

## Managing and Respecting Open Space in Our Community

Roxborough Village Metro District has recently hired Ark Ecological Services to assist in managing weed infestations in the open space within Roxborough Village. You may see Ark's team working in the open space spraying noxious weeds with herbicides which are marked with a blue dye. Also note the yellow "pesticide warning" flags that are posted. Please stay out of the recently sprayed areas until the herbicide has dried - generally about 15-30 minutes on most dry, sunny Colorado days. The vast majority of herbicides they are spraying are moderately non-toxic products. The toxicity in the concentrated forms (not the diluted form which is being sprayed) of most products used is less than an equivalent amount of aspirin, caffeine, or table salt. Please keep dogs on leash and kids on the trail as you are walking by the areas that they are spraying. Feel free to talk with Ark Ecological's employees as you are walking the trails in the open space about what they are doing, or about what native plants are blooming, what mammals, birds, or other wildlife have been seen.

During weed management this spring, several encroachment issues have been discovered behind the homes of various residents. Many of these hinder weed management and the restoration of the open space behind the homes. Encroachments include the following:

- 1) Dumping grass clippings, branches, potting soil, sod, piles of dirt, construction and yard debris into the open space.
- 2) Placing equipment, materials, and buried dog fences in the open space.
- 3) Unauthorized mowing in the open space.
- 4) Planting trees and shrubs, seeding of "wildflowers" or grasses, and laying of sod in the open space. Please note that some of these "wildflowers" and other non-native trees and shrubs are listed on the Colorado State noxious weed list, or are being considered for listing.

Please be aware that the Metro District is the owner of and responsible for management and maintenance of the open space for the benefit of all of the residents of Roxborough Village. These encroachment activities are illegal and make it more difficult and expensive for the District to fulfill its responsibilities. If you have engaged in any of these encroachment activities, please stop. Please remove anything you have dumped and all personal items placed in the open space, cease mowing, and refrain from planting or seeding any additional plants on Metro District managed property.

Although the open space behind your home may not be in a pristine condition due the development of the homes in your neighborhood, or from past management or construction practices, the Metro District places a high value on this community open space. These encroachments mar the natural beauty and the value of the land and hinder the District's ability to manage and restore this open space.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, or if you see any problems in the open space, or see anyone engaging in these encroachment activities, please call Dave Peak, the Metro District Manager at (303) 779-4525 or email him at [David.Peak@cliftonlarsonallen.com](mailto:David.Peak@cliftonlarsonallen.com). The Metro District Board Members thank you for your cooperation in making the open space in our community beautiful and healthy for current and future residents.