



Lynnwood Proposes to Resume Street Pesticide Spraying in 2014

The City of Lynnwood's Public Works Dept. proposes to resume pesticide spraying on City streets and sidewalks in 2014 and is accepting public comments on their plan until **January 31, 2014**.

In August 2012 Lider Engineering, an environmental engineering consulting firm, observed City staff overspraying the herbicide glyphosate (also known as Roundup) along with other spray adjuvants in a four foot swath covering parts of the sidewalk, Interurban Bicycle Trail, gutter and street to eliminate a one-half inch (1/2") aesthetic weed problem at the back of curb using a spray-rig attached to the rear end of a pickup truck. The City subsequently acknowledged that they were not in compliance with their Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), a requirement of the Clean Water Act, and voluntarily halted all pesticide spraying in the public right-of-way only after these violations were brought to their attention.

Glyphosate, a Monsanto Co. product, has been linked to birth defects possibly leading to abnormal fetal development, low birth weight, and miscarriages even at very low dosages to humans.

Subsequent investigation of City's pesticide use by Lider Engineering revealed that the City staff had over applied carcinogenic fungicides at the City operated municipal golf course and failed to properly keep records of pesticide use required by law resulting in the reprimanding of two City employees by the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture.

Please tell the City of Lynnwood that:

- You do not want them spraying any herbicides in the Public right-of-way for weed control, except as the very last resort. They should use nontoxic alternatives such as string trimmers, burning with propane torches, or joint sealing to permanently control small weeds growing in pavement cracks.
- They should adopt a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) for the entire City. The City is proposing to have a separate "*Vegetation Control*" IPMP for public streets, another IPMP for City Parks, and still another for its golf course. The City's vegetation control IPMP is a piecemeal plan.
- The City should not use its mechanical spray rig that is prone to overspraying. Mounted on the rear of a pickup truck, the operator cannot tell if it is overspraying pesticides until it is too late.
- If the City must spray pesticides, warning signs must be posted 48-hours in advance of any pesticide spraying and signs maintained until 48-hours after weed spraying to citizens may choose to avoid treated areas. The City does not want to do this as it too much trouble and may create a public outcry.
- If you live in the City of Lynnwood, you have the option to "opt-out" of spraying only immediately in front of your home; however the properties on either side of your home may still be sprayed.
- If pesticide spraying is used as a last resort, it should not extend more than one-half inch (1/2") from the edge of the area being treated onto adjacent surfaces; and pesticides should never be sprayed in gutters, streets, or sidewalks where they will run directly into our lakes and streams.
- The City should adopt the pesticide definitions in RCW 15.58 and only use Tier 2 or Tier 3 pesticides as listed by the City of Seattle in its IPMP. All pesticide records should be posted on line at the City's website as well as the areas in the City that have been sprayed.

The full IPMP is available on the City's website at: <http://www.ci.lynnwood.wa.us/City-Services/Environmental-Surface-Water-and-Storm-Water/Environmental-Documents-and-Reports/DRAFT-IPMP.htm>

Submit comments to Leah Grassl at: lgrassl@ci.lynnwood.wa.us by January 31, 2014.



Past Pesticide spraying on 208th Street SW August 2012