

D'Lynda Fischer, Questions for Petaluma Mayoral Candidates, 2022

1. What do you see as the main environmental challenge facing your city and how would you approach it? (p.s. - bonus question: are you aware of the connection between climate smart land management and herbicide use?)

Petalumans have our work cut out for us to reach the audacious goal of climate neutrality by 2030. How we manage our land; our parks, open spaces, and landscapes is an opportunity to sequester carbon and create a greener community. RoundUp/glyphosate is used to remove the vegetation not desired in these spaces. It is known to be a carcinogenic that can be found in our groundwater, our rain and in human cells. It is harmful to humans and all other species.

Our challenge is to educate those who use these herbicides, to understand their impacts and find alternative land management practices.

2. Do you support your city parks department adhering to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan that does not allow synthetic weed killers (like RoundUP/glyphosate) to be used on city-owned land in non-emergency settings?

Absolutely. As your city council member, I championed creating a Parks Master Plan during our goal setting sessions. This will be an opportunity to engage our staff and community members to reimagine our parks and open spaces so that we create places for people and habitat that are a joy to use and maintain.

3. Many cities in Sonoma County own golf course land. Do you support looking into ways to improve turf conditions while reducing chemical fertilizer and pesticide inputs on these lands (if applicable)?

In Petaluma we have one public golf course, Rooster Run. In our recent contract renewal with the operator we included language to eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides while maintaining their turf.