

MOTION ON NOTICE

Ban on Neonicotinoid Pesticides in our Park System

MOVER: Commissioner Sharma

SECONDER: Commissioner

WHEREAS:

1. Bumble bees, honey bees, butterflies, and other pollinators provide essential ecosystem services by pollinating crops, backyard gardens, fruit trees, and native plants;
2. Honeybee health is declining across North America and many of our native pollinators are susceptible to the same adverse effects of industrial agriculture, urbanization, disease, and pesticide use;
3. On March 31, 2014, the Park Board passed the "Pollinator Project" to support pollinators in our park system. The project has been successful in enhancing pollinator habitat in our park system.
4. Neonicotinoids, a category of commonly used pesticides, are scientifically found to be toxic to honey bees and some native bees including bumble bees;
5. In 1987, the Vancouver Park Board adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy to systematically reduce the use of chemical pesticides, in favour of cultural, mechanical, and biological pest controls;
6. The Park Board regularly procures vegetation from third parties for use in our parks system and does not track whether neonicotinoids have been applied to procured vegetation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to implement a ban on neonicotinoids in our park and recreational system, including any vegetation procured from third-parties for use on any lands under the jurisdiction of the Park Board.