

CITY OF TALENT  
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY  
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 5, 2018

## I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Synthetic pesticides generally contain toxic substances that may have a detrimental effect on human health and, in particular, have adverse effects on the most vulnerable: infants, children, elders, and individuals who are taking medications or have suppressed immune systems.

Toxic substances in pesticides may also have a detrimental impact on the well-being of plants, animals and other living beings and entire ecosystems due to the pollution of air, water and soil.

The purpose of this Integrated Pest Management Policy (Policy) is to provide the City of Talent (City) a means of reducing the use of pesticides to protect the health, safety and well-being of our residents, pollinators and environment.

## II. SCOPE OF POLICY

This Policy shall apply to all City Departments, operations and impacts under the City's jurisdiction, and not to those of its residents. However, an important Policy goal is to encourage education and outreach to expand these IPM Policy principles to all City residents and properties.

## III. POLICY GOALS

- Reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides, to be phased out within three years of adoption of this Policy.
- Prioritize prevention and non-chemical control methods in park, facility and streetscape planning and design, manual maintenance and ecological controls, instead of the use of pesticides (other than organic low hazard pesticides) which shall be used only as a last resort.
- Safeguard the health, safety and welfare of people, pollinators, pets and the environment. Pollinators, being essential to the health of environments and agricultural interests, and who are particularly protected in Talent, which is a Bee City, should warrant special care.
- Educate Talent community members as to the health and environmental hazards of pesticides, and work towards phasing out the sale, provision, use and disposal of such pesticides.

## IV. DEFINITIONS

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive but to define terms most commonly used in the Integrated Pest Management process.

**Ecological Control** is the control of a pest by the introduction of a natural enemy or predator.

**Emergency** includes pest emergencies that cause a risk to human health or significant economic crop loss or that create an urgent need to eliminate or mitigate a pest situation that threatens the health or safety of members of the public or the structural integrity of facilities, or noxious weed mitigation that cannot be otherwise managed through this Policy. Section 18 of EPA. ORS 634.700(6)

**Integrated Pest Management** is 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) managing the density of pest populations, 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 thresholds; (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.” Prevention is the prioritized strategy for an IPM program. Oregon Statute (ORS 262.1), Chapter 943.

**IPM Coordinator** – Public Works Director or his or her designee who is tasked with implementing this Policy into an Integrated Pest Management program. The IPM Coordinator will assist with and assure that the IPM program functions smoothly and interact directly at the department level in pest prevention or control. The IPM Coordinator will also plan and coordinate with the IPM Subcommittee to schedule and/or conduct training sessions for departments and greater community as needed.

**Organic pesticides** are products that have not been modified in any way from their original composition. The most common are plant oils. Many types of plants produce an odorous oil that can be used as both a deterrent for insects as well as a “contact kill.” Organic pesticides have not been changed or modified in any way, although they are many times diluted in water.

Examples may include but are not limited to: types of mint, diatomaceous earth, or boric acid.

**ORS** refers to the Oregon Revised Statutes.

**Pests** are organisms located where they are not wanted, and/or which may cause health, economic, aesthetic, or ecological damage. In this context, “weed” is a social, economic, and legal term, not a biological one.

**Pesticides** are defined as “any product to kill or control or mitigate a pest.” Pesticides include “insecticides” for use against insects, “herbicides” for use against weeds, “fungicides” for use against fungi or fungal spores, and “rodenticides” which kill rats and mice, etc.. Such products must be registered by the appropriate agency, be properly labeled and appropriately used.

**Restricted pesticides** Any products or synthetic pesticides that:

(a) Contain a pesticide product or active ingredient that has the signal words “warning” or “danger” on the label; (b) Contain a pesticide product classified as a human carcinogen or probable human carcinogen under the United States Environmental Protection Agency 1986 Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment; or (c) Contain a pesticide product classified as carcinogenic to humans or likely to be carcinogenic to humans under the United States Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment. ORS 634.705(5).

**Synthetic pesticide** is any product that has been modified by humans for the use of killing or repelling pests. The active ingredients are generally produced synthetically, e.g., are synthetic chemicals that prevent, mitigate, destroy, or repel any pest; or that act as a plant growth regulator, desiccant, defoliant or nitrogen stabilizer. There are many classes of synthetic pesticides. The main classes consist of organochlorines, organophosphates, carbamates, neonicotinoids, and pyrethroids. (EPA definition).

## **V. USE OF PESTICIDES BY CITY AND NON-CITY PERSONNEL**

All City Department and public and private entities and contractors (including subcontractors and volunteers) performing any work on City properties or within the portions of the Bear Creek Greenway under the City's jurisdiction, shall be bound by this Policy and shall coordinate with Public Works, or the IPM Coordinator as separately designated, prior to any pesticide application to ensure Policy compliance.

All new Intergovernmental and Joint Powers Agreements, contracts and franchise and other agreements for any work on City properties or within the portions of the Bear Creek Greenway under the City's jurisdiction, must be consistent with this Policy.

City staff and contractors shall provide documentation (to include date and time, location, synthetic pesticide type and quantity) of substances used, and the City shall maintain such documentation to be available for public review.

## **VI. PUBLIC WORKS AND IPM SUBCOMMITTEE**

The IPM Coordinator is charged with developing specific practices, (taking into account the Management Options listed in Paragraph VIII, below) a list of approved safer alternatives and methods, forms, signage and procedures for alternatives, application, safe handling and public warning/interaction that may be updated periodically without the need to modify this IPM Policy. The IPM Coordinator shall take the lead to work with and convene regular meetings with the Parks & Recreation Commission ("Parks Commission") and the IPM Subcommittee, to include a Parks Commission representative, a Together for Talent Committee representative, and a City Council Liaison, to assist with this process.

In practice, integrated pest management is continually evolving. The IPM Subcommittee shall hold quarterly meetings, to evaluate Policy implementation, report on all synthetic pesticide applications, share any pest-related concerns, new technologies and best practices, program-related information, or individual experiences with the general public/staff and to coordinate public outreach and education efforts in order to uphold the goals of this Policy. The IPM Subcommittee shall report to the Parks Commission during an open meeting at least annually.

Pesticide risks will be minimized by careful product selection and application, with emphasis on natural or organic remedies. When developing and updating the IPM program, City staff will rely on materials and methods, including science-based information, state university departments, university extension scientists, and other experts with emphasis on least toxic remedies.

## **VII. DECISION MAKING, EVALUATION**

The IPM Coordinator is tasked with creating a program that uses the most appropriate pest control methods and strategies in an environmentally and economically sound manner to meet the pest management objectives in alignment with the goals in this Policy.

These program decisions include:

- Preventing pest problems;
- Monitoring for the presence of pests and pest damage;

- Managing the density of pest populations 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 thresholds; and
- Treating pest problems to reduce populations below those levels established by damage thresholds using strategies that may include biological, cultural, mechanical and organic pesticide control methods and that shall consider human health, ecological impact, feasibility and cost effectiveness.

The IPM Subcommittee shall develop evaluation criteria to determine the effects and efficacy of the pest treatment strategies and shall evaluate the program on a quarterly basis.

## VIII. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

This Policy prioritizes prevention and non-chemical control measures by following a systematic approach that uses extensive knowledge about pests and their hosts, such as infestation thresholds, life cycles, and environmental requirements to compliment and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests.

Management Options shall include:

- Appropriate prevention strategies;
- Monitoring protocols with associated tolerance/action thresholds;
- Tiered application of control measures moving from non-chemical methods, to organic pesticides and to restricted pesticides only in emergencies; and
- Specific use requirements and restrictions for each control method and product.

All pesticides available for use within City grounds must first be placed upon an IPM-Subcommittee approved list after undergoing an IPM Subcommittee review process that carefully examines the characteristics of the individual product and whether it would be an appropriate addition within this Policy. Issues of efficacy, public health and safety, potential environmental impacts, overall plant health requirements, land management needs, and other concerns are considered during this process. Applicators must then make their choices of materials from the approved list.

**Principle:** Utilize non-chemical management options first, and only use chemicals as a last resort.

**Goal:** To implement a phased in approach that will reduce and eventually eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides in parks and other City properties.

The expectation is that volunteers will be engaged to participate whenever possible.

Synthetic chemical pesticide applications are used only after other IPM strategies have first been either employed or considered. The majority of pest management practices should ideally never involve the use of synthetic pesticides, with particular care given to sensitive areas such as playgrounds, waterways, dog parks and riparian areas.

## **Management options include:**

### **Landscapes and grassy areas:**

- Lawn / grassy areas
  - Mow, and mulch in grass clippings
  - Treat areas to amend soil and biology such as with a diluted molasses solution
  - Fertilize with organic fertilizer
  - Check that irrigation amount is appropriate
  
- Landscaped areas / beds
  - Mulch with woodchips, bark, other appropriate materials
  - Weed whack borders and edges where possible
  - Treat established plants with mycorrhizae
  - Fertilize with organic fertilizer
  - Check that irrigation amount is appropriate
  - Steam weed as available
  
- Right of ways
  - Weed whack or steam weed where possible

### **Insect pests:**

- Identify the pest and its life cycle – when is it a problem?
- Determine if the pest can be excluded or trapped
- Utilize an organic insecticide as the first chemical option
- Deploy ecological controls such as beneficial insects

### **Mammal Pests:**

- Identify the pest and its life cycle - what does it eat?
- Determine if the pest can be excluded or trapped
- Utilize a physical trap as first option

## **IX. ENDANGERED HABITAT, NON-TARGET AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

In the interest of preserving food, pollen, and nectar sources for endangered or threatened species, measures should be maintained to prevent widespread destruction of those sources. Some maintenance, landscaping, mowing, weeding and extensive use of toxic pesticides currently represent further degradation of vital or endangered species and therefore should be minimized or eliminated.

Measures should be taken to preserve endangered habitat and/or work around them where possible or practical, especially in playgrounds, waterways, dog parks and riparian areas, except where required in those rare City parks and public spaces that are maintained for aesthetic reasons, such as frequently managed turf areas, tree wells, ornamental plant beds and edges.

## **X. USE OF PESTICIDES – EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES AND WAIVERS**

True emergencies must first be correctly identified pursuant to the definition herein.

The City recognizes that circumstances may arise in which cultural, biological, and physical IPM practices may not be practical. If a situation is determined by the IPM Coordinator to be urgent/non-routine and requiring the use of a synthetic pesticide to achieve satisfactory levels of control, then the following steps shall be followed:

Before applying a restricted pesticide, IPM Coordinator must request a waiver and receive approval of the City Manager or his or her designee, prior to any such application. When applying a waiver, the applicant shall provide substantial proof that they have exhausted all reasonable alternatives to the use of restricted pesticides. In deciding waiver requests, the City Manager shall balance the true emergency or need for the use of restricted pesticides against the express goals of this IPM Policy. Restricted pesticide shall only be applied after a waiver is granted by the City. All applications, waiver determinations and documentation shall be provided to the IPM Subcommittee on a quarterly basis.

The use of occasional wasp or hornet sprays by employees or contractors who may otherwise be at risk of insect stings shall not be covered by this section, except that reports of such use shall be made to the IPM Coordinator, and persons who may be affected shall be given advance notice if time permits.

It is critical that pesticide actions undertaken with the guidance of this Policy should take great care to limit such actions in consideration of vital species such as common pollinators and non-target (not intended) species. Pollinators, being essential to the health of environments and agricultural interests, should warrant special care and be encouraged and invited into our community. Some pollinators should receive great care to be moved or otherwise discouraged if they become public threats. Such threats should also be clearly defined, as in the case of bees, by the *City of Talent Policy on Bee Swarms/Extractions*.

## **XI. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

The IPM Subcommittee shall develop a plan for education and outreach into the greater community. This plan may include:

- Signage in parks to indicate management strategies being implemented;
- Community workshops, classes, and events to educate the public, staff, and professionals about reducing pesticide use and provide information from content experts about how to implement an organic IPM program; and
- Resources provided to interested citizens who want to learn more about the Talent IPM program or how they can implement their own.

## **XII. REVIEW AND MODIFICATION**

The IPM Subcommittee may propose changes to this Policy periodically for Parks Commission review prior to that Commission recommending changes to Council.