

City of Morgan Hill
2020 Annual Report
Integrated Pest Management
for Facilities, Parks, Streets and
Public Open Space



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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 and are required to report usage to any regulatory agencies per their permits and 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" on the label for routine maintenance, while pesticides with a signal word of "Caution" are allowed. In 2020, it became apparent that the City's restrictions mandating no use of pesticides using the signal work of "Warning" would limit the use of some possible glyphosate alternatives. Due to this, the next update to the City of Morgan Hill's IPM will allow some exceptions for pesticides with the signal word "Warning". Specifically, pesticides that are

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organic in nature, but contain the signal work “Warning” can be acceptable, but the use is limited, and the pesticide has to be approved by the IPM Administrator or their delegate prior to use.

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 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 certifications that are renewable every two years which require 20 hours of continuing education training prior to obtain a recertification. All City employees performing this work were compliant in 2020. All City Staff are annually 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

The rodent activity in Community Park continues to be reduced by the continued use of the use of a less toxic, practice of utilizing carbon monoxide gas into the holes and dens of the burrowing animals. The City owned and maintained buildings continued to be serviced regularly by contract services and remains successful.

In the fall of 2020, excessive rodent population in the City owned parking garage in the downtown began to be reported by users and nearby business owners. Although the City owns the facility, the pesticide maintenance is delegated to the retail business owners located in the facility. The City reviewed the problem, and worked with business owners late in 2020, and into 2021. Additional physical barriers were added by the City, and new pest control specialists were hired to maintain the ongoing trapping, as rodenticides have been restricted from use in the City of Morgan Hill buildings and properties. At the time of this report, there have been no recent reports of rodents in the structure.

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2020 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 2020:

Pesticide	Streets			Pesticide	Parks		
	Amount	Unit	Acreage		Amount	Unit	Acreage
Ranger Pro - Oz	64.00	gal	61.36	Ranger Pro - Oz	0.00	gal	0
Dimension Ultra WP -Oz	4.53	gal					
Capstone	18.13	gal					
No Foam B	0.23	gal					

2021 IPM Plan Goals

Notable in the 2020 Usage Data section is the fact that the parks usage of Ranger Pro was reduced from 9.5 gallons in 2019, to 0 usage in 2020, thereby eliminating the use of pesticides in parks. This reduction, however, has increased the level of cutting required to maintain weed populations in the parks, and has resulted in increased complaints of weeds in the fringe areas of parks and along trails. While other alternatives continue to be reviewed by City staff to maintain our ability in maintaining the weeds, more test products and practices will be used in 2021 as continuing with our current practices will not be a sustainable approach based on the current and forecasted future budgets.

For the 2021 calendar year, additional pesticides with organic active ingredients will be tested, as well as some alternative practices and use of organic ground covers in test areas.

Annual training for staff will continue to be completed in the fall, prior to fall pesticide applications, 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 will continue to monitor staff performing pesticide applications to assure proper training and continuing education is up to date as required by the California Department of Pesticide regulation.

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