

Tanya Potter Windsor 4 2022

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?)

Currently, one of the main environmental challenges facing the Town of Windsor is our drought, heat increases, and water safety coupled with the need for forest management around the outskirts of our community. Increased climate smart forest management can help to reduce overall carbon emissions from forests burning through wildfire conditions. Additionally, drought conditions limit water to the area, compounding the need for proactive vegetation management, prescribed burns and active reforestation after wildfires such as have plagued the Town of Windsor. I would prioritize introducing more vegetation to increase carbon sequestration and work toward building resilience in times of extreme heat, wildfires and flooding, all of which we see in Windsor. Additionally, working toward ways to reduce overall vehicle-miles traveled allows for less emissions and an overall mindset to work toward healthy landscapes within town. I also support ways to ensure ground water safety and water redundancy for the Town of Windsor. These strategies are necessary to ensure the healthy future of our park and public lands, and surrounding green space areas.

A key portion of climate smart land management is integrated pest management that uses natural pest-predator dynamics and moves away from harmful pesticide use. I support moving away from harmful synthetic weed killers and toward more environmentally friendly strategies to reduce weed growth while simultaneously building healthy landscapes. The Town of Windsor has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan and I support this plan and continue working to integrate climate smart strategies to protect Windsor's biodiversity.

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?

Yes, as the vice chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, I have fully supported adhering to an Integrated Pest Management Plan disallowing the use of glyphosate to kill weeds in the Town of Windsor. As a commissioner, I have made decisions based on supporting the IPM, including changes in maintenance schedules to allow for increased manpower to address weed growth and movement of some types of plants to allow easier maintenance without the use of synthetic weed killers. I will continue to support alternate ways to manage weed abatement that does not include synthetic weed killers. I believe our safety as a community and the safety of our school children is directly affected by the decision to reduce the use of synthetic weed killers in our town.

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)?

Yes, I will support ways to manage golf courses and other turf areas that reduce chemical fertilizers and pesticides. I am committed to improving our lands and working toward resiliency, reduction in carbon emissions, proper maintenance of forest land and an overall charge toward climate smart strategies. Preparation and commitment to our lands now preserves and builds better lands for the future. I have demonstrated commitment to reducing chemicals in park and public lands in Windsor and will continue to look for new ways to adopt strategies to improve our lands.

Very Warmly,

Tanya Potter

Candidate Windsor Town Council-District 4