

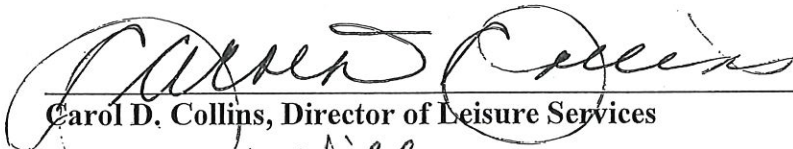
**CITY OF OAKWOOD
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

POLICY NO. 26

**SUBJECT: FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE SPRAYING
ON PUBLIC LAWN AREAS**

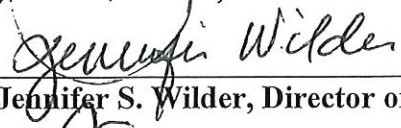
DATE: JULY 11, 2018

RECOMMENDED BY:



Carol D. Collins, Director of Leisure Services

CONCURRED BY:



Jennifer S. Wilder, Director of Personnel and Properties

APPROVED BY:



Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager

POLICY: This document sets forth the City's policy (this "Policy") regarding the use of fertilizers and pesticides on city-owned public lawn areas.

PURPOSE: Well-kept lawns are an important part of Oakwood's ambiance. Application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is an essential part of the city's maintenance program for its public lawn areas, which include lawns at public buildings, parks, boulevards, and athletic fields. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that public lawns are maintained so as to promote healthy, vigorous, and weed-free growth, while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare and ensuring that residents are adequately informed about City lawn treatment practices.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. **Establishment of policy:** Effective this date, a "Fertilizer and Pesticide Policy" is hereby established to provide guidance and procedures to city of Oakwood employees and officials that are responsible for the maintenance of public lawn areas in the city. For purposes of this Policy, public lawn areas include the following:

1. Lawns around public buildings;
2. Lawns at Cook, Fairridge, Orchardly, and Shafor Parks;
3. Lawns at pocket parks;
4. Lawn at Smith Gardens;
5. Grass on boulevards/median dividers; and
6. Natural turf athletic fields at the Old River Sports Complex.

- B. Lawn care contractors: It is the city's policy to contract for fertilizer and pesticide services ("Lawn Treatment"), rather than performing Lawn Treatment in-house. Employees who are responsible for soliciting bids or quotes for Lawn Treatment, or for recommending contractors to the City Manager, shall ensure the following:
1. Any contractor providing Lawn Treatment on public lawn areas must be properly licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for the non-agricultural use and application of both fertilizer and pesticide products.
 2. Any contract for Lawn Treatment must include language requiring the contractor to follow all applicable laws and rules promulgated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
 3. Any contract for Lawn Treatment must include an "advance notice" provision that requires the contractor to notify the City Horticulturist at least 48 hours in advance of Lawn Treatment activity on public lawn areas.
 4. Any contract for Lawn Treatment must include a "placard" provision that requires the contractor to install, after each treatment, a sufficient number of the standard 5" x 4" placards required by law. (See OAC 901:5-11-09.) For purposes of this Policy, a "sufficient number" means:
 - a. For any boulevard/median divider: at least 1 placard at each end.
 - b. For any pocket park: at least 1 placard at each entrance or, if there is no obvious point of entrance, 1 placard along each publicly-accessible side of the pocket park.
 - c. For Smith Gardens and the Old River Sports Complex: at least 1 placard at each entrance.
 - d. For Cook, Fairridge, Orchardly, and Shafor Parks: at least 2 placards along each publicly-accessible side of the park.
 - e. For lawns around public buildings: at least 2 placards along each publicly-accessible side of the lawn.
 5. Any contract for Lawn Treatment must include language prohibiting the contractor from starting any Lawn Treatment until the City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor has inspected the area to ensure that children are not present and the area is otherwise clear for application of chemicals.
- C. Lawn Treatment scheduling: Lawn Treatment shall be scheduled on days and times that least interfere with the use of public spaces. Specifically, for Cook, Fairridge, Orchardly, and Shafor Parks, Lawn Treatment shall be performed first thing in the morning, as soon as practicable.
- D. Safety inspection: When Lawn Treatment is scheduled for a particular public lawn area, the City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor shall meet the contractor on-site prior to the application of chemicals. The City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor shall inspect the area to ensure that children are not present in the area to be treated, and the area is otherwise

clear for application of chemicals, before allowing the contractor to proceed with Lawn Treatment. The City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor shall monitor Lawn Treatment as needed to ensure public safety. Immediately following Lawn Treatment, the City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor shall verify that all placards are properly placed, and that they are promptly removed 24 hours thereafter. (The safety inspection described in this paragraph is required for parks and other public lawn areas where children are likely to be encountered; it is not required for boulevards/median dividers or pocket parks where children are not typically encountered.)

E. Public information: In order to keep the public informed about Lawn Treatment activities on public lawn areas, the protocols set forth below shall be followed.

1. Temporary Signage: At least one day prior to Lawn Treatment at Cook, Fairridge, Orchardly, or Shafor Parks, the City Horticulturist or Recreation Supervisor will install a temporary sign on the property with the following wording:

“Application of fertilizer and/or pesticide is scheduled for (DATE), weather permitting. Questions? Please contact the Department of Leisure Services at (937) 298-0775.”

The temporary sign should be of similar size and construction as temporary “No Parking” signs utilized by the Department of Public Safety. It should be placed in a conspicuous location on the public lawn area to be treated, and should be promptly removed after treatment. Designated locations for temporary signage are as follows:

- a. Cook Park: 1 temporary sign at the Schenck Avenue entrance.
 - b. Fairridge Park: 2 temporary signs (1 at the Ridgeway Road entrance and 1 at the Fairmont Avenue entrance).
 - c. Orchardly Park: 3 temporary signs (1 on the Orchard Drive side; 1 on the Wonderly Avenue side; and 1 on the Delaine Avenue side; each sign to be roughly centered along its side of the park and just off the public sidewalk).
 - d. Shafor Park: 3 temporary signs (1 on the Patterson Road side; 1 on the Collingwood Avenue side; and 1 on the Shafor Boulevard side; each sign to be roughly centered along its side of the park and just off the public sidewalk).
2. Oakwood Scene newsletter: The Director of Leisure Services will develop a short informational article to educate and inform residents about Lawn Treatment on public lawns. The article will run twice annually in the Oakwood Scene newsletter. The first article will run in the April/May edition and the second article in the August/September edition.