

## Does Swampscott have a policy about pesticides on public land? If you answered “Yes,” you’re in the know. Oops, not really!



Almost two decades ago, our Board of Health’s Pesticide Awareness Committee created a mandate and protocol, which “recognizes that all citizens, particularly children, as well as other inhabitants of our natural environment, have a right to protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides in particular.”

[http://www.swampscottma.gov/sites/swampscottma/files/uploads/organic\\_pest\\_management\\_policy.pdf](http://www.swampscottma.gov/sites/swampscottma/files/uploads/organic_pest_management_policy.pdf)

However, we have yet to see these thoughtful words, composed in 2002, put into action. Members of the Organic Lawn Management Task Force are concerned that Swampscott’s playing fields and parks remain subject to a relentless schedule of pesticide treatment. And, none of it is necessary to promote healthy turf.



The best example of a better option is in our own backyard of Marblehead, where Chip Osborne, a nationally recognized expert in organic turf management, formulated and then maintained a Program *for seventeen years* that has provided his town with Flourishing and sustainable athletic fields and lawns.

We already have support from Swampscott’s Conservation Commission, Open Spaces and Recreation Committee, and Conservancy, which recently published a related article: <http://swampscottconservancy.org/>



**You can help, too, by signing our petition, which merely asks local government to enforce its own Organic Pest Management Policy: <https://www.change.org/OrganicSwampscott>**

For easy tips on how to make your own yard safer for kids, wildlife, and pollinators:  
[https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/4101576/Stonyfield and Sunday Organic Lawncare Toolkit.pdf](https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/4101576/Stonyfield%20and%20Sunday%20Organic%20Lawncare%20Toolkit.pdf)  
<https://www.stonyfield.com/playfree/change-your-own-backyard>

**And, think about becoming a member of our Task Force and/or the Conservancy!**