
January 22, 2020

~ Agenda ~

Wednesday 5:10 PM

Meeting Times are subject to change based on discussion from previous meetings.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Steffanie Musich	Chair, Commissioner District 5
Londel French	Vice Chair, Commissioner At Large
Meg Forney	Commissioner At Large
AK Hassan	Commissioner District 3
Chris Meyer	Commissioner District 1

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. STUDY/REPORT ITEMS

5.1 Understanding Pesticide Reduction Efforts in the Minneapolis Park System for 2019

VI. ADJOURNMENT

December 18, 2019

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The time being 8:08 PM, Chair, Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich called the meeting to order.

President Bourn Appointed himself to serve as a December 18 Operations & Environment Committee member.

Chair, Commissioner District 5 Steffanie Musich: Present, Vice Chair, Commissioner At Large Londel French: Present, Commissioner District 1 Chris Meyer: Present, Commissioner District 4 Jono Cowgill: Present, Commissioner District 2 Kale Severson: Absent, Commissioner District 6 Brad Bourn: Present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chris Meyer, Commissioner District 1
AYES:	Musich, French, Meyer, Cowgill, Bourn
ABSENT:	Kale Severson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Operations & Environment Committee - Committee Meeting - Nov 20, 2019 5:20 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Londel French, Vice Chair, Commissioner At Large
AYES:	Musich, French, Meyer, Cowgill, Bourn
ABSENT:	Kale Severson

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. STUDY/REPORT ITEMS

5.1 Park Natural and Naturalized Areas

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 18, 2019 6:00 PM (APPROVAL OF MINUTES)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Brad Bourn, Commissioner District 6
AYES: Musich, French, Meyer, Cowgill, Bourn
ABSENT: Kale Severson

Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM



TO: Operations & Environment Committee

FROM: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward

DATE: January 22, 2020

SUBJECT: Understanding Pesticide Reduction Efforts in the Minneapolis Park System for 2019

BACKGROUND

Pesticide use within the Minneapolis park system remains an important conversation topic as staff and the Pesticide Advisory Committee work together to fully understand the next step in the work to end pesticide use in our park system. While the question at hand may seem very straight forward, the work it impacts requires more than a yes or no answer to pesticide use. First, understanding what qualifies as a pesticide lays a foundation to comprehending how we measure our current use. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a pesticide is “any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.” The umbrella term of pesticides is further broken down into categories focused on the type of pest a substance aims to control. Some of the common types of pesticides include herbicides which control plants, fungicides which control fungi, and insecticides which control insects. While herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide are the focus of most conversations, other types of pesticides are more prevalent in our parks. Bactericides, algacides, and rodenticides are often relied upon to meet health codes and sanitation standards. From pool chemicals to restroom disinfectants, pesticides are relied upon to meet the expectations of park users and ensure their health and safety.

The next step in the work is understanding how and where pesticide products are used in the landscape and even more so, where they are not used. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) dictates that herbicides are not to be used within 100 feet of any playground or wading pool. Currently general park land is not treated with any pesticide product for cosmetic reasons. Dandelions, clover, and other broadleaf plants often referred to as “weeds” have become a welcome and common sight in our parkland turfgrass. Areas that may use landscape pesticide products currently include our historic Rose Garden where fungicide is used to ensure common fungal diseases aren’t allowed to completely defoliate our over 2,500 rose shrubs while we search for more disease resistant varieties, in managed natural areas where our Environmental Management Department works to control invasive species and noxious weeds outlined by the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law, and at our premiere athletic complexes and golf courses where user expectations drive maintenance standards.



Glyphosate has not been used on any park property since 2018 and since 2016 it has not been used in any neighborhood parks, except for Loring Park's pond shoreline restoration. Currently, if you put aside swimming and wading pools (except for Webber Natural Swimming Pool) along with building facilities, over 100 park properties were free of active landscape pesticide use during our last two growing seasons. This count is not stagnant, and we've seen it increase over the past decade. Landscape management practices evolve with the industry and the land needs. New products, equipment, and changing public interest impact the work and as time passes, the work is also impacted by new exotic introductions and concerns around how our green space is managed.

MPRB is tasked with finding a balance between all parts of the story. From preserving our limited native landscapes and displaying historic plant collections that inspire and delight to maintaining public health and safety and ensuring we remain fiscally responsible and economically sound.

MPRB continues to make strides forward with reducing pesticide use in our parks with our eye on elimination as our endgame. 6,800 acres of land, from aquatic to native landscapes to manicured fields, requires dynamic management. Each feature has unique needs, impacts, and user groups that need to be reflected in the management plan. Continued support is needed from the community as we take incremental steps and tackle each challenge we encounter in this work. Be assured that the work has begun.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion purposes.

Prepared By: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward, Operation Services

Review:

Jeremy Barrick Completed 01/15/2020 3:59 PM

Jennifer Ringold Completed 01/15/2020 4:33 PM

Al Bangoura Completed 01/15/2020 8:09 PM

Operations & Environment Committee Pending 01/22/2020 5:10 PM