

26 Oct 2021

YDK
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Mr Wendell Young
Cincinnati City Council

Dear Mr Young,

Several days ago, a frequent visitor to Otto Armleder Park witnessed the groundskeepers spraying glyphosphate solution, known by the trade name Roundup, on the field comprising one section of the dog park. That field, unsurprisingly, was a desiccated wasteland within three days, an ugly brownish-black expanse of dead and dying vegetation. The sign at the entrance warns all visitors not to enter the area until Spring, 2022; the Park Department is re-seeding.

In its' Mission Statement, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation promises to "promote the conservation and enhancement of our city's parks and greenspaces." The Great Parks Master Plan includes as goals, "ecologically sound land management practices," "minimizing negative ecological impact," and "preserving wetland, forest, and streams." One would hope that preserving the health of those who use the park, human or animal, would also be a goal. In this, as in the other goals and promises, one would be disappointed.

Roundup is a deadly poison.

In 2015, the World Health Organization through the International Agency on Research on Cancer, determined that Roundup is probably a human carcinogen. Roundup has been linked to non-Hodgkins lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and leukemia. Bayer, which owns Roundup's developer Monsanto, is the defendant in over 13,000 lawsuits involving the herbicide. Because of dangers associated with its' use, cities and counties in 13 states in the US have enacted full or partial bans against Roundup. Worldwide, twenty countries have placed these bans.

The US Department of Agriculture states that Roundup remains in the ground where it has been sprayed from 3 to 249 days. Cornell University estimates a 1-174 day half-life, during which half of the substance will have disappeared from the soil. *The Ecologist* disagrees with Cornell's estimate of a "less than 2% runoff" during that time, stating in the June 3, 2019 issue that there are substantial "leaks into the surrounding environment and waterways."

For seven years, my dogs and I have used Otto Armleder Park from once to several times a week except during the annual floods each spring and fall. During these floods, the park can be under fifteen feet of water or more from the Little Miami River, which borders the park on three sides. Besides the dog park, always well attended, we enjoy the trails, the wild bird habitat, and the youth soccer games across the road. Councilmember, can you guarantee that this floodwater will not release residual Roundup and disseminate it over the entire park? This would, of course, include the nearby soccer fields, host to dozens of families each week. Can you guarantee that flooding will not release Roundup into the Little Miami River system, there to be carried downstream, killing sensitive aquatic organisms and polluting the river? Can you guarantee that birds and animals residing here are not ingesting toxic amounts of this lethal herbicide's residue?

I say you cannot make these guarantees. I say the decision to use this deadly herbicide was an irresponsible betrayal of public trust. What are you going to do about it?

Paula Breeze

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