

City of Morgan Hill
2018 Annual Report
Integrated Pest Management
for Facilities, Parks, Streets and
Public Open Space



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Integrated Pest Management Plan Overview	3
Plan Requirements and Current Practices	3
Pest Problem Trends	4
2018 Usage Data – Performed by City of Morgan Hill Staff.....	5
2019 IPM Plan Goals	6
End of Document	6

Integrated Pest Management Plan Overview

The goal of the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan is to align city maintenance practices in public buildings, parks, landscaped grounds, public right of way and open space areas with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to pest control.

The IPM Plan applies to all city facilities and all maintenance activities, and the Management Policy Statement of the plan defines it as a tool to assist the City of Morgan Hill to carry out pest management operations using Integrated Pest Management techniques in a manner to control pests effectively, and to minimize the use of pesticides. Per the plan, whenever feasible, non-toxic alternative pest control methods will be used and efforts will be made by the City to seek new technology, best management practices and the least toxic approaches to address all pest control issues. The Plan is available for the use of City employees for educating staff and the public about the City's commitment to, and implementation of, IPM practices.

Plan Requirements and Current Practices

The IPM Plan includes a Management Policy Statement, Implementation Responsibilities, Citywide IPM Requirements, Staff Training, Record Keeping and Annual Reports.

Currently, the City's Maintenance Manager has the responsibility to administer and manage the IPM plan and all regulatory reporting for work performed by City Staff. City managed contractors that perform pesticide applications are required to obtain the proper licensing, are required to report usage to any regulatory agencies per their permits, must submit pesticides used on City property for review and must abide by all rules listed in the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan.

City staff currently performs weed abatement in parks, public rights of way (ROW), and utility roadways & pathways, while City managed contractors perform this same service on street medians, and facilities landscapes. Any pesticides utilized cannot contain a signal word of "Danger" or "Warning" on the label for routine maintenance, while pesticides with a signal word of "Caution" are allowed.

Although not required by State or Federal regulations, the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan continues the requirement that City owned or maintained parks are posted for public

City of Morgan Hill Integrated Pest Management 2018 Annual Report

knowledge a minimum of 3 days prior to a pesticide application, and the posting cannot be removed any earlier than 1 day after it is safe to re-enter the application area.

The City IPM Plan also defines that employees that will be applying pesticides be trained per the CA Department of Pesticide Regulations requirements, and that the IPM Administrator informs all City staff on an annual basis of the City's IPM Plan, restrictions on pesticide usage, and appropriate procedures for controlling pests. All City staff who apply pesticides have undergone training performed by Target Specialty Products in October of 2018. City Staff will be notified via e-mail of the IPM requirements in the form of the current soft copy document and a list of bullet point items of the critical points of the plan required of staff that do not perform pesticide application as a part of their normal job duties.

Pest Problem Trends

Pest trends in calendar year 2018 included continued problems with cattails blocking the waterways within the channel adjacent to Butterfield Boulevard. During the final quarter of 2018, a pesticide, Clearcast Herbicide, was recommended at a Pesticide Applicator Professional Association (PAPA) Seminar that has had a notable effect toward the reduction of these pests. Also notable is the fact that Clearcast is not a regulated pesticide and therefore does not require a permit for use Clearcast is not reportable to the regulating agencies, making this a desirable pesticide to continue use due to the low toxic effects, which is a start to potentially reducing the use of more aggressive pesticides on City rights of way. The higher than normal rodent activity in Community Park, reported in the 2017 IPM report has seen some improvement based on a more aggressive, but less toxic, practice of utilizing carbon monoxide gas in the holes and dens of the burrowing animals. The gas is heavier than air, so it remains in the tunnel and burrow systems. The gas is directly injected into the ground with a wand that penetrates the underground tunnels and burrows, and remains underground, eliminating exposure to the public. Insect activity at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center (CCC), as well as other City facilities have seen less activity, due in part to changing the contract schedule to allow more frequent site visits. An addition to the pest control contracts for our facilities was the elimination of chemical control for rodents. All rodent removal will occur by mechanical traps, which is lowering pesticide use and the eliminating the possibility of unintended secondary contamination to non-target species.

**City of Morgan Hill
Integrated Pest Management 2018 Annual Report**

2018 Usage Data – Performed by City of Morgan Hill Staff

The following table denotes the amount of pesticides used to treat our City ROW and Parks for calendar year 2018:

Pesticide	Streets			Pesticide	Parks			
	Amount	Unit	Acreage		Amount	Unit	Acreage	
Ranger Pro	69.3	gal	74.67	Ranger Pro	17.3	gal	17.5	
Dimension Ultra WP	11.4	gal						
Milestone VM	4.0	gal						
Target Pro-Spreader	4.6	gal						

2019 IPM Plan Goals

Notable in the 2018 Usage Data section is the fact that the parks usage of Ranger Pro was reduced by 54%, due to the non-treatment of Paradise Park and Trails with this chemical which contains glyphosate. While this met our goal of the proposed pilot project, there was a delay setting up the training to work with the Beyond Pesticides organization. This resulted in an increase in full and part time labor to manually reduce the weeds by cutting the areas twice during the season, which is typically only performed once. This increased weed abatement labor in the area by almost double, as this activity is far more labor intensive than weed abatement spraying.

For the 2019 calendar year, the herbicide free pilot project at Paradise Park will continue. Through the partnership with Beyond Pesticides, staff hope to achieve increased productivity through alternate weed abatement means. In order to maintain this effort after 2019, the pilot project must meet the criteria of successfully eliminating the use of chemicals with the new alternate methods, while maintaining the once a year weed cutting, thereby eliminating the labor required for the second cut. During this pilot, staff will be reviewing safe alternative pesticides (that do not contain glyphosate) and testing them in other areas so that in the event a pesticide free program is found to be non-effective, either in cost or expected results, a combination of these methods may be determined to be the best course of action for the future.

An annual refresher training for staff will be completed by the end of the first quarter of the calendar year, including an overview of CA Department of Pesticide Regulations for employees who apply pesticides in the course of their duties, as well as training on forms for IPM Coordinators, and a copy of the current IPM plan will be sent to each employee.

The IPM administrator is reviewing training and networking opportunities in 2019 for relevant City employees in order to increase the effectiveness of the IPM plan administration and performance.

End of Document