

Pest Management Policy Statement

Pests, such as rodents and insects that infest structures, may carry diseases; contaminate food and food preparation areas; damage buildings; and may cause significant structural damages. They may also pose significant risk to people, property, and the environment. Landscape pests such as weeds, insects, and diseases, pose significant problems to residents and users of properties. Pesticide use may also pose risk through unnecessary exposure to people, property, and the environment. The pest management program within the City of Belmont shall protect the health and safety of citizens and minimize damages to public parks, grounds, and structures. This program will also improve the quality of the environment by avoiding unnecessary annoyance and disruptions of daily activities. It is the policy of the City of Belmont to adopt, and review on an annual basis, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to control pests on city maintained grounds.

Roles and Responsibilities

The IPM program will require the assistance and cooperation of all staff and residents of the City of Belmont. The City of Belmont has appointed a contact person that will serve as the liaison amongst all involved and interested parties. This individual will oversee the pest management program and ensure that the provisions of the IPM program are fulfilled. The contact person shall advise administrative staff and City Council of changes and new laws affecting the IPM policy and program, and will address all questions and concerns regarding the IPM policy and programs as well as pest management practices. The contact person will address problem areas identified during the pest inspection and monitoring process.

Name of Contact Person: Anthony Cooper

Mailing Address: Po Box 431 Belmont, NC 28012

Phone Number: 704-901-2073

Email Address:

Integrated Pest Management Program and Procedures

The City of Belmont defines Integrated Pest Management as a pest management program where control is achieved through multiple tactics including prevention, cultural practices, pesticides, exclusion, natural enemies, and host resistance. The goal is to achieve long-term control of pests while minimizing the risk of potential pesticide exposure to individuals and the environment. This program will be implemented throughout city maintained parks, streets, and cemeteries.

IPM procedures will determine when to control pests and will help to identify conditions contributing to pest problems. This will be accomplished by sight monitoring and by conducting thorough inspections of the grounds on a monthly basis.

Organic Practices and Products include:

- Mowing at the proper height and frequency to discourage weeds
- Shredding grass clippings and leaves and returning them to the soil

Reduced Chemical Herbicide Program:

- Eliminate use of products containing 2, 4-D, Dicamba, MCPP and Simazine
- Restrict use of Fusilade, Surflan, and Snapshot to planter and color beds
- Reduce broadcast application of a low toxicity non-selective herbicide in public parks to one application per year if needed
- Limit hand sprayer applications of Roundup in all parks to tree rings, fence lines, and other surfaces to control vegetation where hand edging is required
- Limit the application of Rodeo to the banks of creeks and ponds with hand sprayers only
- Limit the application of Primo to regulate turf growth around hardscape items
- Limit use of Orthene to spot treat individual fire ant mounds

Public Notification & Community Impact

- A few days prior to application, signs shall be posted on site to notify the public of what product will be used, the pest to be controlled, a contact person or site for more information; and when it will be applied, and should remain on site for at least 72 hours after the application
- Applications are to be scheduled at such times that would minimize contact with the general public
- The designated contact person shall coordinate with the city's Parks and Recreation department to schedule applications so as not to conflict with events held in the parks
- The designated contact person will coordinate with the Watershed Protection Manager and Stormwater Coordinator to assess storm water quality throughout the park system
- To conserve water and minimize the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides – the city will select plants that will thrive in established conditions
- Future design of parks, and landscapes within parks, will consider site planning and plant selection consistent with the IPM program, maintenance plan, and master park plan
- Staff will continue to seek out opportunities for training related to IPM, and to evaluate new programs and products as they become available.

Record Keeping

Records of pest management activities shall be kept by the City of Belmont as well as any contractors hired for pest management control. These records will include: accurate records of pest inspections; surveillance activities; sightings (example: type and number of pests, locations, and other indicators of pest population) and remedies. This information may be used to verify the need for treatments and may also be utilized during program evaluation exercises.

Pesticide Storage and Disposal

Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the [North Carolina Pesticide Law of 1971, G.G. 143-434, Article 52](#) and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registered label directions.

Pesticide Applications

The least hazardous pesticides shall be selected. The method and time of the application shall be based on the goals of achieving long-term control of pests while minimizing the risk of potential pesticide exposure to individuals and the environment. Pesticide applications made on City of Belmont property shall be conducted following state and FIFRA pesticide regulations, and product label precautions.

Program Evaluation

A review of the IPM strategies shall be conducted annually, or before, if deemed necessary, to determine the effectiveness of the program. This includes a review of all pesticide use, pest inspection, pest surveillance, action threshold levels, and pest control procedures undertaken.