



CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO

380 A Avenue  
PO Box 369  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

503-675-3984  
[www.ci.oswego.or.us](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us)

## COUNCIL REPORT

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**TO:** Kent Studebaker, Mayor  
Members of the City Council  
Tom Coffee, City Manager

**FROM:** Ivan Anderholm, CPRP, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Open Space herbicide policies and practices

**DATE:** April 1, 2013

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### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On March 14, 2013, Craig Stephens, co-chair of NRAB sent out an e-mail to City Council regarding use of chemicals in open space and natural areas. He expressed concerns about the use of chemicals and supported the use of alternatives to “synthetic chemicals” and suggested we should resort to “old fashioned proven techniques”. This brief report will summarize the City of Lake Oswego Parks Department policies and practices regarding herbicide use in Parks and Open Spaces. The Department has contracted with a private contractor beginning in 2011 for invasive control in our managed properties and follows the guidelines of our established Integrated Pest Management Program for all properties. It was clear that because of the sheer amount of invasive species in our parks and natural areas it was highly unlikely we would ever have the manpower that it would take to control and maintain our properties. It was at that time we decided to pursue other options that balanced the needs of protecting the environment with the need to control fast spreading invasives. The following information will provide background for the Department’s use of chemicals to control invasive species and pests in our Park Properties. You may also want to review a brief two page overview of English Ivy <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1595-e.pdf> produced by the Oregon State University extension which points out that there are no effective biological control agents for English Ivy. The report also lists the two highly diluted chemicals we use for Ivy (Glyphosate and Triclopyr), the high cost per acre for manual removal and its relative effectiveness, and the reason why goats are not the solution.

### FACTS

- Lake Oswego Parks Maintenance is responsible for 627 acres of Park and Open Space.
- Invasive Species Removal Program Policies and Practices are based on a national model developed by The Nature Conservancy as used Metro, City of Portland Parks, and Portland BES.
- All herbicide application on Park and Open Space is performed by State of Oregon licensed applicators.

- Signs are posted at all sites prior to and during herbicide application.
- Spraying takes place at times that have minimal effect on native species.
- We do not spray in streams or wetlands.
- We use a limited number of chemicals in Parks and Open Spaces.
- We do not use sulfur based fertilizers.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Open Spaces

- In 2012, our contractor, Ash Creek LLC, successfully treated 135 acres of invasive species.
- In 2013, 152 acres will be treated.
- Annual cost for the program is \$70,000.

### Parks

- In 2012, 5.3 gallons of liquid pesticides and 80 pounds of solid pesticides were used system wide, treating 199 acres of developed parks.
- In 2012, 250 pounds of solid pesticides were used to control Bill Bug Grubs and European Crainfly Grubs at Foothills and George Rogers Parks.

## PRODUCTS USED

### Open Spaces – 3 chemical compounds used

- Glyphosphate, same as Round-Up but is labeled safe for usage in and around water. Brand name – Aquaneat. Used at a rate of 4%, 20 ounces per 4 gallons of water.
- Triclopyr, labeled safe for use in and around water. Brand name – Element 3a. Used at a rate of 2%, 10 ounces per 4 gallons of water.
- Vegetable based surfactant, commonly referred to as “sticker”, works to ensure the herbicides stick to and penetrate the targeted plants. Brand name – Competitor. Used at a rate of 2%, 10 ounces per 4 gallons of water.

### Parks – 9 chemical compounds used

- Glyphosphate 41%, same as Round-Up but is labeled safe for usage in and around water. Brand names – Aquamaster, Round-Up Pro, Prospector, Alecto, Glystar Plus, Kleenup, Buccaneer Plus. Total amount used in 2012 = 5.13 gallons.
- 4-Way Blend containing 2,4D, Mecroprop-P acid, Dicamba Acid, Carfentrazone used for broadleaf control. Brand name – Speed Zone. Total amount used in 2012 = 22 ounces.
- Fertilizer w/Surge containing 2,4D, Mecroprop-P acid, Dicamba Acid used for broadleaf control. Total amount used in 2012 = 80 pounds.
- Carbaryl, turfgrass insecticide to control Bill Bug Grubs and European Crainfly Grubs. Brand name – Anderson’s 8G. Total amount used in 2012 = 250 pounds.

## Summary

The Lake Oswego Parks Department uses a very limited amount of chemicals in controlling invasive species and pests in our parks and open spaces. Without the use of chemicals to control invasive and pests our

community assets would be severely degraded. Chemical treatment is one of many, and usually the last, options for addressing invasive species and pest control in our parks and open spaces. As stewards of our public spaces the Parks Department is continually seeking innovation while adhering to best practices for invasive and pest control.