

## South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District

### Spray Policy

South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District strives to be responsible stewards of public lands. As such, the District's philosophy regarding the management of unwanted vegetation and pests is to use an integrated measures approach to control. Integrated measures shall include the following:

1. Focus on plant health care (including but not limited to watering, fertilization, topdressing, aeration) to foster healthy environments, thus reducing the need for corrective measures.
2. Manual reduction / removal, including but not limited to weed eating, mowing, dragging, and heat treatments.
3. Use of the least toxic, lowest risk chemical agents, registered with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which are appropriate for the circumstance.

The current philosophy regarding the use of pesticides and herbicides is to not use pesticides at all and to use as little herbicides as necessary, as infrequently as possible.

When the use of chemical agents is deemed necessary for control of unwanted vegetation and pests, the District shall:

1. Notify the public in advance. Advance notification of intent to spray shall occur no later than 48 hours prior to application and shall include telephone and/or electronic contact to at least one of the representatives listed below for the following as appropriate for the season:
  - a) School District: Superintendent's office, school principals, school athletic directors, Shared Schooling
  - b) Youth serving sports organizations including Little League, soccer, and football
  - c) Individuals on the state's notification list as required by law.
2. Intent to Spray notification signs (yellow in color) shall be posted at the entrance to park property no later than 48 hours prior to application and shall include the following information: application weather permitting, proposed date, proposed location(s), product name.
3. Spray notification signs (red in color) shall be posted at the entrance to park property on the date of application to inform the facility users of the product used, date application made and location(s) of application.
4. Intent to Spray and Spray notification signs shall be posted at park kiosks to inform the facility users of the product used, date application made and locations of application.
5. Areas shall be posted closed, as necessary, with a spray notice when an application has been made.
6. Appropriate record keeping, including log book entries and an annual summary report of chemical agent usage, will be kept current and up to date.

If applications become necessary, they will be timed to fall at times of the year when facility use is low, whenever possible.

**Adopted November 13, 2002** by South Whidbey Parks & Recreation Board of Commissioners