



MIKE RUNDLE, MAYOR
COMMISSIONERS
DENNIS "BOOG" HIGHBERGER
DAVID M. DUNFIELD
SUE HACK
DAVID M. SCHAUNER

City of Lawrence KANSAS

CITY OFFICES 6 EAST 6th
BOX 708 66044-0708 785-832-3000
TDD 785-832-3205 FAX 785-832-3405
www.lawrenceks.org



MIKE WILDGEN, CITY MANAGER

March 17, 2005

TO: Mike Wildgen
FROM: Mike Rundle 
RE: proposed pesticide free park plan
CC: Lawrence City Commission

Pesticides --weed killers, insecticides, and fungicides-- are designed to kill or damage living things. In recent years, scientists have observed associations between pesticide exposures and adverse effects on reproductive and neurological health, and some forms of cancer. While not all studies show consistent results, a growing body of research suggests that even low levels of pesticides can have a negative effect on human health. This research suggests that frequent exposure to commonly used pesticides poses health threats to all of us, but especially to infants and children.

It is on the basis of pesticide use as a public health issue that I enclose a proposal to implement a pesticide free park plan. The plan and accompanying supporting material was developed by a citizen group, The Pesticide Free Parks Project. I served as a sounding board and advisor for the proposal.

Of course we want to acknowledge the efforts city staff has already made to reduce the use of pesticides in outdoor public spaces. It is clearly possible to move more aggressively in this direction and make our community safer and healthier for all residents.

Sixty-six cities in Canada including Toronto have implemented pesticide by-laws. A growing number of cities in the United States have made a commitment to integrated



pest management including in varying degrees ranging all the way to pesticide free management. The head of the Turf Council of North Carolina has acknowledged that the city's pesticide free playing fields are as good as or better than others. Haskell Indian Nations University has been pesticide free for a number of years. I am confident that there are plenty of resources to assist our staff along the path to pesticide free outdoor grounds and facilities under the use or care of the City of Lawrence.

Please include this on the March 29, 2005 agenda for commission discussion. Let me know if there are questions or if additional materials are needed by staff.

enc: proposal and documentation