



Go to
bit.ly/MGGsupport
to support MPAC and
the Midwest Grows
Green challenge!

STATS

Here's a rundown of what your support has helped us achieve in recent months.

- 1** New Park District IPM Policy adopted
- 4** New Beat Back Bed Bugs webinars created
- 7** Pesticide Free Parks
- 8** Point-of-Purchase Retailers to make a total of 34
- 131** MGG Pledges for a total of 202
- 800** Newly minted IPM trained childcare providers
- 3,232** Event and workshop attendees (2015)
- 70,485** Households impacted through training and outreach (2015)

TWENTY MINUTES TO IMPACT

Twenty minutes. That's all the time we need to achieve a Pesticide-Free Park. A 20 minute natural lawn care presentation last November by MPAC's Ryan Anderson was all it took to convince [Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition](#) members to take action. Ryan's presentation on the harms of synthetic lawn pesticides and how to address them only had to connect with one concerned resident that day: Jill Jarvis.

"Realizing that these potentially toxic chemicals are being applied to spaces where my children and dog freely play concerns me," Jarvis said. "Ryan discussed the importance of raising awareness about alternative and safer lawn care methods. I believe that starts with leading by example."

What started as an email chain grew into a [pledge campaign](#) and eventually landed the [pesticide-free 2.9 acre Van Voorst Park](#).

We see Jill's and Elmhurst Cool Cities' leadership, determination, and passion for pesticide-free outdoor spaces in [all the communities we support](#). We, also, see the potential for this passion to achieve large-scale synthetic pesticide and fertilizer reduction. Right now, MPAC works with Cool Cities on a [500 MGG Pledge](#) target to advance natural lawn care practices at parks, schools, and all outdoor spaces where children, pets, and wildlife live, learn, and play. If we achieve our goals in just this one community we will impact an estimated 568 acres resulting in a reduction of 24,147 pounds of nitrogen per year (lbs/yr), 689 lbs/yr of pesticides, and 4,312 lbs/yr of Phosphate.

Only our distinctive Midwest Grows Green (MGG) brand, however, allows communities across the region to realize these reductions by communicating the environmental and social benefits of natural lawn care at [Pesticide-free Parks](#), [Point-of-Purchase Retailers](#), and through [Community Engagement events](#).

We need your help in Elmhurst, River Forest, Oak Park, Little Village, Hegewisch, Gary, Albany Park, and all other participating communities to create safer and healthier outdoor spaces. Please add your name to this movement by [taking the pledge](#) and [contributing](#). Raising \$5,000 for MGG by the end of October will enable the initiative to spread to more than 10 Pesticide-Free Parks, 30 Point-of-Purchase Retailers, and 200 MGG pledges. Any donation of \$10 or more at bit.ly/MGGsupport can receive a "Keep ON the Grass" sign. No matter how much you give, MPAC does all it can to maximize the impact of your contribution - 20 minutes, sometimes that's all it takes.

Thank you for your generosity,



TAKING A STAND AGAINST HERBICIDES

On June 16 the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago responding to your concerns expressed by MPAC



MPAC's Ryan Anderson accepts recognition award from Frank Avila, Commissioner MWRD.

and others passed a policy to reduce its herbicide use by 92% - a big step in protecting the 1.4 billion gallons of waste and stormwater they treat. The policy, written by MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila and backed by MPAC, eliminates most applications of herbicides on landscapes, facilities, and infrastructures managed by the district. Commissioner Avila and the MWRD, also, recognized MPAC's Midwest Grows Green initiative by passing a resolution and presenting it to MPAC's Ryan Anderson. Learn more about the policy and resolution at bit.ly/MGGres.

ZIKA AND YOU

What should we expect with all this Zika Virus talk in the airwaves? Does Zika threaten the Midwest?



What strategies are being employed to combat the disease? MPAC's Ruth Kerzee discusses Zika and how MPAC will approach the disease in this [blog post](#).



YOU LIKE US!

Now each call for reduction of chemicals in schools, parks, and public places comes with a voice 1,000 strong. That's right, our Facebook page eclipsed the 1,000 Like milestone! Added together with our equally successful Twitter handle, the two create the largest microphone imaginable. Between May 9th and May 12th our posts and tweets reached 55,000 individuals. This audience has, also, taken action by more than 120 of them signing our MGG pledge bit.ly/MGGpledge and calling for more reductions in lawn pesticides and fertilizers. Help further our reach and impact by linking to our [FB page](#) and following us on [twitter](#), [@ToxicFreeMW](#).

PARK RIDGE TAKES THE PLUNGE

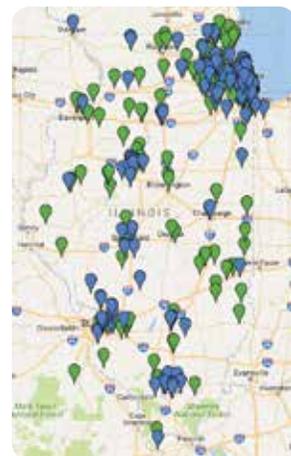
Congratulations to Park Ridge Park District for being the home to the very first Midwest Grows Green Pesticide-Free Park (PFP) info-sign. In a collaborative process between MPAC, Go Green Park Ridge and the District, we created a sign detailing the commitment of Park Ridge Park District to maintain Maine Park in a manner consistent with natural lawn care and PFP standards. The park will permanently install the sign that provides tips for homeowners on how they too can put the basics of natural lawn care in place on their own lawns. Scheduled for installation in August, with luck by the time you read this the sign will be up. Look on our [website](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Facebook page](#) for updates and pictures of the unveiling and kickoff event. Next up for signs are parks and other communal spaces in Evanston and the Chicago communities of Albany Park, Hegewisch, and Little Village.



Permanent sign for Maine Park, Park Ridge's first pesticide-free park.

LEARNING FROM SUCCESS

Sometimes it's surprising where success is found. MPAC's online Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training for childcare providers has been that surprise. Built in partnership with INCCRRA* and the Gateways to Opportunity Professional Development Network is has achieved a high level of success providing for over 800 newly IPM trained childcare staff in its first few months. The webinar has received overwhelmingly positive feedback and comments. Even the IPM quizzes proved to be a big hit. Check out the map of where trainees are coming from at bit.ly/IPMinCCmap. With your support we hope to apply the lessons learned from this effort to advance our other programs.



Google Maps (2016) of newly IPM-trained childcare providers.

*Illinois Child Care Resources and Referral Agency

WE'VE MOVED!

MPAC is constantly working to update and upgrade our services and systems to maximize our output and minimize our costs to better serve our supporters and programs. With cloud-based computing and other new technologies, maintaining a stand-alone office was no longer needed. Our new shared space is also closer to our collaborators and other sustainability oriented orgs. You can find us now sharing space with the Environmental Law and Policy Center at 35 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60601. Stop by and see us sometime!



MIDWEST PESTICIDE ACTION CENTER
35 E. Wacker Dr.
Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60601



Thank you to our 2015 Donors!

The following individual and institutional funders made contributions to Midwest Pesticide Action Center from January 1 to December 31, 2015. With so many wonderful donors, we make every effort to accurately acknowledge your support. Please call (773) 878-7378 with any errors or omissions, so that we may correct our records.

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