ARLINGTON HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT

POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER V. PARKS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1.00 Integrated Pest Management Policy

1.02 Statement of Purpose

It shall be the policy of the District that Integrated Pest Management shall be used to prevent and control pest problems in or on property maintained by the District. Non-chemical controls shall be given preference over chemical controls.

1.03 Introduction

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a system of controlling nuisance wildlife that uses a combination of methods to maximize the effectiveness of control, while minimizing pesticide application and the potential hazards associated with their use. IPM focuses on maintaining healthy plants and soil, thus enabling the District to more effectively control pest problems.

1.04 Definitions

For the purpose of the IPM Policy, the following terms shall have the definitions given herein:

A. Biological Controls means the use of a pest's natural predators or parasites to eliminate or reduce the pest problem.

B. Bombing means a treatment that releases large volumes of liquid aerosol into a confined space. Examples include spraying, misting or fogging.

C. Broadcast means the application of granular formulated pesticides to broad expanses of surfaces. This includes an application of pesticides to lawns, ponds, trees, shrubs and hard surface areas.

D. Formulated Liquid Spraying means liquid application of pesticides to broad expanses of surfaces. This includes controlled liquid application to turf, trees, shrubs and hard surface areas.

E. Public Awareness means the use of education to effect change in people's perceptions and behaviors as a method of preventing pest problems, avoiding pesticide use and more broadly promoting the health and sustainability of a given area.

F. Mechanical Controls means the use of mechanical procedures to eliminate or reduce pest populations, such as mowing, topdressing and aeration of lawns.

G. Natural Controls means the use of any method that does not employ synthetic substances as a way to eliminate or reduce pest populations and which may draw upon elements common to the environment. Examples include companion planting, mulching, attracting beneficial insects to reduce pest problems in gardens and application of natural materials such as vinegar, lemon juice, or corn gluten.

H. Pests means any unwanted insects, plants fungus (molds), and animals.

I. Pesticide means any substance or mixture of substances designed or intended for use to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate pests or to be used as a plant growth regulator. Pesticides include, but are not limited to, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and rodenticides, and certain pest-specific compounds of biological origin aimed at disrupting the lifecycle of the pest.

J. Physical Controls means the use of controls that physically inhibit pests' ability to inhabit an area by modifying their environment. Examples of physical controls include using traps and barriers, influencing temperatures, controlled burning or hand-pulling of weeds.

K. Structural Controls means the use of a whole systems approach to controlling pest populations, which may include addressing structural issues in both building and landscapes. Examples of structural controls include adopting long-term maintenance practices such as caulking and sealing, repairing the building or landscape to remove places where pests may breed, such as removing indentations in the earth that cause puddles where mosquitoes may breed.

1.05 Establishment of Application Guidelines

The District shall develop guidelines for facilities, golf courses, parks, wetlands, lakes/ponds and other open space lands which shall include, but not be limited to, the following items:

A. Tolerance Thresholds – In order to decide whether treatment is warranted, an acceptable tolerance thresholds shall be identified following the provisions of Chapter 1 District Wide, Section 1.90 Integrated Pest Management, of the District's Procedure Manual. Threshold criteria shall be from least tolerant to most tolerant:

1. Greatest hazard to human health - i.e. mosquitoes, ragweed, poisonous plants, rodents
2. Greatest hazard to the environment– i.e. Asian Longhorn Beetle, Garlic Mustard, Dutch Elm Disease, and other invasive species as determined by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
3. Aesthetic concerns – i.e. clover, plantain, dandelion, Box Elder bugs, pond algae

B. Range of treatments – A range of treatments shall be established with non-chemical, non-biological control strategies, including structural, physical/mechanical and cultural controls, considered first. Chemical approaches shall be used only as a last resort. In selecting a treatment approach, the following criteria shall be considered:
1. Least hazardous to human health
2. Least disruptive to natural controls
3. Least-toxic to non-target organisms
4. Least damaging to the environment
5. Most likely to produce a permanent reduction in habitat conducive to most pest populations.
6. Most economical

1.06 Pesticide Usage

When other methods of pest control are not effective, pesticides may be used. Pesticide use by the District shall be in compliance with all federal, state and local laws. No pesticide shall be used unless it is registered for its intended use. All pesticides shall be used according to specific label directions. All pesticides shall be applied by a licensed operator and supervised by a licensed applicator as governed by the State of Illinois Pesticides Act.

A. Pesticides shall not be applied when winds exceed twelve miles per hour.
B. Federally registered pesticides shall only be applied by contractors or staff trained and licensed for pesticide application. Staff shall participate in training sessions designed to improve the supervision, safe handling and application of pesticides.
C. Application, handling, supervision and training of Natural Controls such as vinegar, lemon juice and corn gluten shall be subject to current state laws and agency guidelines.

D. Pesticide usage on School District property leased by the District shall follow School District requirements and be in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235.

E. All pesticides shall be stored and disposed of properly.

1.07 Notification Requirements

The public shall be notified of any interior or exterior application of pesticides, as well as well as any applications on large exposed areas in or on any property maintained by the District as follows:

A. Exterior broadcast or formulated liquid spraying:

1. General News Release prepared by the Communications Supervisor, or designated District staff member, to be printed in the local newspapers.

B. Other pesticide application:

1. Pre-application signs shall be headed, "Notice of Pesticide Application" and shall contain the name of the pesticide and the proposed date of the application.
2. Post-application signs shall include: date of the application, the pesticide applied and name of the responsible staff member and phone number for more information.
3. Unless required by state law, pre and post application signage is not required when applying Natural Controls or materials. Signs may be posted as a courtesy as determined by the applicator in charge of the application process.
4. Where pesticides have been applied to interior spaces, signs shall be posted at the entrances.
5. Signs shall be posted at suitable park entrances, as determined by the applicator, where pesticides have been applied.
6. Applications to School District properties leased by the District shall follow notification requirements established by each School District and the Illinois Structural Pest Control Act, 225 ILCS 235.

Board Approved, 08/24/04 (Replaces 1.00 The Use of Pesticides in General Park Areas Policy)