

Help Reduce or Eliminate Pesticides at Ashland Parks & Schools !

Please help influence the **Draft Ashland Parks Integrated Pest Mgmt. Policy**, which will be discussed and possibly voted on at the **April 26th** meeting of the Ashland Parks Commission (7pm, Ashland City Council Chambers on East Main).

We want the Ashland Parks IPM Policy to be as strong as the policies in Portland and Seattle. See the comparisons below:

	Portland <u>Policy</u>	Seattle <u>Policy</u>	Ashland <u>Proposal</u>
Requires annual pesticide reduction plan?	yes	yes	no
Aims to reduce or eliminate toxic pesticides?	yes	yes	no
Requires posting 24 hrs. in advance?	yes	yes	no
Requires IPM Citizens Advisory Committee?	yes	yes	no
Size of no-spray buffer for playgrounds, gardens and picnic areas:	50 ft.	50 ft.	15 ft.
Size of no-spray buffer for water and wetlands:	50 ft.	50 ft.	none

Make your comments to the Parks Pesticide Subcommittee:

- **Wed. March 24**, (7 pm): Rogue Group Sierra Club Sustainability Seminar on how Ashland Parks can reduce or eliminate pesticides. Ashland Library.
- **Wed. March 31** (6 to 9 pm): Pesticide Subcommittee Public Forum, hosted by the Ashland Parks Department, to accept public input on the draft policy on pesticide use. (Ashland Sr. Center, 1699 Homes Avenue, in Hunter Park east of Walker School)
- **Send comments by Apr. 2.** (dyssegs@ashland.or.us or 340 S. Pioneer St., 97520).

Suggested revisions to the Draft Pesticide Policy:

(online letter-writing tool coming soon at www.kswild.org)

- Expand the “Pesticide Use” objective to “**reducing or eliminating**” pesticides, and thereby adhere to the City’s 1996 Pesticide Use Ordinance.
- Promote the use of **natural pesticides and fertilizers** in the list of IPM options.

- Require a process for developing and implementing an **annual pesticide reduction plan**, including specific targets.
- Require signs to be **posted 24 hours** before chemical pesticides are sprayed.
- Require **50-foot no-spray buffers** for playgrounds, picnic areas, and community gardens (rather than 15 feet).
- Require **50 ft. no-spray buffers** around streams, wetlands, water features, & ponds.
- Establish a **Citizens IPM Advisory Committee** that can attend and participate in the annual staff review of pesticide reduction planning and activities.
- Include Portland/Seattle Policy language to **minimize risk** to humans and all living organisms and use the **best expert scientific opinion** from regulatory agencies, state university departments, university extension scientists, and other experts.
- Require careful consideration of possible harmful **bioaccumulation and synergistic effects** of pesticides with regards to humans, water, aquatic life, animals and plants.

=====

BACKGROUND DATA:

Last spring 440 people including 42 businesses signed a petition urging Ashland Parks Dept. to reduce or eliminate their use of chemical pesticides and adhere to the City’s 1996 Pesticide Ordinance, which requires that pesticides be “reduced or eliminated” on City property.

Excellent model policies have been developed in other cities, including Portland and Seattle. The City of Arcata has been pesticide-free for over 10 years. Seventeen cities in the Pacific Northwest have begun to phase out chemical pesticides by creating 85 pesticide-free parks and playgrounds. Seattle has phased out all 131 of their most toxic “Tier 1” pesticides. It can be done!

Citizens analyzed the Ashland Parks Dept. pesticide spray records for 2008 not including the Golf Course. These described 207 pesticide applications in 2008, which sprayed a total of 13 gallons (undiluted) of glyphosate and 2.5 gallons (undiluted) of triclopir, plus smaller amounts of eight other chemical pesticides. They used two “Tier 1 most toxic” pesticides (Finale herbicide and Lily Polysul insecticide).

It’s time the for Ashland Parks Department to reduce pesticides for the sake of kids, critters, and pets!

Draft Policy online: www.ashland.or.us/News.asp?NewsID=1973

Contact: *Angie Thusius 541/552-0922; Julie Norman julie@juliekaynorman.org*