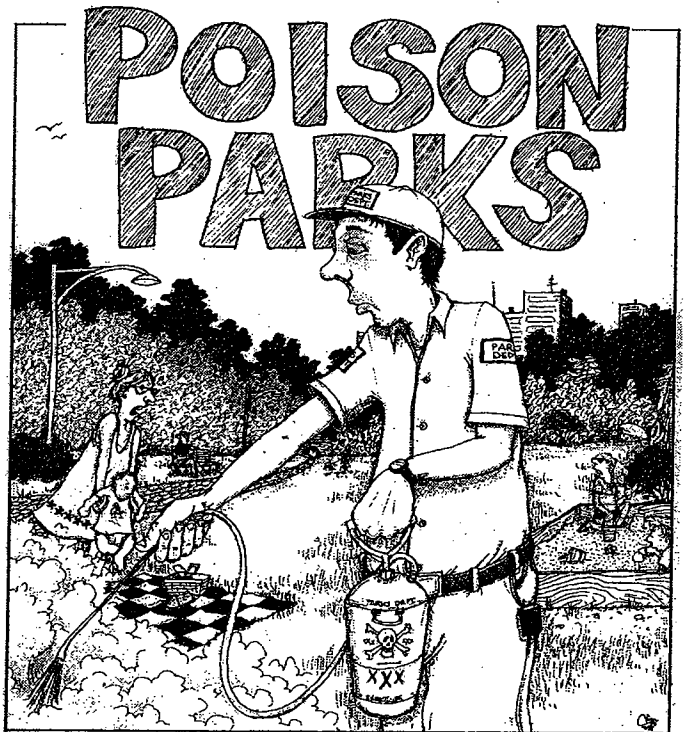


Parks are for People, not Poisons:

The Story of the San Francisco Pesticide Campaign

Gregg Small

In October 1996, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted an ordinance which will ban the use of most toxic pesticides in San Francisco by the year 2000. Numerous environmental organizations, health advocates, and concerned citizens rallied together in support of this precedent-setting initiative. The passing of the San Francisco ordinance is a powerful example of proactive, effective activism, and it will undoubtedly serve as a template for other communities around the nation which are committed to removing the toxic threat of pesticides from their lives.



In October, 1996, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to pass a landmark pesticide ordinance to protect children and others from the hazards of pesticides in public facilities. This ordinance was the result of a tremendous effort on the part of many individuals and organizations who believe that we need to put an end to poisons in our communities. What began for us as a campaign to reduce pesticide use in San Francisco parks, resulted in passage of the toughest pesticide ordinance in the country; an achievement which far exceeded our wildest dreams. We have received calls from all over the world and across the United States from people who want to pass similar ordinances in their communities. This document is meant to serve as a guide for those interested in reducing pesticide use in their local communities.

The major provisions of the ordinance, which apply to all San Francisco departments, include:

- ▶ An immediate ban of the most toxic pesticides, including Toxic Category I pesticides, all pesticides listed under California's Prop 65 as known carcinogens or reproductive toxins, and all pesticides listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as known, possible or probable carcinogens.
- ▶ A 50% reduction in cumulative pesticide use from 1996 to 1998.
- ▶ Notification of all pesticide use four days prior and after an application.
- ▶ Development of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program by all city departments, with assistance from an IPM expert.
- ▶ A complete ban of all pesticide use by the year 2000.

