

# *Jamaica Plain Gazette*

## **Letters**

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### **DCR praised for pesticide decision**

All JP residents should applaud the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for their recent decision to stop using some synthetic pesticides and herbicides on the Southwest Corridor Park. Scientific studies indicate that many pesticides are linked with a myriad of health problems. According to Beyond Pesticides, a Washington D.C. based advocacy group, of the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 13 are probable or possible carcinogens, 14 are linked with birth defects, 18 with reproductive effects, 20 with liver or kidney damage, 18 with neurotoxicity, and 28 are sensitizers and/or irritants. Pesticides also don't stay on the lawns to which they are applied, but instead wash away in runoff, travel with us on the bottoms of our shoes, and find their way onto our pets' coats and feet. From there, pesticides can contaminate our food, water, air, and our bodies.

I strongly support DCR's decision to phase out several pesticides, some of which are known human carcinogens, especially since organic lawn and turf management is a viable option for most lawns, parks and homeowners. As DCR is finding, a natural lawn does not mean more expensive lawn. What it does mean is healthier and more sustainable lawn that respects the soil, water, and air that support us all and keep our families healthy. DCR should continue to phase out synthetic pesticides on ALL of Boston's public land and parks, including the Southwest Corridor Park and do all they can to keep our communities safe.

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**Jamaica Plain**