ecosystem is vital to the health of the City, its' citizens, employees, visitors and the natural ecosystem.

The City recognizes that it is in the best interest of public health to eliminate the use of chemical pesticides and inorganic fertilizers on City owned land, including parks, cemetery, rights-of-way and land surrounding City owned property, in order to protect inhabitants from exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals. The City will further encourage the use of organic pesticide and fertilizer on non-City properties that have large turf areas and large agency and/or privately property area where organic practices, such as those outlined herein may be of benefit to the residents of the City.

The City will encourage the implementation of sustainable land management practices, advocate reduction and elimination of the use of toxic pesticides on public property, introduce and promote natural, chemical free land management practices, and, when necessary, control pest and weed problems on public land.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

It is the City's intent to operate in a sustainable manner: to adhere to an organic pesticide and fertilizer policy on public property. The policy is inclusive of all City parkland, playgrounds, streetscapes, open space and all other multi-use city holdings. Manitou Springs School District 14 is encouraged to adopt this approach to their athletic fields as well.

The following policies under this Organic Land Management Policy will be followed by City staff and any contractor working for the City.

The City will require in Requests for Bids and Requests for Proposals, when developed and released, that the selected individual, firm, corporation or business will be knowledgeable with the use of organic pesticides and fertilizer products and will exercise environmentally responsible use of these products by following City standards.

To further the implementation of this policy, a knowledgeable Landscape Contractor may act in the capacity of an Organic Land Consultant to the City. Alternatively, the Organic Land Consultant may be a knowledgeable City employee or citizen, to be determined by City Council.

HAS To be determined by city council.

The Organic Land Consultant can educate City staff on principles that promote sustainable landscape and plant health care practices. As time and industry studies change and as more environmentally safe curatives for commercial and private landscape are adopted, the City and the Organic Land Consultant will evaluate and adopt products that are appropriate for the City's needs. The City must be able to use a variety of control tools against invasive species to protect the public health.

4. DEFINITIONS

Organic Land Management- (OLM) is a problem-solving strategy that prioritizes a natural, organic approach to the care of turf grass, trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants. It mandates the use of natural, organic cultural practices that promote healthy soil and plant life as a preventive measure against the onset of turf and landscape pest problems. An OLM policy is based upon organic land stewardship and best management practices with respect to current organic horticultural science. All control products used under the terms of this policy shall be in keeping with, but not limited to, the Organic Materials Review Institute's Products List (a directory of all products OMRI has determined are allowed for use in organic production, processing, and handling according to the USDA National Organic Program)

Pesticide—any substance or mixture of substances intended for—(i) preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest; (ii) use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant; or (iii) use as a spray adjuvant such as a wetting agent or adhesive. The term 'pesticide' does not include cleaning products, other than those that contain pesticidal agents. Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, miticides, avicides and rodenticides are all considered pesticides.

Pest-Pests are considered undesirable terrestrial or aquatic plants, insects, fungi, bacteria, virus, nematodes, rodents, birds, animals, or other micro-organisms (except viruses, bacteria or other micro-organisms on or in living persons or other living animals) declared to be a pest under federal or state laws. Common examples in turf grass and the landscape can be, but are not limited to, crabgrass, poison ivy, chinch bugs, and a variety of plant pathogens.

City Grounds —means the area outside of a building controlled, managed, or owned by the City and includes a lawn, playground, park, gardenscape, and any other property or facility controlled, managed, leased or owned by the City

5. STATEMENT OF ACTION:

The City hereby adopts an Organic Land Management (OLM) Policy, which includes the following:

- The use and application of non-organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers either by City employees or by private contractors, is prohibited on all public lands. Organic practices and maintenance shall be the method of choice to understand, prevent, and control potential pest problems.

6. ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT (OLM) Preferred Principles and Practices

Essential OLM practices include, but are not limited to:

- Selection of plantings using criteria of hardiness; suitability to native conditions; drought, disease and pest-resistance; and ease of maintenance

- Modification of outdoor management practices to comply with organic horticultural science, including scouting, monitoring, watering, mowing, pruning, proper spacing, and mulching
- The use of physical controls, including hand-weeding, weed whacking and over-seeding
- Observation: determining the most effective treatment time, including variables such as weather and local conditions
- Eliminating pest habitats and conditions supportive of pest population increases
- OLM policy allows the use of non-organic controls in the event of a public emergency or significant hardship, as determined by the City.

7. EXEMPTIONS

All outdoor pest management activities taking place on City grounds shall be subject to this OLM policy, except as follows:

1. Chemicals otherwise lawfully used for the purpose of maintaining a safe drinking water supply at drinking water treatment plants and at wastewater treatment plants and related collection, distribution, treatment facilities, and spring fonts.
2. Pesticides in contained baits or traps for the purpose of rodent control in interior spaces only. When necessary, these should be used in conjunction with an effort to use non-toxic alternatives as a primary means of control.

8. WAIVERS

If a situation warrants the use of chemical pesticides or fertilizers, which would otherwise not be permitted under this policy, the City shall have the authority to grant a temporary waiver for a reasonable duration. The duration of the waiver may be extended for additional periods of time at the City's discretion. Any waiver granting the use of pesticides on City Grounds shall require the use of the least toxic material chosen for any given application (see Addendum A). The following criteria shall be used to establish a waiver:

1. The pest situation poses a threat to human health and/or environmental quality.
2. Viable alternatives consistent with this OLM policy do not exist.
3. The City will incur significant financial hardship by following the OLM policy.

The City shall consider, but is not required to follow the recommendation of the Organic Land Consultant.

Addendum A

Pesticide toxicity comparison ratings (credit to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Cooperative Extension System).

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/downloads/products.pdf>