

CHAPTER 3 Vegetation Management Use Policy

SECTION 3.01 Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to guide the vegetation management procedures and use of pesticides and fertilizers to control vegetation in Village owned property.

SECTION 3.02 Policy

It is the policy of the Village to responsibly manage the vegetation for all Village properties. Village Staff shall use Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) techniques to manage vegetation on all properties maintained by the Village. Utilizing IPM techniques will minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides and fertilizers whenever feasible to promote good environmental stewardship.

SECTION 3.03 Definitions and Terms

- (a) **Applicator.** A person using any amendment on properties. An applicator can be Public Works Staff, hired contractor, or a volunteer. Hired contractors shall be certified and licensed to apply pesticides in Wisconsin by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP). All Public Works Staff and volunteers shall be State certified or working under the direct supervision of a State certified applicator.

- (b) **Categories.**
 - (1) **Category “A” Areas.** Parks, recreation facilities and other Village properties that will have a 15% or less weed density. These areas include athletic fields due to player safety and parks and facilities that receive high public use or visibility. These areas are maintained with an herbicide application, fertilizer, and finish mower.

 - (2) **Category “B” Areas.** Parks, recreation facilities and other Village properties that will have a 16 - 30% weed density. These are general use areas where turf quality and appearance is important but not critical. These areas are maintained with an herbicide application, fertilizer, and finish mower.

 - (3) **Category “C” Areas.** Natural or native areas that will have a higher tolerance for weeds. These areas include natural areas such as ditch lines and roadsides. These areas also include native habitats such as prairies, woodlands and wetlands. These areas are maintained with rough cut mowers, prescribed burning, herbicide application and ecological restoration. Herbicide application is targeted towards invasive and non-native species within these areas.

 - (4) **Category “Z” Areas.** Herbicide free areas within parks or whole parks. In an effort to minimize herbicide exposure, the Village will prohibit the use of herbicides within play structure borders and designated parks entirely as herbicide pesticide free. Although these areas are herbicide free, Public Works Staff will utilize herbicide alternative IPM techniques to alleviate weed issues.

- (c) **Fertilizer.** A chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase fertility.
- (d) **Hard Surface Areas.** Sidewalks/walkways, parking lots, trails, basketball courts, etc. in parks, recreation facilities and other Village properties.
- (e) **Herbicide.** An agent, usually a chemical, used to destroy or inhibit plant growth.
- (f) **Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** This program is a sustainable, science-based, decision-making process that combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools to identify, manage and reduce risk from pests and pest management tools and strategies in a way that minimizes overall economic, health and environmental risks. IPM provides effective, all-encompassing strategies for managing pests in all arenas, including all forms of agricultural production, military landscapes, public health settings, schools, public buildings, wildlife management, residential facilities and communities, as well as public lands including natural, wilderness and aquatic areas. (National Road Map for IPM – 2018)
- (g) **IPM Coordinator.** Public Works Staff member responsible for developing and implementing the Village’s IPM program. The IPM coordinator shall be State certified under the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection’s (“WDATCP”) Pesticide Applicator Certification Program.
- (h) **Pest.** Any organism (microbes, insects, plants or animals) that poses economic, health, aesthetic or environmental risk. Pests are context-specific, so an organism that is a pest in one environment may be benign or beneficial in others. (National Road Map for IPM – 2018)
- (i) **Pesticide.** Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest (epa.gov). The term pesticide includes, but is not limited to the following: herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, rodenticide and animal repellent.
- (j) **Rinsate.** A diluted mixture of pesticide or pesticides with water, solvents, oils or other substances produced from cleaning application equipment and container rinsing.
- (k) **Weed Density.** Percent coverage of weeds of an application area.

SECTION 3.04 Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) Practices

- (a) Pest management strategies may include education, maintenance, biological and mechanical controls, and pre-approved, site-appropriate herbicides.
- (b) An IPM decision at a park, recreation facility or other Village property shall consist of the following steps:
 - (1) Identify pest species.
 - (2) Estimate pest populations and compare to established action thresholds.

- (3) Select the appropriate management tactics based on current on-site information.
- (4) Assess effectiveness of pest management.
- (5) Keep appropriate records.

SECTION 3.05 Category Classification

(a) **Category A (15% of less weed density).** This includes the following parks and other Village properties:

- (1) Arnold Larson Park
- (2) Brandt Park – Softball Fields
- (3) E.D. Locke Public Library
- (4) Lewis Park – Baseball Field
- (5) Municipal Center
- (6) Public Works Center
- (7) William McFarland Park

(b) **Category B (16 – 30% weed density).** This includes the following parks and other Village properties:

- (1) Autumn Grove Park
- (2) Brandt Park – General Open Spaces
- (3) Cedar Ridge Park
- (4) Egner Park
- (5) Highland Oaks Park
- (6) Lewis Park – General Open Space
- (7) Legion Memorial Park
- (8) McDaniel Park
- (9) Orchard Hill Park
- (10) Road Rights of Way and Road Median Strips
- (11) Siggelkow Road Park
- (12) Woodland Estates Park

- (c) **Category C** . This includes the following parks and other Village properties:
- (1) Conservancy Areas – Grandview, Taylor Road, Thurn Marsh, and Yahara River.
 - (2) John Urso Park (Dog Park)
 - (3) Indian Mound Conservation Park
 - (4) Jaeger Park
 - (5) Lift Stations – All
 - (6) Marsh Woods Park
 - (7) Street End Lake Access – Beckler Street, Bellevue Court, Field Avenue, Lakeview Avenue, Larson Street, South Court Street, and Wisconsin Avenue.
 - (8) Wells #2 and #3
 - (9) Woodland Commons Conservancy Park
- (d) **Category Z (herbicide free)**. This includes the following parks and other Village properties:
- (1) All playground and sandbox structures
 - (2) Discovery Garden Park
 - (3) Lot(s) – Glenway Street, Long Street, and Terminal Drive.
 - (4) Ridgeview Totlot Park
 - (5) Valley Totlot Park
 - (6) Well #1

SECTION 3.06 Guidelines for Pesticide Use

- (a) Pesticides may be considered if non-toxic methods of pest control have shown to be ineffective; and the pest will cause unacceptable health or safety hazards, or an unacceptable decrease in the intended use of the property. When a pesticide must be used in order to meet the pest management objectives, the least-hazardous material, adequate for the application, will be chosen.

- (b) The IPM Coordinator and Applicators should stay informed of current best practices and consult with pesticide experts. A regular review and evaluation of current and alternative pest control methods shall occur annually.
- (c) Any use of a pesticide under EPA Special Review is prohibited.

SECTION 3.07 Practices and Procedures

(a) Pesticide Use Notification.

- (1) A standard notification plan that provides, at a minimum, readily visible posting for a period of 24 hours prior to a pesticide application (when possible) and a minimum of 48 hours following the application. These time intervals may be decreased or extended based on health or safety concerns and product label requirements.
- (2) It shall be the responsibility of the IPM Coordinator, or their designee, to inform the public of all pesticide treatment dates utilizing the Village website, Village run social media and an email sent to effected user groups a minimum of 24 hours prior to application. If a treatment is forced to be rescheduled, an updated notification must be posted and resent.
- (3) On-site pesticide use notification must include information consistent with the WDATCP requirements for commercial applications with:
 - (i) Pesticide common chemical or brand name.
 - (ii) Date and time of application.
 - (iii) Post-application or reentry precautions.
 - (iv) Date and time of reentry.
 - (v) Contact information.
 - (vi) Application site.

(b) Pesticide Application.

- (1) The controlled use of pesticides shall be applied using the following practices and procedures:
 - (i) The Applicator will follow application rates, methods of application, application guidelines and wear all personal protective equipment required by the product label and Safety Data Sheet (“SDS”).

- (ii) Spot application will be utilized as opposed to broadcast application whenever feasible.
- (iii) Caution will be used when applying pesticides along waterways, playgrounds, close proximity to storm drains, etc. and applied according to the product label or manufactures recommended setback or buffer zones.

(c) **Fertilizer Application.**

- (1) The controlled use of fertilizers to improve the growth of plants shall be applied using the following practices:
 - (i) The Applicator will follow application rates, methods of application, application guidelines and wear all personal protective equipment required by the product label and SDS.
 - (ii) Fertilizers may be used when establishing or re-establishing new turf areas.
 - (iii) The amount of fertilizer applied to Village properties will be determined by soil testing results, technical standards provided by Wisconsin DNR Turf Nutrient Management (1100) and the product label.
 - (iv) Fertilizers will be swept off or removed from hard surfaces.
 - (v) Fertilizers will not be applied with in the required setback or buffer zone of any waterway or water conveyance system as indicated by product label.
 - (vi) If a fertilizer has restricted re-entry interval per label instructions, utilize the posting requirements for pesticide applications.

(d) **Turf Management.**

- (1) The use of IPM techniques to manage turf fields for aesthetics and user safety using the following practices:
 - (i) It shall be the goal of the Village to maintain healthy turf by means of aeration, thatching and organic fertilization.
 - (ii) An objective assessment, completed by the IPM coordinator, will gather data to estimate percent coverage of weeds of an application site. Data will be collected at random locations in the application site by means of quadrat frame sampling.
 - (iii) When an herbicide application is required to control the weed population for player safety or usability of turf areas the least hazardous material, adequate for the application, will be chosen.

- (iv) Another assessment will be completed after the application to determine effectiveness of the application.

(e) **Record Keeping and Reporting.**

- (1) The IPM Coordinator will maintain records of all pest control applications and assessment data collection for at least seven (7) years. Information regarding pest management activities will be made available to the public at the Public Works Center. Requests to be notified of pesticide applications may also be made to this office, requests must be renewed annually. The Village is not responsible for undeliverable notifications.
- (2) The IPM Coordinator will create a yearend summary of pest management activities. The summary will be provided to the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Committee.

(f) **Pesticide Disposal and Minimization.**

- (1) Applicators should create an application plan to determine the immediate needs of pesticide required. Only the amounts of the immediate plans should be purchased, stored, and prepared.
- (2) Rinsate should be reduced by using water-efficient measures to clean equipment and pesticide containers and utilize rinsate in future pesticide applications following the pesticide label.
- (3) Pesticides and rinsate that cannot be used must be disposed of according to local, state, and federal regulations.

(g) **Spill Prevention and Response.**

- (1) Precautions must be taken to prevent spills and be prepared for spill cleanup. Mixing, loading, emptying and rinsing must be done on an impervious surface. Spill absorbents shall be readily available in sufficient supply.
- (2) Applicators are responsible for immediate cleanup of any pesticide spills. All spills must be reported to the IPM Coordinator once the spill has been reasonably contained. In the case of large spills that may have an adverse impact on human health and/or the environmental, the spill must be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 24-hour Spill Emergency Helpline (1-800-943-0003).

(h) **Contractors.**

- (1) If Public Works finds it best to utilize a private contractor for a pesticide application, the contracts for these services will require the contractor to comply with this policy. All contracted Applicators will be provided a copy of this policy and a pre-spray meeting will be conducted to review the policies and procedures of this document.

- (2) The contractor will supply the IPM Coordinator with the following for each pesticide applied:
 - (i) Advanced notification of pesticide application to provide advanced notification.
 - (ii) Date, purpose, location, amount of pesticide solution used, and amount of active ingredient for each application.
 - (iii) Copies of product labeling and material safety data sheets for each pesticide applied.
 - (iv) Documentation of applicator certification and licensing for type of application.
- (3) The IPM Coordinator will monitor the application and assess effectiveness of application.
- (4) If a contractor is found to be out of compliance with this policy, this non-compliance will be considered grounds for terminating any existing contract the Village has with the contractor and the contractor will not be allowed to enter into a contract with the Village for one (1) year after the date the non-compliance was determined.
 - (i) A list of non-compliant contractors will be kept by the IPM Coordinator.
 - (ii) If the non-compliance is also in violation of product labeling, State or Federal laws, or any other reportable violation, the DPW staff member will be required to report the violation to the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection.

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