



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



<b>Meeting Date</b>	08/05/2020	<b>Department</b>	City Council
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4.i Council Discussion Surrounding Retail Marijuana Stores		
<b>Est. Cost</b>	n/a		

**Background Information**

Since the formal adoption of ordinances allowing the sales of marijuana in Gardiner, multiple businesses have applied for licenses to open stores in the city.

Residents and owners of other types of businesses are concerned that there will be too many stores in the city and have asked that council consider imposing a limit.

At this moment we have:

6 medical grow facilities. (A few of them may switch to adult use.)

- 1 Medical Retail-Wellness Connection
- 1 Medical retail approved by PB but not open yet
- 1 Adult use Retail approved by PB but not open yet
- 2 Medical/Adult use retail going before PB in August
- 1 Medical/Adult use retail not yet turned in

<b>Requested Action</b>	n/a
<b>City Manager and/or Finance Review</b>	n/a
<b>Council Vote/ Action Taken</b>	
<b>Departmental Follow-Up</b>	

<b>City Clerk Use Only</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading _____	Advertised _____	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> _____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

## Underage Marijuana Use Position Paper



On November 8, 2016<sup>i</sup>, Maine, legalized adult use marijuana for adults over 21. Gardiner Area Thrives is a coalition of diverse stakeholders working to reduce youth substance use and its harmful effects in Gardiner, Randolph, Pittston and West Gardiner. After alcohol, Marijuana is the most commonly used drug among Gardiner area youth, with 25% of Gardiner High School Students report using marijuana in the past 30 days, 72% High School Students and 45% of Middle School Students report that there is no risk in using marijuana<sup>ii</sup>. Gardiner Area Thrives prevention work is shaped by the following principles:

1. Marijuana is illegal for youth under 21 years old <sup>iii</sup>
2. Marijuana is harmful and addictive for underage users<sup>iv</sup>
3. Marijuana leads to negative health consequences for underage users<sup>v</sup>
4. Marijuana use leads to other drug or alcohol use<sup>vi</sup>

### Action Statements:

1. Educate youth, parents, schools and communities on the negative effects of youth marijuana use.
  - o Ensure that education strategies are effective and culturally relevant.
2. Reduce promotion of marijuana to minors
  - o Restrict youth friendly products and marketing to youth
3. Reduce underage access to marijuana
  - o **60%** of High School Students believe that Marijuana is Easy to get (MIYHS 2019)
  - o **17%** of Middle School Students believe that Marijuana is *Easy to get* (MIYHS 2019)
  - o **Reduce retail availability through price, density, hours of sales, and retailer training**
  - o Reduce youth access to marijuana from social sources (i.e. family and friends)
4. Ensure fair and appropriate consequences for underage marijuana users and enabling adults
  - o Implement effective minor in possession strategy
  - o Develop appropriate and consistent school policies regarding marijuana use
  - o Develop consistent and visible consequences for public smoking and providing to minors

**NOTE:** New data from the Colorado Healthy kids survey shows notable increases in use of highly concentrated cannabis forms such as a **doubling in vaping** and **quintupling of dabbing** between 2015 and 2019, these products will be available in Adult Use Stores. In 2019, **20.6%** of youth said they use marijuana compared to **19.4%** in 2017. More youth are now **vaping marijuana** -- **10.6%** in 2019 compared to **5.1%** in 2015. **Dabbing rose from 4.3% in 2015 to 20.4% in 2019. (there is no potency cap for THC)**<sup>vii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Maine Legalized Marijuana: <https://legislature.maine.gov/9419>

<sup>ii</sup> MIYHS 2019 Data

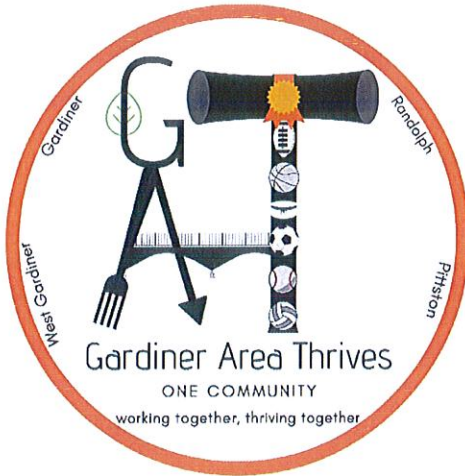
<sup>iii</sup> Title 28-B: ADULT USE MARIJUANA, Chapter 1: MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION ACT;  
<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/28-B/title28-Bsec108.html>

<sup>iv</sup> Cannabis: the Current State of Affairs <https://www.cadca.org/news/new-practical-theorist-available>

<sup>v</sup> Marijuana's effect on teen brain development <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/drug-facts/marijuana>

<sup>vi</sup> Is Marijuana a gateway drug <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-gateway-drug>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/news/cdphe-releases-latest-healthy-kids-colorado-survey-data>



To: Gardiner City Council

Gardiner Area Thrives is a coalition of 54 diverse stakeholders working to reduce youth substance use and its harmful effects in Gardiner, Randolph, Pittston and West Gardiner. These stakeholders are our community members who represent youth, parents, media, business, schools, public safety, healthcare, faith community, youth serving organizations, and civic organizations. In preparing for this council meeting the Gardiner Area Thrives Coalition has developed a position statement regarding marijuana. The statement has been made available to the council.

Our concerns to address retail density in Gardiner is based on the following data, our youth have indicated through Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey that **60%** of High School Students believe that Marijuana is Easy to get (MIYHS 2019) and **17%** of Middle School Students believe that Marijuana is *Easy to get* (MIYHS 2019). Additionally, our concern is that **72%** High School Students and **45%** of Middle School Students report that there is no risk in using marijuana. **25%** of our 640 High School Students stated that they have used marijuana in the past 30 days that is **1 in 4 or 192 students**. In contrast a statewide Parent survey was also completed in 2019 and **5% of Parents** believed that their kids smoked marijuana.

Negative health risks to youth include decreased brain development specifically in the frontal lobe that control motivation, memory loss, decision making, risk taking and has been proven that early use lowers IQ. This all leads to low school performance, ambition to work, and consequences at school include expulsion and loss of privileges like sports and the music program.

To limit marijuana access to our youth, we would like the council to consider;

- Limiting retail density in Gardiner, the only community that opted in to have Marijuana retail stores in our school district.
- Distancing retail marijuana from already existing youth serving establishments such as Ampersand, Boys and Girls Club, the Library, and community parks.
- Awareness of the laws around advertising and marketing that is clearly indicated through the state marijuana rules state  
<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/22/title22sec2429-B.html>.

Thank you for your consideration in support of our youth thriving in our community.

***Gardiner Area Thrives Coalition***