

Dear Mayor Foy and Chapel Hill Town Council Members:

I received a copy of the November 21, 2005 "Response to a Petition Regarding Integrated Pest Management" and am totally disappointed. The response sent from Mr. Horton does not address the petition intent or content which I submitted to the Town on October 3, 2005. For example, my petition specifically states: "I am requesting that this plan include plans and provisions to *eliminate* use of herbicides in Chapel Hill parks, soccer fields, greenways and other spaces where these chemicals are used." Chapel Hill's so-called "IPM plan" does not eliminate use of chemical herbicides. The Chapel Hill plan does not even use "least toxic" approaches; instead it relies more on supposedly "least toxic chemicals." Chapel's "IPM Plan" essentially makes a mockery of the concept and intent of Integrated Pest Management. Non-chemical approaches can be used in IPM plans that are healthier for our families and the environment. We all know that just because the EPA allows use of chemicals, this does not equate to "safety." Thousands of chemicals in use in our society are harmful. The chemicals that the Town of Chapel Hill continues to use on green spaces where children play are not safe. They contaminate our groundwater and put our families at risk.

Many municipalities around the globe are working not only to eliminate use of herbicides or "lawn pesticides" on public property, but are also working to ban these harmful chemicals on private property. Those municipalities are setting an extremely positive example for the rest of the world. Chapel Hill may not be ready for this approach at this time. However, if the Town of Chapel Hill works to set a better "IPM" example on public properties perhaps the citizens of Chapel Hill will take notice and begin to make better decisions about personal lawn care to improve the quality of our environment and enhance the safety of our families.

In summary, I am excited to know that Chapel Hill has taken some steps to work toward Integrated Pest Management approaches on public property in Chapel Hill. However, the response ignores the request to eliminate use of chemical herbicides. I would like this issue to be revisited by the Town Council.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to advocate for the health and safety of citizens of Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,

Julie C. Jacobson Vann