

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: December 1, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3B

APPLICANT: Scott Fahrenbruch, Deputy Director/ Parks & Recreation

REQUEST: Discussion only on chemical control applications by the Parks Division

GENERAL DISCUSSION: At the meeting on October 6th Commissioner Curtis made a request that this agenda item be brought forward for review at the December meeting. The request was to review our department's policies regarding the application of pesticides and herbicides at park facilities. Commissioner Curtis specifically mentioned the City of Reno and their program using organic pesticides versus the synthetic variety, and also wanted to know our policies regarding spraying and applying chemicals in parks when people and pets are present.

Our department has been contacted by the same folks who had discussions with the City of Reno regarding the use of organic pesticides. The organization is called "Beyond Pesticides," and from those discussions we have agreed to use organic pesticides for weed and pest control, and fertilization at a neighborhood park as a test project (Exhibit A). We hope from this test project we can determine the effectiveness of these organic products versus the traditional synthetic controls, and cost. There most likely will be budget ramifications were we to make the decision to go solely with organic products due to the higher expense, so we will be able to track this as well. We anticipate this test project to run through 2016, and have selected John Mankins Park in the Silver Oak subdivision.

Regarding procedures for our staff to follow when applying chemicals at any park facilities, we train all of our staff each Spring on what we call the "Four W's" (Exhibit B). Any and all Parks Division employees are aware of and have been trained on this policy, and know that failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary action to the employee(s).

Both of these will be presented and discussed in more detail at the meeting, as well as our department's commitment to Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is the universal practice of all responsible applicators of chemicals in our industry. IPM promotes always applying chemicals according to manufacturer's recommendations, use safe application practices, and only use chemicals when absolutely needed. Always use other non-chemical means to achieve the desired results whenever and wherever possible, typically by using mechanical or cultural means.

All of our chemical applicators in the Parks Division have received formal training within and outside of our department, and all have a Nevada Certified Pesticide Applicators License and are required to keep their certification current.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This is a discussion only item; therefore, no action can be taken at this time.



CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

June 30, 2015

Mr. Jay Feldman, Executive Director
Mr. Drew Toher, Public Education Associate
"Beyond Pesticides"
701 E Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

RE: Confirmation Letter from the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department-
Neighborhood Park Test Program Implementing a "Pesticide-Free" Approach

Dear Mr. Feldman and Mr. Toher,

This letter is to confirm our discussions regarding the assurance of our department to create a "test park" in Carson City, and during that time use only organic fertilizers and weed control products. The period of this test will be indefinite, but certainly long enough for us to measure and collect data on manpower and product costs, effectiveness, and overall success of the program. The "test park" we selected is John Mankins Park, which is one of our newest and most heavily used neighborhood parks in Carson City. This park has about three acres of turf, numerous trees and landscaped planting beds, a playground, basketball court, tennis court, skateboard park, concrete paths, and shaded picnic areas.

We realize that to give us the best opportunity to succeed we will need to acquire some formal training in this area, so we will rely on your organization and company to provide some of this. We hope that when you come our way to provide training for the City of Reno that we can join you.

I look forward to working with you on this project, so please keep me informed on future plans to come to northern Nevada so we can start putting this program in place.

Sincerely,

Scott Fahrenbruch, Deputy Director
Carson City Parks & Recreation Department
Phone: (775) 283-7340
e-mail: SFahrenbruch@carson.org

cc: Robert Crowell, Mayor
Nick Marano, City Manager
Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT • 3303 Butti Way, Building #9 • 89701 • (775) 887-2262
Parks • Recreation • Open Space • Facilities • Lone Mountain Cemetery



Exhibit B

CARSON CITY, NEVADA

CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY AND STATE CAPITAL

MEMO TO: All Parks Division Staff

FROM: Scott Fahrenbruch, Director of Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SE", is written over the printed name of Scott Fahrenbruch.

DATE: July 25, 2003

SUBJECT: POLICIES & PROCEDURES REGARDING CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS

Effective immediately, I am implementing some new policies and procedures regarding the application of chemicals (all pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) at all park sites. Chemicals may be applied to an area only after the employee applying the chemicals verifies that no users are within 300 feet of the area to be treated. All park users visible and who are outside the area to be treated must be advised by the applicator the four "Ws", "when, where, what, and why". Let them know how soon you will begin the application and approximately how long you will be there, exactly where you are doing it, and what the chemical is and why it needs to be used.

If a park user protests the chemical application during this process, suspend the application and contact your supervisor immediately for a new assignment. Encourage the party to contact myself or Tom Case to discuss the matter, and provide them with our office phone numbers. If they wish to give you their phone numbers for us to contact them, please get their name and number. Always be courteous and helpful, regardless of their attitude during this contact.

Regarding your spraying equipment, make sure you only mix the amount of chemical to be applied that day. Do not leave mixed chemicals in a tank, and if the situation arises where it is necessary to do so always let your supervisor know. All spray equipment should be labeled for selective or non-selective chemical use on the tank, so use this equipment for the type of chemical application you are doing. If you find spray equipment that is not labeled, do not use it and let your supervisor know immediately. If an employee does not know the difference between selective and non-selective chemicals, we don't want them applying chemicals until they receive the proper training. All supervisors are responsible for the training of their applicators prior to assigning them to any chemical applications, as I'm sure they are fully aware.

Please see Tom Case or myself if you need more information or clarification on our chemical application policies or procedures.

cc: Steve Kastens, P&R Director