

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 April 23, 2018



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BACKGROUND

City's Sustainable Pest Control and Pesticide Reduction Resolution passed in 2010 with the goal of reducing pesticide applications on City-owned or –leased property to the maximum extent feasible through the implementation of least-toxic integrated pest management techniques.

It defined Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and allowed for the designation of an IPM Coordinator.

It defined Prohibited Pesticides but allowed some exemptions such as water treatment chemicals, rodenticide baits, biological pesticides, etc.

It required specific signing be posted before and after any pesticide applications with strict location, language and design guidelines.

Lastly, it also required certain record keeping, reporting and training activities related to pesticides and their applications.

CURRENT PRACTICES

Health & Human Services

Bedbugs and Rodents - Inspectors consult with residents on both issues and use outside vendors to implement control measures using IPM principles.

The table below shows the number of bedbug complaints received from 2015-2017

Year	Bedbug Complaints
2015	24
2016	8
2017	18

The table below shows the City's rodent treatment requests from 2015-2017[#]

Year	Rodent Treatment Requests
2015	1,280
2016	1,108
2017	747

CURRENT PRACTICES

Public Works Agency

Evanston Parks are generally pesticide free, and staff has reduced the use of pesticides by 60% in the last five years. Occasional application of various pesticides are only done when other control measures are not successful.

Due to the heavy usage of our athletic fields, and in order to maintain a healthy and safe stand of turf, staff applies both fertilizers and selective herbicides to most of these. Herbicides are typically applied either annually or biannually, depending on specific field conditions each fall. Additionally, beginning in 2017, the City began using only herbicides classified by the US EPA as Toxicity Category III, per the Resolution.

Beginning in 2012, the City switched to the use of organic fertilizers on all athletic fields and public parks. The athletic fields receive two applications of fertilizer per year, and some of the City's larger, high-use parks receive one application per year.

Web Page

A new web page is being developed that 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. We began with Ackerman, Burnham Shores, Eiden, Perry and Trahan Parks, and added the grounds surrounding the Evanston Animal Shelter in 2017. Staff will be discussing the addition of other locations for 2018 with these partners this spring.

Other Activities

The Mayor's Proclamation to take the Monarch Pledge in 2016 has led to several other related activities. These include revisions to the City's Weed Ordinance, the installation of a Monarch-friendly garden on the Civic Center grounds, and the expansion of our ongoing efforts to remove invasive species along the North Shore Channel and the replanting of these areas with native plants to encourage both migratory birds and pollinators of all kinds.

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.
- 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.

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 in Evanston 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.

The Ridgeville Park District follows IPM practices inside the buildings and uses a pest control company that specializes in these practices. The district does not use pesticides on its park grounds.

The Union Pacific Railroad uses an outside contractor to maintain the track beds along its right-of-way, from the center line of the track to a fifteen-foot width on both sides. This maintenance consists of cutting and spraying all vegetation within that area twice each year. The company has begun a pollinator pilot project along its right-of-way and hopes to expand this effort in the future, where space allows.

Non-City of Evanston Pest Control Services and Practices

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

This report also includes many recommendations for Evanston property owners on how they can reduce pesticide use on their own properties and still control both indoor and outdoor pests, including bedbugs, rodents and mosquitos. The report also lists many on-line resources with detailed information on the City's current practices, Illinois pesticide regulations, as well as sources for more ways Evanston residents can become pesticide free.

Goals for 2018-2020

- Take photos in 2018 and again in 2020 to document progress.
- Continue to add to, and enhance the content on the City's pesticide use and reduction webpage.
- 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 Districts 65 and 202, Northwestern University, Evanston NorthShore Hospital, and Saint Francis Hospital.