

# Sierra Club Chinook

## One Earth. One Chance.

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## Pesticide Free Calgary



## Let's work together to make our parks fresh, safe and healthy.

The Sierra Club Chinook Group is working towards a pesticide-free Calgary. Presently, the City of Calgary is using pesticides in public parks to control unwanted insects and weeds. We recognize the need to keep our parks pesticide-free, safe and healthy for everyone. It is our mission to educate Calgary residents about maintaining

unwanted insects and weeds through the use of healthy and safe alternatives to pesticides. Sierra Club's long-term goal is to work with the City of Calgary to pass a by-law banning the use of pesticides in public parks.

Pesticides can cause health problems to people and animals. Young children are especially at risk because of their developing immune system. Animals are also at a high risk because of their proximity to the ground.

## Be part of the change!

1. **Healthy lawns need healthy soil** - to condition and enrich your soil, add natural, organic matter like compost, on a regular basis.
2. **Choose the right grass** – choose drought tolerant grass seeds and over seed your lawn in the spring or fall. Use a grass seed mixture rather than one variety.
3. **Grass cycle** – leave grass clippings on your lawn to return nutrients to the soil.
4. **Control weeds and insects naturally** - dig out weeds and their roots by hand. Pour boiling water on weeds between patio stones etc. Knock insects off plants into a dish of soapy water.
5. **Consider alternative plants** – alternatives to grass include trees, shrubs, ground covers and wildflowers (native species work best).
6. **Aerate** – let your lawn breath-once a year remove small plugs of earth to allow air and water to get to the roots. A pesticide-free lawn will encourage earthworms, nature's aerators.
7. **Water to the roots** – let your lawn soak up one inch of water, once a week, early in the morning to promote deep root growth.
8. **Top-dress and fertilize** - once a year, in the spring or fall, use an organic fertilizer or apply a top layer of natural organic matter such as compost.
9. **Mow high to discourage weeds** - keep your lawn mower blade at a height of seven centimetres.
10. **Tolerate some weeds** - allow clover in your lawn for its nitrogen fixing magic.



*A collaboration between*



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- [Pathway and River Cleanup](#); May 05, 10:00am
- [Sustainability Book Club May](#); May 15, 6:00pm

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