

My name is Julie Sonam and I want to advocate for Willamalane to start managing the public parks and public spaces using non-toxic methods.

My grandpa use to work for the US Forest Service. He told me how we found out that DDT was harmful. One spring no birds were born and it was called the silent spring. My grandfather is a 94 year old, an avid outdoorsman and bird watcher. He used to go to all the campgrounds and spray DDT around the camp sites, out houses, and along the banks of the rivers where people swam, fished, and played. DDT was used to kill insects. We later learned just how far-reaching and devastating the damage of this synthetic chemical was.

There was a time when we all started to hear that cigarette smoking was bad for our health. The cigarette companies were the last to acknowledge this. We all know why. I am confident that we all know that chemicals, synthetics, herbicides, pesticides, are harmful in one way or another. This is why we have them and use them, they are used to KILL certain pests we don't like.

Health is something we all value. I cannot think of anything more important than health. I want to advocate for the health of our community. How can we continue to use synthetic chemicals that are known carcinogens and known to be harmful in a myriad of ways?

We can't see these synthetics once they are applied, yet they do not just go away after they have "dried" or after a certain amount of time has passed.

If you took a walk in the park with, your child, parent, or your favorite pet, would you want them sitting, rolling, or touching the grass or plants in an area that you knew had pesticides sprayed on it? I am asking you to think about this seriously. I realize that the chemical companies are saying that these synthetics are safe. Of course they are going to say that. But, WE KNOW THEY ARE NOT SAFE.

This issue is important to me. I love this community. I think we live in an extraordinarily beautiful part of the world. We should do whatever we can to protect it. We should be the leaders on this.

Please act fast. Thank you for caring and taking the time to read my request to take action.

Julie Sonam