

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

IPM PROGRAM PRACTICES AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

IPM POLICY STATEMENT

Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks (AACRP) is committed to providing parks with pest-free environments through the implementation of preventive methods and chemical strategies when necessary.

Beginning in 2013, AACRP adopted a pest prevention program known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for park grounds and athletic fields. The goal is to provide a safe and healthy recreational environment which is conducive to effective staff productivity, public enjoyment, and progressive resource conservation by managing pests and their environments while balancing costs and benefits with human health and environmental quality.

Since AACRP properties, facilities and programs are often contiguous physically, programmatically, geographically and operationally to Anne Arundel County Public School properties it was deemed imperative that there be a high degree of standardization, commonality and uniformity in pest management philosophy.

IPM PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Pests and pesticides can pose significant problems and risks to people, property, and the environment. The incorporation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of landscape pests will:

- Minimize the amount and toxicity of pesticides used in the park facilities;
- Eliminate unnecessary pesticide applications;
- Provide IPM education to the public, park users and park staff;
- Improve landscape and grounds cleanliness;
- Utilize only Licensed, Certified and Registered Technician pesticide applicators;
- Reduce or eliminate exposure of children, vulnerable adults, nursing mothers with infants and pets to pesticide applications;
- Provide universal public and staff notification.

IPM PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Pesticide Applications

AACRP may use pesticides after it is determined that non-toxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted. The least hazardous pesticide is selected; the method and time of application is based on AACRP's goal to minimize the potential for exposure of park users and staff.

Pesticide applications made in or on park property are conducted by individuals licensed and certified as a pest control applicators or by a registered technician working under the supervision of a certified applicator.

Pesticide applications are made on park grounds only when:

- Weather and wind conditions (<5–10 mph) permit to prevent spray drifting;
- After normal school hours or summer dismissal for park/school conjoined properties;
- During staffed park scheduled closures, on weekends or after reviewing field use schedules.

Universal Notification

AACRP provides universal notifications in all parks, athletic facilities and managed natural areas as appropriate and includes specific information for the public at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the application.

Universal notification of planned pesticide spraying is accomplished through:

- The AACRP internet homepage re pesticide application schedules and pesticide product/safety information;
- Individual staffed park facility web sites re pesticide application schedules and pesticide product/safety information;
- Sign posting at all staffed parks, community parks and athletic facilities at least twenty four (24) hours in advance, allowing a 2 week application window, in addition to a rescheduling option in case of weather or circumstance difficulties, whenever a pesticide application is necessary;
- Forty eight hour posted Warning signage and closure of playground areas following pesticide application;
- Warning/closure of vehicular access to areas of community parks during applications;
- Restrict applications to public school conjoined-park properties to periods when children are not present.

Other supporting strategies:

- Inspection and monitoring of property for pests populations;
- Action thresholds to establish the point or the level of pest population at which pest control action will be taken;
- Sanitation and increased tidiness of park and athletic areas to prevent or minimize pest populations;

- Physical, cultural and mechanical controls as initial pest control techniques instead of pesticide applications;
- Biological controls as use of living organisms to control pests;
- Education of park staff and the public regarding potential park pest problems as well as how IPM policies and procedures will be used to achieve the desired pest management;
- Recordkeeping of pest surveys and pesticide use are maintained by Park Administration for 2 years to meet regulatory compliance;
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and Product Labels are maintained by the Administration and pesticide applicators, warning information posted on notification signage and records are available for public review upon request;
- Pesticide Sensitive List ...Anne Arundel County residents registered on the Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Sensitive List will receive written and oral notification of a scheduled pesticide application if the registered property abuts that of a park or athletic property that will be undergoing a pesticide application.
- Emergency Applications result in written universal notifications and postings issued within twenty-four (24) hours after the application or the next day.