



## Supplemental Report - Regulate the Non-essential (Cosmetic) Use of Pesticides

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|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Date         | April 20, 2022                        |
| To           | City Council                          |
| From         | City Planning & Community Development |
| Service Area | City Planning & Community Development |
| Item No.     | CM22-12                               |

### RECOMMENDATION

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That City Council receive and file this report.

### ISSUE

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At its March 16, 2022 meeting, City Council considered a Notice of Motion related to the use of cosmetic pesticides in the City of Regina. The Motion – *MN22-1 Regulate the Non-Essential (Cosmetic) Use of Pesticides* – directed Administration to prepare a report on their use and recommendations for Council's consideration. The full motion is set out in Appendix A.

City Council directed Administration to prepare a supplemental report for its April 20, 2022 meeting with an estimate of the cost to complete the MN22-1 report. This supplemental report provides the cost estimate.

### IMPACTS

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#### Financial Impacts

The estimated cost of the work to address motion MN22-1 is approximately \$70,000 and will be funded within the existing 2022 operating budget. Details of the costs are outlined in this report.

There are no environmental, risk/legal or other implications or considerations.

## OTHER OPTIONS

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No alternative options are identified for this report.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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Interested Parties will receive a copy of the report and notification of their right to appear as a delegation at the Council meeting.

## DISCUSSION

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### **Parks Current Practices**

The parks branches of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department (PRSC) deliver a number of pesticide programs to manage and control mosquitoes, cankerworms, tent caterpillars, fall web worm, dutch elm disease, aphids, rodents, shrub beds, weeds and aggregate and weeds.

Specific to weed control, PRCS has reduced its use of pesticides in City of Regina (City) parks and athletic fields since the *Herbicide Reduction Program* (Appendix B) was approved by City Council in 2013. The program uses action thresholds to determine which parks and athletic fields require treatment for weed control. Once an action threshold is exceeded then the treatment is applied during the fall of the same year. Treatments often produce better results on perennial weeds during the fall, which is also when park usage decreases so the chance of accidental or long-term exposure to residents is reduced.

The use of non-essential pesticides in city parks and athletic fields has been annually trending downward from 2005 to 2021 (Appendix C). A herbicide is used for broad leaf weeds such as dandelions, thistles and plantains. It may also be used for regulated noxious weeds, such as spotted Knapweed. The most common herbicides used are Killiex, Trillion or Weed'n Feed.

The *Herbicide Reduction Program* has reduced the average annual usage by approximately two thirds and the City has shifted to a more targeted strategy to address weeds.

Motion MN 22-1 builds on this work by addressing the use of cosmetic pesticides in lawns and gardens on residential and business properties, and the green spaces managed by community organizations.

The report associated with Motion *MN22-1 Regulate the Non-essential (Cosmetic) Use of Pesticides* will require the following pieces of work:

1. A description of the City's Parks policies and practices.

2. A literature and research review on cosmetic pesticides, their use and impact on biodiversity, especially birds and pollinators like bees and butterflies.
3. A jurisdictional review that includes the legal considerations of regulations and best practices to maintain green spaces and yards without the use of cosmetic pesticides.
4. A community engagement plan to receive residents' feedback on the use of cosmetic pesticides and the impact of a ban.
5. A sector engagement plan with local businesses, vendors, organizations and other interested parties that may be impacted by a ban, including greenhouse operators and school boards.
6. An implementation plan with bylaw and enforcement requirements.
7. Recommendations and the implications of implementing a ban, along with the funding requirements for a public education and communication plan. This will include the promotion of safe alternative products and best practices for yard, gardens and parks.

The Administration estimates that the above work can be completed and a final report submitted to the Executive Committee by Q1 of 2023.

To approach this project, Administration recommends the following:

#### **Partnership with University of Regina – Literature & Research Review**

The University of Regina will conduct a comprehensive fact- and evidence-based literature and research review covering both the technical and policy aspects of the issue. The technical review will include the current regulatory environment related to non-agricultural uses, a review of the *status quo* and potential alternative approaches, along with their benefits and risks. From a policy perspective, the University will conduct a jurisdictional review as well as an analysis of the implications of maintaining the *status quo*, taking action to ban or restrict, and adopting an alternative, integrated pest management approach (Appendix D).

The cost of the work proposed by the University of Regina is estimated at \$24,350.

#### **Jurisdictional Review**

A comprehensive jurisdictional review is required to understand the experiences of other jurisdictions across Canada. This includes provincial governments to understand their positions on the use of cosmetic pesticides and how they impact municipalities. The provincial regulation of cosmetic pesticides is expanding across Canada, and Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta have all introduced bans on their use.

Relevant information will also be collected from municipalities, including information related to best practices, regulations and legislations, bylaws, the implementation process and enforcement practices.

### **Market Research, Public Engagement and Education Campaign Recommendation**

Administration will develop a market research and public engagement plan to hear from residents and other stakeholders on the matter of cosmetic pesticides and the impact of a ban.

Market Research would include:

- Stakeholder and resident focus groups to help inform the overall community discussion
  - This would be an estimated \$12,000 or \$6,000 per group
- Inclusion of question(s) in an omnibus survey (statistical market research)
  - The total cost of an omnibus is about \$10,000

Public Engagement would include:

- BeHeard project page with Questions and Answers with the opportunity to sign-up for ongoing updates and a broad public engagement survey
  - Approximately \$5,000 to promote the survey

Public engagement and strategic communications staff will work with a consultant on focus groups and the omnibus survey. Administration will develop BeHeard content, internally prepare and then promote the public survey, and internally summarize, prepare and share the findings from all market research and public engagement inputs. Administration will also complete research, scope and prepare a recommendation including budget requirements for a public education campaign.

The estimated cost to develop and implement the market research and public engagement is \$25,000.

### **Bylaw and Enforcement**

The study will also explore potential regulatory frameworks, including enforcement options and the associated costs. Enforcement costs may be absorbed with existing resources or additional resources may be required, depending on the approved approach.

Should the report recommend that the City enact a bylaw regulating pesticides there will be internal staff costs related to research and development of the bylaw. While there are many pesticide bylaws currently in force, primarily in British Columbia, there is not a consistent approach to exempt pesticides or uses and therefore this work would include refining a regulatory scheme for the Saskatchewan and Regina context, given the information collected throughout preparation of the report, community consultation and existing provincial and federal pesticide regulation.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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On March 16, 2022, Council introduced Motion *MN22-1: Regulate the Non-essential (Cosmetic) Use*

of *Pesticides* and directed the Administration to report back with further information containing the estimate cost to complete this study as outlined in Motion *MN22-1*.

On March 16, 2017, City Council approved the February 2017 Pesticide Status Update – Tree Insect Control and Weed Control in Regina Parks.

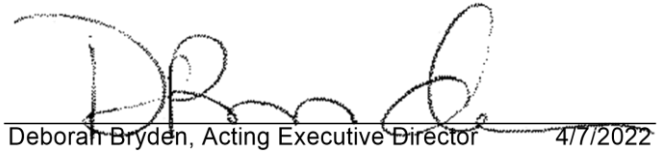
Respectfully Submitted,

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurie Shalley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

4/7/2022



Deborah Bryden, Acting Executive Director

4/7/2022

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#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A CC Motion MN22-1 - Regulate the Non-essential (Cosmetic) Use of Pesticides  
Appendix B Community Protective Services Committee Report State of Pesticides (002)  
Appendix C Herbicide Usage Summary 2005 to 2021  
Appendix D Partnership with University of Regina Pesticides Scope