



News Release

Eugene Parks and Open Space

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For Immediate Release

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Eugene Takes a Formal Stand Against Harmful Neonicotinoids

On February 26, Eugene's City Council unanimously passed a Council Resolution, "Enhancing Current Integrated Pest Management in Parks" and banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on all City of Eugene-owned property. Neonicotinoids are systemic chemicals absorbed by plants and transferred through the vascular system, making the plant itself toxic to insects. This is effective for pest control, however, poses risks particularly to the pollinators that visit these plants and rely on their nectar for survival.

While the European Union recently placed a two-year restriction on its use, according to bee advocates around the nation, Eugene is the first U.S. city to ban these persistent pesticides on public land. Use of these chemicals has been linked to the demise of honey bee colonies, and officials around the country have grappled with complex solutions. Parks and Open Space Director Craig Carnegie is pleased that our community is leading the way on this issue. "We hope the ripple effect of this decision will have a broad impact across the nation."

Parks and Open Space has had a stringent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy in place for decades. "The only insecticides we utilize are targeted at managing aggressive yellow jackets and hornets. When a bee hive is found on parkland, we contact an expert bee keeper to relocate the hive" says Carnegie. As part of Resolution 5101, other departments within the City of Eugene will follow suit, adopting and following a consistent IPM policy. The Pesticide Free Parks Program, made possible through Eugene Park Stewards volunteers, will also be expanded, as capacity allows over the next few years.

Neonicotinoids remain available in products readily available off the shelf for home use. In fact, home and garden products may be applied to landscape plants at rates 32 times higher than those approved for agricultural crops. Homeowners interested in reducing the use of pesticides on your own landscapes can visit the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) at www.pesticide.org for more information and for ideas on alternative methods of pest control.

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