



# **Integrated Pest Management Policy**

*Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission*

**Approved on: May 24, 2010**

## ***Introduction to Policy***

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Department follows an Integrated Pest Management Policy adopted by the Ashland Parks and Recreation in 2010.

According to Oregon Statutes (ORS 262.1), Chapter 943, an IPM is defined as follows:

“Integrated pest management means a coordinated decision-making and action process that uses the most appropriate pest control methods and strategies in an environmentally and economically sound manner to meet pest management objectives. The elements of integrated pest management include: (a) preventing pest problems; (b) monitoring for the presence of pests and pest damage; (c) establishing the density of pest population, which may be set at zero, that can be tolerated or corrected with a damage level sufficient to warrant treatment of the problem based on health, public safety, economic or aesthetic threshold; (d) treating pest problems to reduce populations below those levels established by damage thresholds using strategies that may include biological, cultural, mechanical and pesticidal control methods and that shall consider human health, ecological impact, feasibility and cost effectiveness; and (e) evaluating the effects and efficacy of pest treatments.”

The IPM process first determines if a pest needs to be managed, and if so, how best to do it. Key elements are information gathering, decision making, management action, and monitoring of results. IPM uses effective, low-risk strategies and practices. Management actions include cultural, physical, mechanical, manual, biological, and pesticidal. Licensed and trained Parks Department professionals often select a combination of methods (pesticide applications being the method of last resort) to manage specific pest populations on a case-by-case basis, with a goal of reducing reliance on pesticides. Methods employed conform to recognized standards established and endorsed by state and federal regulatory agencies, state educational institutions, and organizations such as the Western Integrated Pest Management Center.

Examples of IPM within the Parks Department include:

- Mulching of planting beds to reduce establishment of weeds.
- Utilizing plants with natural resistance to pests.
- Volunteer use for hand weeding, trimming, mulching, and more.
- Design features to include concrete curbs, mow strips, and landscape designs.
- Proper mowing, irrigation, and fertilization of park turf to increase vigor and reduce weed populations.
- Application of selected herbicides to control invasive weeds before seed formation to prevent future weed infestations.
- Release of natural biological controls to control non-natives such as plants and insects.
- See attached list of pesticide reduction suggestions.

# **Integrated Pest Management Policy**

Ashland Parks and Recreation Department's Integrated Pest Management Policy is based on park planning and design, manual maintenance, ecological controls, and, as a last resort, use of chemical pesticides. The department will work to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and will conduct an annual review of pest management activities, which will include written suggestions to the Parks Commission for the further reduction of pesticides and for alternatives to their use.

## **Pesticide Use**

Any pesticide use will be part of an IPM approach. Risk will be minimized by careful product selection and application. When developing and updating the IPM program, Parks staff will rely on current peer-reviewed scientific opinion about potential materials and methods, including science-based information from regulatory agencies, state university departments, university extension scientists, and other experts.

- The choice to use pesticides will be based on human and ecological health and the values to be gained or preserved. Budgetary and human resource factors will also be considered.
- Only the safest, lowest toxicity products available will be used. Pesticides use will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations. No "restricted use" pesticides will be used.
- The area will be posted 48 hours in advance of the application, with signage remaining a minimum of 48 hours following the application, depending on the re-entry time specified on the pesticide label or MSDS sheet.

## **Oversight and Training**

- A minimum of one Parks or Golf employee will be trained and licensed as an Oregon Licensed Pesticide Applicator and will be designated by the department director to be responsible for overseeing and authorizing all pesticide use by Parks and Golf division staff. No pesticides will be used without a Licensed Pesticide Applicator on staff.
- No employee will use or apply any pesticide without prior training.
- No employee will use or apply any pesticide mechanically or by hand without event-specific authorization.
- All Parks and Golf Division employees who apply pesticides will attend an annual review of policies, procedures, and reduction strategies regarding the use and applications of pesticides.

- All pesticides will be stored in a safe, labeled, secure environment. The Parks Superintendent and Licensed Applicator will have exclusive access to the area.
- Violation of any of these policies or guidelines by Parks or Golf Division staff will be grounds for disciplinary action.

### **Reporting and Review**

The Parks Director will oversee an annual review and will present the results to the commission. The report will include water quality test results and results from any other testing conducted; comparisons from previous years' spreadsheets showing amounts and locations of pesticide applications; and will recommend specific locations, management activities, cost, and targets for reductions or elimination of pesticides.

- The Parks Commission may consider updating the IPM policy during the fiscal year as new peer-reviewed scientific information about pesticides, including inert ingredients, becomes available and as other management choices develop.
- Written record on Form 1A will be filled out after each application (attached).
- MSDS sheets will be made available to the public.
- The elected Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission will serve as the overseeing board for this policy.

# GUIDELINES

## PESTICIDE SOLUTIONS AND RINSES

Following are elements to consider before beginning an application. These elements will help determine the proper amount of pesticide to mix.

- Weather conditions and predictions. Call National Weather Service at 541-779-5990.
- Acreage / square footage of the job site.
- Calendar: special events, mowing, irrigation, and so on.
- Type and size of the equipment appropriate to do the job.

When applying a pesticide, use the following procedures to reduce and safely store the rinse solution. These are secondary to label information and State and Federal regulations.

- Mix only enough pesticide solution to do the job that day.
- First add measured amount of water to tank, then put in correct amount of herbicide according to label specifications.
- Use up all pesticide, applying until the tank is empty or no more solution is coming through the nozzle.
- If pesticide mix remains, completely label the tank or sprayer with labels for the products used. Also mark the current concentration for each product, the date, and the name of the applicator.
- When resuming spray applications the next time, either use the leftover material, or add dilution water and circulate the mix thoroughly before adding new concentrate.
- If spray tank rinsate is created, store the rinsate as make-up water for the next day. The next day's pesticide should be compatible or the same. The same labeling requirements pertain to the rinsate mix.

Rinse the sprayer if the following conditions apply:

- It is necessary to use a pesticide incompatible with that previously used.
- It is the end of a spraying cycle.

Use the following rinse process:

1. Read the pesticide label. The following should not conflict with label information or State or Federal regulations. Contact your supervisor if you see a conflict or have questions.
2. Wear protective clothing, as listed on the label when handling pesticides, pesticide containers, or pesticide equipment.

3. Fill the spray equipment approximately 1/4 full with clean water. Shake or agitate so that all inside surfaces are washed. If possible use the spray hose to rinse the inside surface of the tank. These procedures should coincide with all labels.
4. Spray the rinse water out of the spray equipment onto an approved target area. Rinse water should be run through all hoses, booms, etc. Filters should be cleaned. Because of the dilute nature of the pesticide in the rinse water, a coarse spray can be used and is recommended to save time. Do not "pond" or saturate the soil.
5. If the tank is to be stored, repeat step 3 and 4 above until the tank is clean.

## **PESTICIDE SAFETY**

- The area will be posted 48 hours in advance of the application, with signage remaining a minimum of 48 hours following the application, depending on the re-entry time specified on the pesticide label or MSDS sheet.
- Containers will be triple-rinsed, then punctured to make sure they are not reused.
- Any spills will be cleaned up immediately and reported to a supervisor for proper handling of material.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be worn according to label on product and MSDS sheets (e.g., rubber gloves, goggles, long-sleeved shirts).
- Employee will change clothes before interacting with non-work associates such as family and friends.

## **PESTICIDE REDUCTION OPTIONS**

**Volunteers** – to be used for:

- Weeding
- Mulching
- Trimming

**Mulch** – reduce weed growth and labor costs; minimal budget impact

**Labor** – staff and volunteer crew to manually trim edges. Potential large budget impact if staff and volunteers manually edge and use less spray

**Annuals to Perennials** – better ground cover, minimal labor, minimal budget impact

**Burners** – burn weeds using Parks labor; possible safety issues

**Ground Covers** – labor to establish weeding; higher initial costs but less expensive once established

**Hardscape** – curbs, walks would require high initial investment but this would serve as long-term solution to problem spots; initial high budget impact

**Landscape Design** – less formal, non- native; lower initial cost but higher costs to maintain until plants are established

**Park Branding** – As part of the pesticide reduction process, a park logo will be designed to inform the public about pesticide-free areas. Communication will occur through the City of Ashland Web site and classes will be offered to share information and ideas with the public.

**Equipment Use Where Possible** – higher cost to purchase; efficient use of labor; able to treat large areas

**Lawn Height** – help shade weeds

**Irrigation Changes** – initial cost of labor and materials; long-term solution; more maintenance required for smaller heads

**Goats** – problem with containment in terms of what is eaten (both desired and non-desired species consumed)

**Forestry Areas** – 99% spray free since 1992; manually controlled

# **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

## **RESTRICTED AREAS**

- No applying pesticides within or 50 feet from a playground, community garden, wetland, stream, or picnic tables.
- No spraying in all parks from Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- No general treatment of broadleaf weeds in turf areas in parks.
- No treatments inside Dog Park area. If applications are needed, the area will be closed to dogs and users until re-entry is permitted (as outlined in chemical use guidelines). Advance notice shall be given to the users about the closure of the Dog Park.
- Any other park area designated as pesticide free.
- Spraying for hornets and wasps in all areas (for visitor safety) exempted.
- If an emergency situation arises and pesticides are needed, the Parks Commission can grant an exception to the policy.

## **GOLF COURSE**

- The golf course will occasionally require use of higher toxicity products to keep the quality of the greens and tees playable. If toxicity is higher than table salt (LD 50 = 2,500), the course will be posted at the clubhouse and at the first green or tee that is treated.
- The Golf Division will follow the same guidelines established for the Parks Division.
- MSDS sheets will be posted in golf course club house.
- Greens #4, 6, 7 and tee boxes #4, 5, 7 will be exempted from the 50-foot setback from water.



## **PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS BY NON-PARKS AND RECREATION EMPLOYEES**

*In special circumstances, when a certain area needs to be addressed in a specific fashion, pesticide applications by non-Parks Department staff will be approved:*

### **Employees of commercial pesticide operator companies:**

Employees of commercial pesticide operator companies possessing valid state pesticide applicator licenses will be considered for approval to apply pesticides to Parks Department property.

- The licensing variance must be specifically approved by the Parks Department's Licensed Applicators.
- The work must occur under the direction of a contractor-supplied, fully licensed supervisor.
- Before approval, there must be evidence that all trained and licensed applicators have sufficient previous pesticide application experience and a safety record to satisfy the Parks Department's approval process. Acceptable application experience may vary, but will be of sufficient assurance to Parks Department of employee competence and knowledge of safe work practices. Three to five months is a likely minimum experience interval for approval. Inexperienced trainee licensed applicators will not be allowed to apply pesticides to park land.

Contractors must satisfy all of the standard applicable city contractual language pertaining to pesticide applications. These subjects may include safety precautions, liability issues, and other responsibilities. These issues are dealt with in the contract language agreed to before the project commences by both city representatives and the contractor.

The performance record of contracting businesses applying pesticides to Parks Department lands shall also be regularly reviewed by Parks Department. This review shall include an examination of past work and safety performance.

### **Employees of the county vector and nuisance control agency:**

The Parks Department understands that there may be situations where the county vector and nuisance control agency has the need to apply pesticides to city property as part of their mandate to further public health goals. Communications from this agency stating their need for pesticide use for these purposes on park land will be responded to by the Licensed Applicator in a timely manner. Licensed public health endorsed applicators will be considered for approval to apply pesticides to Parks Department property. The Parks Department and the county will work together to arrive at mutual agreements for activities that address public health goals and good environmental stewardship.

**City of Ashland**  
**PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
340 S. Pioneer Street Ashland, OR 97520

**Pesticide Application Record (PAR)**  
(to be kept for 3 years)

Applicator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour(s) Spent Applying Pesticides (X.XX): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Park or Property: ENTER ONE CODE per Application Record: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Treated: CIRCLE ONE OR MORE below and/or fill in the blank:

TW- **treewells** FL-**fencelines** CR-**Cracks** BL-**bleachers** SH-**Shrub beds**  
P-**Ponds** DU-**Dugouts** BF-**Baseball fields** R-**Roses** W-**Wasps/Hornets**  
A-**Annuals** P-**Paths/Trails** TC-**Tennis Courts** SB-**Sloped Banks**

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical: ENTER ONE CODE FROM the APPROVED PESTICIDE LIST: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mixing Ratio: Liquids: \_\_\_\_\_ **Tablespoons per gallon** OR \_\_\_\_\_ **ounces per gallon**  
Granular: \_\_\_\_\_ **per** \_\_\_\_\_ **square feet of coverage**

Supplier: \_\_\_\_\_ EPA Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

Target Species **(be specific)** ENTER CODE(S) FROM SPECIES LIST and/or fill in blank.

CODE(S):: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Used: CIRCLE ONE (below) or fill in the blank:

BP-**Backpack** SQ-**Squeeze Bottle** HA-**Handheld** **Other:**

Weather Conditions: temperature: \_\_\_\_\_ wind conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

precipitation: \_\_\_\_\_ comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount of product applied (Tbsp. or ounces): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Parks\All Parks Users\Forms\Employee Stuff\Pesticide Application Record