

Pesticide Use and Pesticide Reduction Efforts



April 23, 2018

Pesticide Use and Pesticide Reduction Efforts –

A report to the Evanston City Council in compliance with the City of Evanston Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy

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BACKGROUND

City's Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Resolution

- Passed in 2010
- Goal: reduce pesticide applications on City-owned or -leased property to the maximum extent feasible through least-toxic integrated pest management (IPM) techniques
- Defined IPM
- Allowed for the designation of an IPM Coordinator

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BACKGROUND, continued

- Defined prohibited pesticides but allowed exemptions such as water treatment chemicals, rodenticide baits, biological pesticides, etc.
- Required very specific signing before and after pesticide applications
- Required certain related record keeping, reporting and training

CURRENT PRACTICES

Health & Human Services Department

Inspectors consult with residents on bed bug and rodent issues and use outside vendors to implement control measures using IPM principles.

Year	Bed Bug Complaints	Rodent Treatment Requests
2015	24	1,280
2016	8	1,108
2017	18	747

CURRENT PRACTICES

Public Works Agency

- Evanston parks are generally pesticide-free
- Pesticide use reduced by 60% in the last five years
- Various pesticides occasionally used when other control measures aren't successful
- Heavily used athletic fields require fertilizers and selective herbicides to maintain healthy and safe conditions
- Herbicides are applied annually or biannually, depending on specific field conditions

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CURRENT PRACTICES, *continued*

- Beginning in 2017, only herbicides classified as Toxicity Category III used, per the Resolution
- Beginning in 2012, the City switched to organic fertilizers on all athletic fields and public parks.
- Athletic fields receive two applications of fertilizer annually
- Some larger, high-use parks receive one application annually

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Web Page

A new web page will explain the City's IPM policy and our pesticide reduction efforts.

Partnerships

Since 2015, the City has partnered with Greenwise Organic Lawn Care and the Midwest Pesticide Action Center to launch a pilot program of pesticide-free parks.

- Began in Ackerman, Burnham Shores, Eiden, Perry and Trahan Parks
- Evanston Animal Shelter grounds added in 2017
- Addition of other locations to be discussed with partners

Other Activities

The Mayor's Proclamation to take the Monarch Pledge in 2016 led to other related activities:

- Revisions to the City's weed ordinance
- Installation of a Monarch-friendly garden on the Morton Civic Center grounds
- Expansion of ongoing efforts to remove invasive species along the North Shore Channel and replanting with native plants to encourage both migratory birds and pollinators of all kinds

Non-City of Evanston Pest Control Services and Practices

- Commercial pest control services, schools and day care centers are all regulated by the State of Illinois laws pertaining to pesticide use and applications
- Mosquito control is carried out by the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District (NSMAD) and by the City of Evanston. NSMAD's abatement program is based on IPM principles, with the goal of minimizing deleterious effects on the environment and non-target organisms while using the most effective means of mosquito control available.

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Non-City of Evanston

Pest Control Services and Practices, continued

- Ridgeville Park District follows IPM practices inside buildings and uses a pest control company that specializes in these practices. Pesticides are not used on their park grounds.
- The Union Pacific Railroad uses an outside contractor to maintain the track beds along its right-of-way, from the track's center line to a 15-ft. width on both sides. Maintenance consists of cutting and spraying all vegetation within that area twice each year. They have begun a pollinator pilot project along their right-of-way and hope to expand this effort in the future, where space allows.

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Non-City of Evanston Pest Control Services and Practices, continued

- Canal Shores Golf Course uses IPM best practices to minimize the use of conventional pesticides. In 2017, the course was certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary through Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Meeting the certification standards was an extensive three-year process.

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Non-City of Evanston Pest Control Services and Practices, continued

The report includes many recommendations for Evanston property owners on how they can reduce pesticide use on their own properties, yet still control both indoor and outdoor pests, including bed bugs, rodents and mosquitoes.

The report also lists many online resources, detailed information on the City's current practices, and Illinois pesticide regulations, as well as sources for more ways Evanston residents can become pesticide-free.

GOALS FOR 2018-2020

- Conduct annual in-depth training with all City employees who are licensed pesticide applicators
- Achieve and document further reduction in toxicity of products used; eliminate the use of Glyphosate anywhere on City property
- Explore the use of biosolids on City property as an alternative to synthetic fertilizers and toxic pesticides

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GOALS FOR 2018-2020, continued

- Develop criteria to select City properties to add to the Pesticide-Free Parks program, based on aesthetics, visibility and labor needs
- Codify best practices, such as twice-yearly aeration, and metrics to use, such as percentage of dandelions reduced, to showcase the beauty and practicality of pesticide-free City properties
- Reduce flooding/improve drainage in selected City parks as part of other capital improvement projects

Goals for 2018-2020, continued

- Take photos in 2018 and 2020 to document progress.
- Continue to expand and enhance the content on the City's webpage about pesticide use and reduction
- Develop and implement a comprehensive public outreach initiative to educate residents, property managers, and landscape contractors about the City's Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Policy and engage them in reducing their use of pesticides
- Give special attention to the larger institutions in the community, including School Districts 65 and 202, Northwestern University, Evanston Hospital, and Presence Saint Francis Hospital