


# LAURELWOOD GOLF COURSE:

*Non-Compliance with the  
INTEGRATED PEST  
MANAGEMENT POLICIES  
OF EUGENE, OREGON*

Compiled by Oregon Toxics Alliance, July 2011

# City of Eugene Commitment to Environmental Protection and Reduced Human Health Risks

- Sustainability Resolution #4618, 2000.
  - Protection of natural resources -- Growth Management Policy #17.
  - Recovery of threatened Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Salmon --Resolution #4615, 2000.
  - Human Rights Commission established in 1990.
  - Sustainability Commission established in 2007.
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# CITY POLICY – Environmental Protection and Reduced Human Health Risks

## ○ **Integrated Pest Management Policy adopted in 2010.**

- “It is the policy of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles.” (p.5)

## ○ **Environmental Sustainability**

- “The City will ensure that *each of its policy decisions and programs* are interconnected through the common bond of sustainability...” (Resolution 4618, 2000)



# Land Designation and Laurelwood Golf Course.

- Laurelwood Golf Course is a public Dispersed Natural Area per City designation:
  - “Dispersed Natural Areas are the nature in your back yard. They provide places where you can find solitude, throw a Frisbee, watch birds and butterflies, learn about our natural heritage, or volunteer to improve habitat.”
  - “The City manages these DNAs for diverse values including habitat, passive recreational uses, educational opportunities, and public safety.”
  - City website  
[www.eugeneor.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=783&PageID=4057&cached=true&mode=2&userID=2](http://www.eugeneor.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=783&PageID=4057&cached=true&mode=2&userID=2)





# HEALTH EFFECTS OF SOME CHEMICALS USED AT LAURELWOOD GOLF COURSE

## ○ Carbamate – Sevin

- Carcinogen and hormone disruptor
- Strong association between Sevin and human melanoma
- Acutely toxic to honeybees; can destroy colonies that are foraging in an area
- Lethal to many non-target beneficial insects such as ladybugs and aquatic insects
- Harmful to salmon and aquatic animals

## ○ Glyphosate – QuickPro

- Human hormone disruptor – particularly estrogen
- Neurotoxin associated with lowering children's IQ
- Liver damage in lab experiments
- Linked to multiple myeloma



# TURF AREAS – IPM CITY POLICY

- Laurelwood fits the definition of a class 1 turf area – 3.11.2:
  - Class 1: “The target for these areas is a high-quality turf, which is considered aesthetically pleasing in highly visible sites or athletic fields that demand a smooth/dense playing surface. These areas include irrigated sports fields, some community centers, and pool areas.”
- “Action modes are used...to maintain the aesthetic appearance of the original park design; protect public health and safety, and to ensure the overall health and quality of turf areas.”



# PESTICIDES WERE SPRAYED WHERE CHILDREN PLAY.





# TURF AREAS: VIOLATION

- **Not aesthetic (3.11.2)**











“Public Health and Safety” compromised by spraying of toxic chemicals near water fountain (3.11.2).

# TURF AREAS: VIOLATIONS

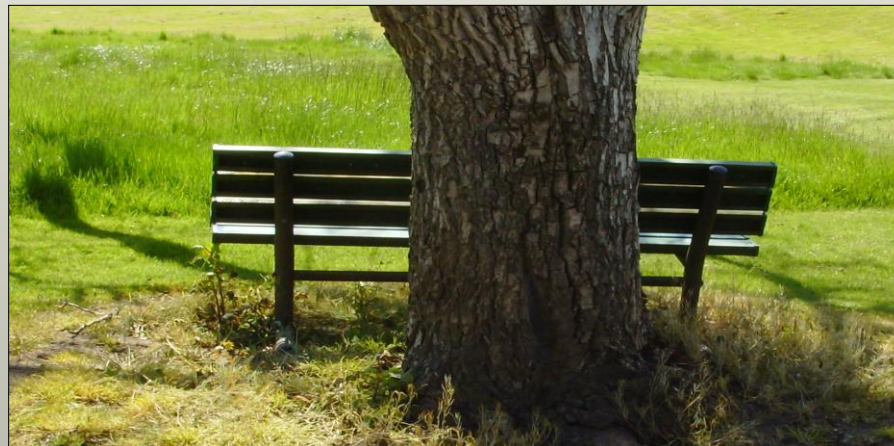
- Sustainability (Resolution #4618)
- Natural Resources (Growth Management Policy #17) and
- Recovery of Threatened Upper Willamette Spring Chinook Salmon (Resolution #4615)

*Policies are compromised by toxic loading in surface water and run-off, toxicity to native amphibians and birds.*



## OBSERVATIONS BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- “We haven’t heard a single frog or cricket all summer long.” (*Resident living adjacent to golf course*)
- “Many of us neighbors use the golf course paths as a place for exercise and enjoying nature. We are worried about using areas that are sprayed with neurotoxins.” (*Amazon neighbor and morning walker*)





# FORESTS AND WOODLANDS – IPM CITY POLICY

- Laurelwood is defined as a mode D forest/woodland (3.2)
- Mode D woodlands will only use control methods on class 1 pests (or class 2 pests if they are >10% and “resources allow) [3.2]



# FORESTS AND WOODLANDS - VIOLATIONS

- 3.2.5: “Chemical control methods will utilize the least toxic and most effective herbicides and adjuvants available”
- **Violation: toxic chemicals were sprayed**  
(photo: next slide)





**Several small drainages lead from the golf course to Amazon Creek.**



# TRAILS AND PATHWAYS – IPM CITY POLICY

- “When threshold levels have been reached in path areas, control strategies will primarily focus on mechanical action.” (3.10.5)





# TEE-OFF AREAS SPRAYED AND RUN-OFF TRAVELS DOWNHILL





# TREES SPRAYED CLOSE TO TEE-OFF AREAS



# APPENDIX B – NO PESTICIDE ZONES

- “Stormwater catch basins and inlets - No pesticides will be applied within 5 feet of any catch basin or inlet that leads to the piped stormwater system.” (Appendix B)





# APPENDIX B – VIOLATION

- **Violation:**  
**Pesticides were sprayed around a drainage grate**
- **Violation:**  
**Pesticides were sprayed around stormwater drainage ditches (see next slides)**















# TREE WELLS– IPM CITY POLICY

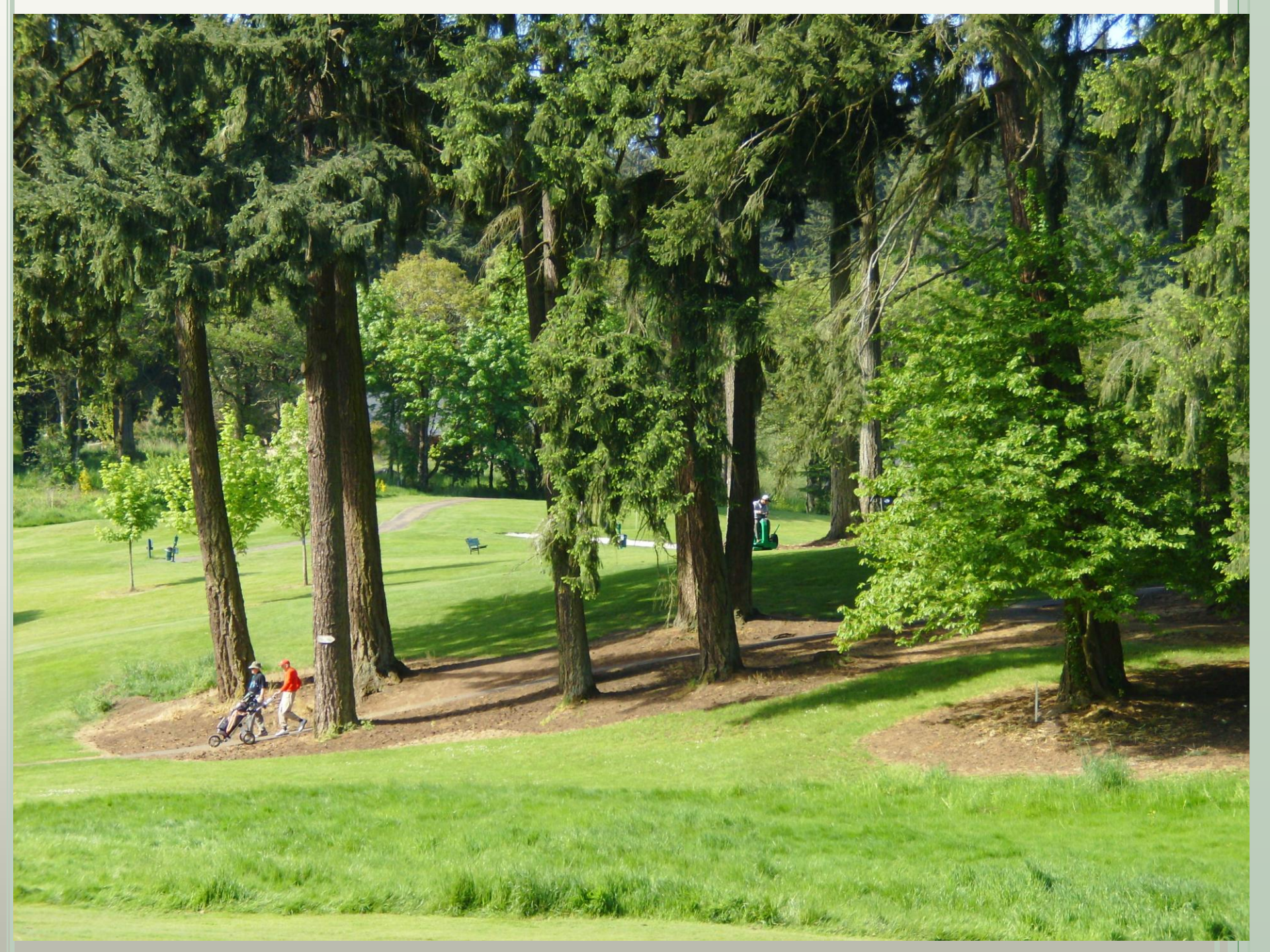
- To prevent weed growth, mulching should be used on tree well areas (3.12.4)
  - **Violation: no mulching was being used to prevent weed growth**
- “When threshold pest levels have been reached, control strategies will primarily focus on mechanical action.” (3.12.5)
  - **Violation: Toxic chemicals were sprayed on tree wells**















# FENCE LINES – IPM CITY POLICY

- “When thresholds have been reached, control strategies will primarily focus on mechanical control actions (e.g., string trimming).” (3.13.5)
- **Violation: Toxic chemicals were sprayed near benches, paths and driving range area.**











Park Bench

Driving Range



# LANDSCAPE BEDS – IPM CITY POLICY

- Laurelwood is considered a modes 1-3 landscape bed area (3.8)
- Most “Best Management Practices” focus on mechanical action (Appendix G);
- **Violation: toxic chemicals were sprayed**

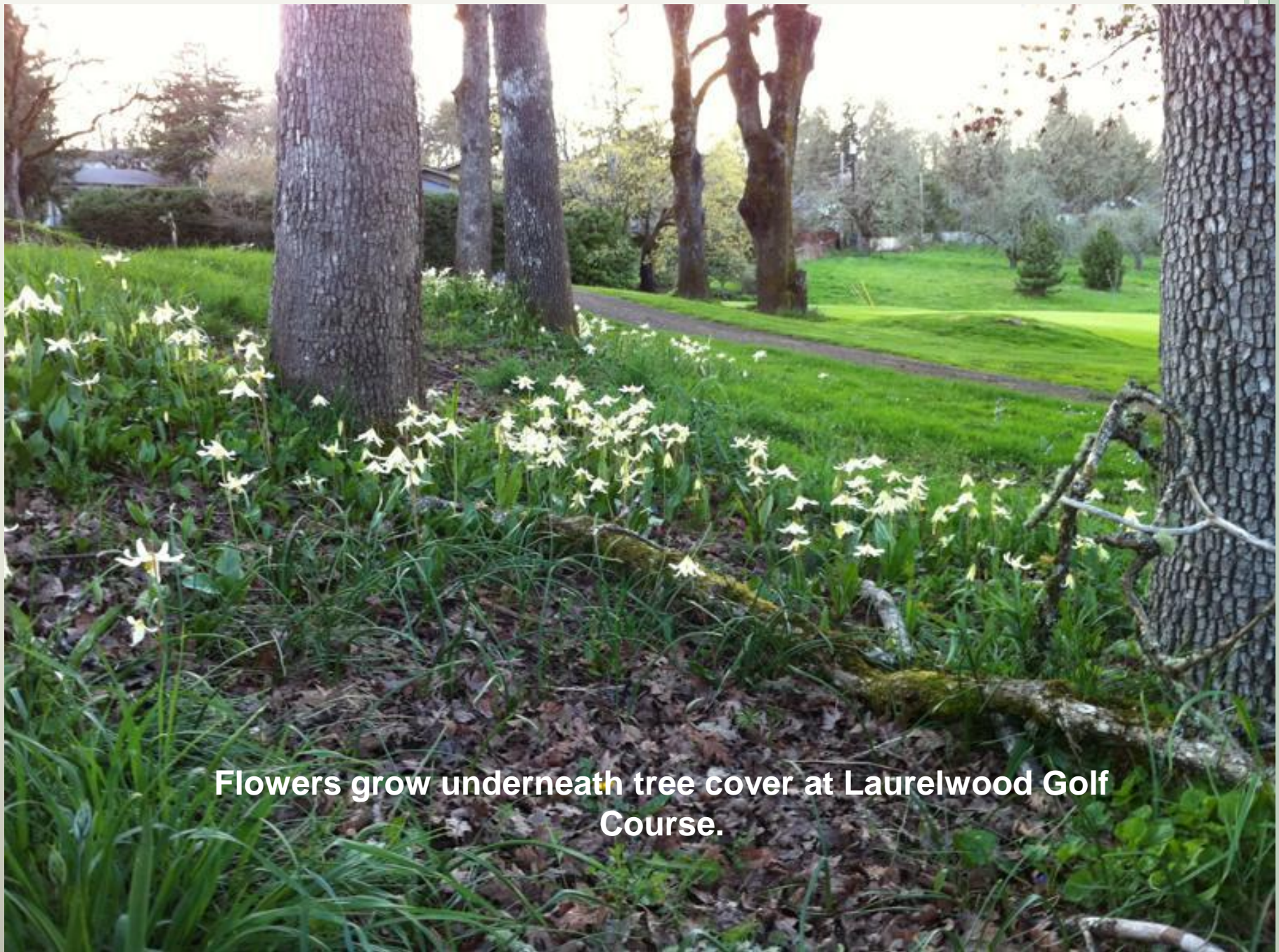






Sprayed areas on both sides of tee-off area.





**Flowers grow underneath tree cover at Laurelwood Golf Course.**



# PESTICIDES USED INSTEAD OF MULCHING



**Pesticides kill natural vegetation; mulching would have been the correct action.**

# OTHER CONCERNS

- **Fill-dirt dumping** (See next slides)
  - Fill dirt contains invasive weeds that are then spread elsewhere on Laurelwood greens.
  - Fill dirt left in place is an unsightly breeding ground for weeds.















# APPENDIX C: PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION AND POSTING POLICY

- “Within 20 ft. of active use areas (e.g., developed park areas, landscape beds, turf areas, official trails, roads, sports fields): signs shall be posted at least 24 hours in advance of application and removed no sooner than 24 hrs following application.”
- **Violation: Neighbors who regularly walk the trails note that they saw no signage posted at any time.**





# APPENDICES C AND D: MARKING OF PESTICIDE SPRAY ZONES

- “Blue marker dye will be used in all spot spraying applications.” (Appendix C)
- “Apply dye with the pesticide to assist the applicator in making thorough application, and to help parkland users see where the pesticide has been applied.” (Appendix D)
- **Violation: no dye was visible and neighbors reported that they never noticed any dye**





AS RACHEL CARSON SAID SO CLEARLY IN  
*SILENT SPRING*:

*“If the Bill of Rights contains no guarantee that a citizen shall be secure against lethal poisons distributed whether by private individuals or by public officials, it is surely only because our forefathers, despite their considerable wisdom and foresight, could conceive of no such problem.”*



# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The City of Eugene will require all city property leasees and contractors to fully abide by City policies. Contracts may be revoked if City policy is violated.
2. The City shall adopt policies that protect residents from exposures to pesticides when using city services and facilities.
3. The City shall adopt a No Spray policy for any facility used by children and pregnant women.
4. The City shall protect all surface water from contamination with pesticides.



# OTHER CONCERNS

- Spray not well-confined – **runoff down hills devastates unintended, non-pest plant life**  
(See next slides)

















# EUGENE CITY IPM POLICIES (CITED)

- The updated Eugene City Integrated Pest Management Policy can be found online at the Eugene Parks and Rec website
- All photographs were taken in May and June 2011.

