Before the call.

Who should I call? Depending on your immediate concern, call your local school or school district, city or county parks and rec, your homeowners association, or golf course.

Who do I ask for? The folks in charge of grounds. Be prepared to be directed to a subcontractor that may be a private business. This script works for them as well. Remember, your goals here are straightforward: 1) to get some information about their practices, and 2) to get them to view the website for alternatives.

The call (suggested script).

1.) Hello, my name is ________ and I would like to know what methods you use to control weeds. *(They may want to know why you are interested so be prepared to tell them.)*

2.) Do you use Roundup and/or other pesticides on the grounds? *(If the answer is yes, continue onto #3. If the answer is no, thank them for being a pesticide-free school, park, etc. and kindly end the conversation. (And let us know!)) Might want to dig a bit deeper here if they say Yes. How is it applied, where exactly, how often and what precautions are taken around the spraying, if any? If they say No, it’d be great to know their practices as well, so we can pass them on.

3.) I have recently learned that Roundup and other pesticides are linked to very serious health risks, especially for children. Roundup has been declared a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization and is also linked to birth defects and other serious health conditions. It has also been listed as a chemical known to cause cancer by the State of California.

4.) There are many communities replacing it with non-toxic cost-effective alternatives. *Here is a link to a description of alternatives.*

5.) Would you be willing to consider making a switch? I can email you a website that talks about the dangers from a scientific point of view, as well as alternatives.

6.) Great, can I please get your e-mail address so that I can send that info your way? *(The website is: http://rounduprisks.com/quick-reference/)*

7.) Can I call you in a week to follow up after you've had a chance to look at it?

8.) In case you get around to taking a look at this information sooner than a week, I would like to give you my number *(and/or e-mail, whatever is appropriate).*

9.) My number *(and/or e-mail)* is ____________ and again, my name is ______________.

10.) Thanks a lot, I appreciate you speaking with me and I’ll talk to you next week.

After the call:

1.) Follow up and find out what they thought about the information.

2.) Don’t forget to let us know how it went!