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A resolution by Supervisors Shea, Dimitrijevic, and Haas, requesting the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture develop a pesticide use policy for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a pesticide as any substance, or mixture of substances, intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant, or use as a nitrogen stabilizer; and

WHEREAS, the EPA evaluates all pesticides on their potential for harm to humans, wildlife, fish, and plants, including endangered species and non-target organisms, and contamination of surface water or ground water from leaching, runoff, and spray drift; and

WHEREAS, the EPA evaluates all pesticides on their potential to harm human health, acknowledging that “by their nature, many pesticides may pose some risk to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms;” and

WHEREAS, since 2016, over 8,000 cancer patients are suing the Monsanto Company (now Bayer), the producer of Roundup, a broad-spectrum glyphosate-based herbicide, resulting in verdicts in favor of plaintiffs who allege that exposure to large amounts of Roundup was a significant cause of their cancer, and that the Monsanto Company did not properly warn users of the potential cancer-causing components of its products; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities are addressing the use of pesticides in heavy traffic areas, like parks, playgrounds, dog exercise areas, and farmer’s markets, in light of their potential danger to human health, and the disagreement between several leading health authorities on their potential harmful effects; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture currently follows a “least-use” chemical policy, which includes:

- A limit on the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides on open green spaces, and restricted to periods of low user rates.
- The use of chemicals to maintain good turf conditions at golf courses.
- The development of an Integrated Pest Management plan at golf courses, so as not to rely solely on chemicals.
- The treatment of stumps in the case of invasive plant species, but no administration of any broadcast treatments.

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- The administration of pesticides on baseball diamonds, only at the request of user groups.
- The placement of signage and proper notice whenever pesticides are used.
- The requirement that all full-time maintenance staff acquire a State of Wisconsin Commercial Pesticide License.
- Experimentation with non-selective organic weed killers, such as Finalsan, in place of traditional pesticides.
- Intermittent use of Flight Control Plus, a plant-based geese-deterrent.

; and

WHEREAS, the above policy is not currently available to the public in a formal document or posted online; and

WHEREAS, a formal policy on pesticide use in more than 15,000 acres of Milwaukee County parkland benefits all interested parties and the public by providing frequently requested information and full disclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of June 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-518 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) acknowledges the excessive or improper use of pesticides and herbicides may be harmful, and encourages the limitation of their use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) shall formalize their pesticide and herbicide policy through an Integrated Pest Management plan (the Plan) for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Plan shall be developed with the intent of sharing it publicly and posting it online on the DPRC website, and be easily accessed and understood by the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Plan shall include:

- Methods for limiting the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides in County park areas that are heavy traffic areas for children, families, or animals, including glyphosate and Flight Control Plus.
 - Heavy traffic areas shall include, but are not limited to, playgrounds, farmer’s markets, outdoor concert spaces, and dog exercise areas.

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- Policies and Procedures to further protect the public and DPRC employees from chemical pesticide and herbicide use and application.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, DPRC, shall provide the Plan to the County Board for approval by the September 2019 meeting cycle.

kae
06/11/19
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