



## Council considers motion to crank up control of dandelions

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Calgarians are concerned about an overabundance of dandelions this year and are calling on their councillors to take action to tackle the problem.

Ward 14 Councillor, Peter Demong, says he has been taking calls from Calgarians about the weeds for weeks.

"I'm getting calls from a level of frustration from the average citizen. Most generally, as do I, try to keep their lawn weed free because you want a beautiful, lush lawn, it's part and parcel of having a beautiful place. They take an enormous amount of effort in the spring and in the fall to take care of these weeds and then they look across the field and they see a city park or a city area that is just going to inundate them with weeds when they go into bloom so it's mostly a frustration thing," said Demong.

### PHOTOS



The city says it only uses pesticides when pre-defined weed density thresholds are met and infestations threaten the long-term health of the landscape.

Demong says this year seems to be particularly bad for the weeds and he is looking to administration for options to help control them.

“So what I’m looking for is for them to come back and tell me what is there out there that we haven’t looked at that may be an option? Is mowing extra in June just to keep the heads down an option so that we don’t have the profusion of seeds floating through? Is there an option to use more organic products out there that haven’t really been used in history,” he said.

Several councillors have signed off on a motion presented by Demong asking for a report to see if more can’t be done to control the weeds.

Demong says the motion does not involve an increase in the amount of chemicals used to tame the weeds but instead looks at exploring alternatives.

“I’m not saying let’s Agent Orange half the city. I’m simply saying what options do we have out there,” he said.

The city says it has not applied pest management products for cosmetic purposes on its lands since 1998 and that it only uses pesticides when pre-defined thresholds are met and infestations threaten the health of the landscape.

Crews conduct inspections in all parks every three years and they will apply a herbicide to areas of infestation to prevent further damage to turf when necessary.

Some councillors say it should be done more regularly and that they understand the concern from Calgarians.

"I think we should tackle that every year we should start doing it, not just once in a while. Or keep mowing and mowing more often maybe," said Ward 2 Councillor Joe Magliocca.

"There's certainly lots in some of the parks in my area and so they're complaining, you know, we enforce the number of weeds on their property and yet we're not maintaining our own property, which is actually contributing to the number of dandelions that they have on their property so the issue isn't only, how many dandelions we have on our property but the fact that we're contributing to the deficiency on private property," said Ward 10 Councillor Andre Chabot.

According to a city bylaw, homeowners are responsible for making sure weeds on their property are under control.

Dandelions are not considered a noxious weed under the Weed Control Act so bylaw officers can only issue a warning if dandelions are over 15 cm tall.

Council will get a report by October on how to deal with the weeds,

The city has scheduled herbicide applications in some communities for the week of June 15 to 21 and will be posting signage before, during and after treatments.

## **NORAHG RESPONSE**

Without conventional pest control products, green spaces in Calgary have become pest-infested dangerous garbage dumps. Pesticide-free maintenance does NOT work ! It is impossible for Calgary to keep its green spaces safe and beautiful by using so-called green alternative practices.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> NO CALGARIAN WANTS TO LIVE IN GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACES ! <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g>