



The Environmental Champion

Awards recognize outstanding

employees and project teams

that advance the Mayor's

Sustainable Development

goals through leadership,

job excellence, innovation,

and achievements that

improve Denver's

environment, well-being

and governance.

Our 2006 winners have

demonstrated Denver's public

commitment to a sustainable

future where people and

nature thrive.



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



Winner: Herbicide Reduction

Individual: Patrick Ertel

**Department/Division: Parks and Recreation/
SW District**

Summary: Patrick took the initiative to research methods to minimize the use of herbicides in the Southwest District's park, giving careful consideration to the public's often conflicting desire to have less exposure to herbicides and a weed-free environment.

Noting successes in other municipal park systems, Patrick developed a plan to reduce the use of herbicides in the 110 acres he oversees. In 2005, Patrick began spot spraying target turf areas covered in dense broadleaf weeds. By the fall of 2006 he had reduced the herbicide use by 70% in his areas and the weed density had been suppressed to an acceptable level.

Patrick's best management practices have not only received compliments from citizens, his efforts minimize stormwater pollution, chemical buildup in soil, plant resistance to herbicides and public health exposures.

Patrick's ultimate goal is zero use of herbicides. His innovation has produced cost savings, pollution reduction, conservation of natural resources and public improvements.