

## WEED MANAGEMENT & HERBICIDE GUIDE



**The City of Louisville uses herbicides in its parks and open spaces but reduces the amount through a variety of methods.**

**Read the 6 facts below to learn more.**

### 1. The City reduces herbicide use with an integrated weed management program.

- An integrated weed management program relies on many control methods beyond herbicide use. By using this approach, chemical applications are minimized.
- Control methods include:
  - \* Prevention - limiting disturbance to landscapes, cleaning clothing and equipment of seed before entering and leaving City properties, monitoring and amending soil, limiting social trails, etc.
  - \* Mechanical - physically removing all or parts of the weeds (for example, weed pulling and mowing).
  - \* Biological - using a weed's natural insect predator or grazing animals to control weeds.
  - \* Cultural - consists of revegetation, prescribed burns, and grazing as it relates to native or agricultural grasses in open spaces. For parks, good turf cultural practices consist of aeration, reseeding, fertilization, etc. Maintaining healthy grass helps deter weed encroachment.

- \* Chemical - the use of herbicides to control weeds. Herbicide refers to a chemical that targets plant material. A non-selective herbicide kills all types of plant material it comes in contact with. A selective herbicide targets certain weeds and leaves desirable species undamaged. Insecticide refers to a chemical that targets insects. Pesticide is a general chemical term that includes herbicides and insecticides.

### 2. Herbicides are used in different ways depending on location.

- There are primarily two types of applications in the City's parks, spot spraying and broadleaf control:
  - \* Spot spraying is conducted on an as-needed basis for weeds in areas such as shrub beds, cracks in concrete, baseball infields, etc. The type of herbicide used in this application is non-selective.
  - \* Broadleaf control is conducted on turf to eliminate weeds in grass. The type of herbicide used in this application is selective. It selectively targets broadleaf weeds and leaves grass undamaged. This type of application is conducted at most two times per year.
- Starting in 2017 the City will no longer apply herbicides in playgrounds. This pilot program has been endorsed by the City's Parks and Public Landscape Advisory Board with the intent of eliminating public exposure to herbicides in these highly used areas.
- Selective and non-selective herbicides are used in the City's open spaces to:
  - \* Eradicate or stop the spread of noxious weed species that are identified and legally mandated for management by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and other weeds that are detrimental to native flora and fauna. The herbicide used is selective and targets weed species while leaving desirable native and pasture grasses.
  - \* Eliminate weeds in cobble beds and landscaped beds that are found in trailhead/parking areas and occasionally eradicate weeds on crusher fine trails or in cracks in concrete trails. The herbicide used is non-selective. This type of application is generally conducted one time per year.

### 3. Two chemicals account for the majority of herbicide use in the City.

- Glyphosate is the non-selective herbicide primarily used in the City's parks for spot spraying. "Roundup" is a common Glyphosate

brand people associate the chemical with. Glyphosate is one of the most commonly used non-selective herbicides.

- 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) is the selective herbicide primarily used in the City's parks for broadleaf control. There are many choices for selective control but 2,4-D remains one of the commonly used and most effective herbicides.

#### **4. All herbicides are applied in a safe manner in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.**

- The City only uses herbicides that are legally registered by the EPA and applied in compliance with EPA regulations. All City applicators are either licensed or monitored by a qualified supervisor licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture for applying pesticides.

#### **5. There are several ways you can avoid contact with herbicides and be notified of applications.**

- Watch for the little yellow flags.
  - \* Pesticide flags (yellow) are posted during applications. During an application, the City will place pesticide flags at the entrances to the area being sprayed.
  - \* The purpose of this is to try and eliminate public contact with the herbicide when it is still wet. Once the sprayed plant material is dry it is safe to re-enter the area and the flags will be removed. All herbicides used in the City are considered safe once dry.
- Give us a call.
  - \* The City's scheduled dates for applying herbicides change as frequently as the weather (or more accurately the application date changes because of the weather).
  - \* Often times you will see in parks additional signage on-site to notify the public of an upcoming broadleaf application, but please call or email (303.335.4735 or ParksandRec@LouisvilleCO.gov) if you have additional questions or concerns.
  - \* The Parks Superintendent and Open Space Manager are available to discuss any upcoming herbicide applications for park or open space properties.
- Sign up for the Colorado Pesticide Sensitivity Registry.
  - \* This registry is maintained by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and for people who have or can obtain documentation of sensitivity to pesticide products. It does not pertain to

mosquito spraying or any pesticide applications other than those made to control pests of lawns, trees, and shrubs.

- \* The registry does not prevent an application of pesticides but requires that commercial applicators notify people on the registry 24 hours before an application is made to abutting properties so that you can leave for a short period of time or make other preparations for the application. Visit [www.colorado.gov/pacific/agplants/pesticide-sensitive-facts-and-registry](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agplants/pesticide-sensitive-facts-and-registry) to learn more.

#### **6. You can help reduce herbicide use in the City.**

- Clip a seed head or, if appropriate, pull a weed.
  - \* The City asks residents to participate in weed pulling events and weed identification and control events. You can join a one-day pull event or a multi-day program such as the Open Space Weed Whackers or Adopt an Open Space, Park, or Trail. The City is also happy to work with you to organize a community pull on public lands adjacent to your neighborhood! To learn more about upcoming events you can participate in, visit [www.LouisvilleCO.gov/OpenSpaceVolunteer](http://www.LouisvilleCO.gov/OpenSpaceVolunteer).
  - \* When using the City's playgrounds, please pull a weed to ensure that the playground pilot program is a success and continues!
- Restrict herbicide use on private land.
  - \* Residents can do this by mowing your grass to a height of 2-1/2 to 3 inches, leaving your grass clippings on the lawn, using a sharp blade to cut your lawn, watering infrequently but thoroughly during dry periods, testing your soil and monitoring nutrients, using fertilizers with little or no phosphorous, controlling weeds, seeding bare spots, and aerating your lawn.
  - \* Contact your homeowners association if you have concerns about herbicide use in your neighborhood.
- The City appreciates your assistance in helping to reduce the use of herbicides in the Louisville!

**City of Louisville**  
Parks & Recreation  
717 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027  
(303) 335.4735  
[ParksandRec@LouisvilleCO.gov](mailto:ParksandRec@LouisvilleCO.gov)