



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: March 25, 2026

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2026

TO: Mayor Grimm, City Council members

FROM: Jason Welker, Planning and Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Right of Ways Pesticide/Herbicide Policy – direction to staff to develop policy and bring to future council meeting for approval

Requested Council Action

Approve this agenda item and direct staff to develop a formal City policy governing the use and application of pesticides/herbicides by Parks and Right of Way maintenance staff, and to return with a draft policy for Council consideration at a future meeting.

Action if Approved on Consent Calendar

Approval of this item on the consent calendar shall constitute Council direction to staff to prepare a draft Parks and Right of Ways pesticide/herbicide policy and bring that draft policy back to the City Council at a future meeting for review and possible approval.

Background

City Parks and Right of Way maintenance crews currently use chemical weed-control products on a limited basis as one of several tools for vegetation and weed mitigation. These applications are generally used in targeted locations where weeds are difficult to manage through manual or mechanical means alone.

At present, the City does not have a formally adopted policy establishing standards, limitations, notice procedures, or operational guidance related to the application of pesticides/herbicides in parks and right of way areas. While staff follow product labeling requirements and general operational practices, there is no Council-adopted policy providing formal direction on when, where, or how such products may be used.

Discussion

Staff is seeking Council direction on whether the Council would like staff to prepare a formal pesticide/herbicide use policy for parks and right of way maintenance operations. If directed to do so, staff would develop a draft policy for Council consideration at a future meeting. Such a policy could address topics including allowable application areas, public notice, weather conditions, product selection, safety procedures, and other operational limitations deemed appropriate by the Council.

Fiscal Impact

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with providing direction to staff. Any future operational or administrative impacts associated with a policy would be identified when a draft policy is presented for Council consideration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this item and direction to staff to prepare a formal Parks and Right of Ways pesticide/herbicide policy for future Council review and possible approval.