



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

RECREATION AND PARKS  
DEPARTMENT

# Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement

COLUMBUS RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

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# **CRPD Mission and Background Statement**

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Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's (CRPD) mission is to connect the people of our community through the power of nature, wellness and creativity. With 380 parks, six golf courses, more than 120 miles of trails, 29 community centers, eight outdoor pools and the largest ball diamond complex in the country, CRPD is the premier health and wellness destination for residents. Columbus Recreation and Parks is committed to the National Recreation and Park Association's pillars of health and wellness, conservation and social equity. Our department offers safe and well-maintained parks and facilities and high-quality programs, which are affordable to our residents. The strategic management and stewardship of our 15,000 acres of city-owned parkland, facilities and open spaces is a critical department priority.

# **Purpose of Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement**

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Columbus residents value the recreational opportunities provided by the city's parks, trails, golf courses and athletic fields. CRPD has the unique responsibility to provide those opportunities while stewarding our city's environmental and economic assets. The department is committed to responsible land management to protect and grow those opportunities for current and future generations of Columbus residents.

The purpose of Columbus Recreation and Parks' Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement is to define and document the pest management practices and processes that govern the department's use of pesticides and fertilizers within our 15,000 acres. The policy and land management chemical usage list in Appendix A provides meaningful, standardized data regarding our annual chemical usage. The policy and annual usage data are reviewed and updated annually by an Intradepartmental Park and Turf Management Committee to ensure that best management practices are upheld.

# Scope and Definitions

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This policy includes pesticides, fertilizers and other landscaping chemicals applied to land managed by Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD). Fertilizers are included under the policy and usage data sheet for completeness of our recorded usage and to document fertilizers containing registered pesticides. Brief definitions related to the policy are as follows:

**Asset Class:** An internal Columbus Recreation and Parks designation applied to all land managed by the department. Examples include golf courses, gardens, nurseries, athletic fields and parks.

**Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) and EIQ-Field Use Rating (FUR):** The Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) is a value that rates the impact of pesticides. Cornell University develops the EIQs through a formula including effects on the applicator, the park user and the environment. The EIQ values listed in Appendix A were released May 2019. The EIQ-Field Use Rating (EIQ-FUR) is a further calculation developed to account for different formulations of the same active ingredient and different use patterns. Detailed explanation is provided in the policy document.

**Fertilizer:** A substance applied to soil or plant tissues to supply nutrients essential to plant growth. Primary macronutrients contained in fertilizer include nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

**Hard Surface Areas:** Sidewalks, walkways, trails, parking lots, tennis courts, basketball courts and other impervious surfaces within CRPD's facilities and parks.

**Herbicides:** A chemical that destroys or inhibits plant growth; used to eradicate unwanted plants such as weeds and grasses.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 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" (USDA 2018<sup>1</sup>).

**Non-Selective Herbicides:** Chemicals designed to eradicate all "green" plant life.

**Pesticides:** Chemicals used to control pests, including weeds (epa.gov). Pesticides may include, but are not limited to, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, bactericides, acaricides, miticides and rodenticides.

**Plant Pests:** Any living stage of insects, mites, nematodes, slugs, snails, protozoa, other invertebrate animals, bacteria, fungi, other parasitic plants, parasitic plant parts, viruses, any other similar organism, or any infectious substances that can injure, infect or damage any plants or plant products.

**Properly Trained Staff:** Employees or contractors who have obtained the proper application certification or license where applicable, and have been educated and trained in the proper handling, application and storage of the products according to the manufacturer and the product Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

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<sup>1</sup> USDA-ARS (United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service). 2018. A national road map for integrated pest management. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSPUserFiles/OPMP/IPM%20Road%20Map%20FINAL.pdf>

**Quick-Release Fertilizer:** Fertilizer formulated to release its nutrients quickly over a period of days or weeks. This quick release of nutrients provides immediate nutrients to the turf.

**Safety Data Sheet (SDS):** The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) provides workers with pertinent physical and chemical data, toxicity, potential effects and proper handling procedures for a particular substance. An SDS is required by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) for any chemical determined to pose a potential physical or health hazard.

**Selective Herbicides:** Chemicals designed to eradicate specific plants, such as broadleaf weeds, while not harming the other plant species that share common turf areas.

**Slow-Release Fertilizer:** Fertilizer formulated to release its nutrients over an extended period of time.

**Threshold:** Describes a level of pest presence or pest damage above which the negative impact to the environment, asset, intended public use and aesthetics are deemed unacceptable by the department's standards.

**Weeds:** A plant species that is determined to be undesirable for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to: safety, human health hazards, ecological integrity and aesthetic value.

# CRPD's Philosophy Regarding Integrated Pest Management

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## Integrated Pest Management

CRPD's pest management practices are guided by the following considerations:

- Promotion of public enjoyment
- Protection of public health and safety
- Conservation of assets, including biodiverse assets
- Fiscal responsibility

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department uses the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment (USEPA 2019).

Principles of Integrated Pest Management include:

1. Pest identification.
2. Monitoring and assessing for the presence and density of pest populations and pest damage.
3. Establishing aesthetic and functional thresholds for insects, fungal diseases, weeds and other invasive species on managed land.
4. Treating affected areas to reduce the pest population or pest damage to below established thresholds.
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment plan.

IPM is widely recognized as a sound approach for land managed by the department. Under Columbus Recreation and Parks' policy, the most environmentally sensitive actions will be taken to control invasive species, weeds and other pests on an ongoing basis wherever economically feasible. Pesticides may be applied in the most sparing, economic and safest way possible. Any mitigating action to reduce pest pressure will be designed to target a specific pest and to limit impacts to human health and the environment.

## Intradepartmental Park and Turf Management Committee

Columbus Recreation and Parks has formed an internal committee of technical experts and departmental staff tasked with land management in the following sections: Sports, Golf, Parks and Natural Resources. This committee will annually evaluate pest management practices, compile pesticides used, research and propose recommended changes and adopt an updated policy to reflect implementation. The committee facilitates collaboration across all maintenance and turf management sections within the department, along with other local turf managers to share resources and best practices. Members of the committee conduct outreach in the community at large and within the nationwide community of IPM turf managers through seminars, discussions and meetings.

The committee reviews best management practices gathered from industry peers, nonprofit and government agencies and research institutions. These organizations include the Sports Turf Managers Association of America, Audubon International's Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, The Nature Conservancy, National Recreation and Park Association, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, The Ohio State University and Cornell University.

## Integrated Pest Management Coordinator

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Director shall assign an internal subject matter expert to the role of IPM Coordinator. The IPM Coordinator chairs the Intradepartmental Park and Turf Management Committee for a specified term and is responsible for advancing efforts to adopt the most environmentally sensitive controls. The IPM Coordinator leads the annual review of the department's approved land management chemical list and ensures that technical education and training in Integrated Pest Management strategies is provided for all staff involved in the selection, application and monitoring of pesticides.

## Evaluation

Columbus Recreation and Parks maintains a list of the department's Approved Land Management Chemicals showing each active ingredient used in the previous year. The department uses the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) method developed by Cornell University to evaluate an active ingredient's potential impact on staff, customers and the environment. Each active ingredient Cornell evaluates is assigned an EIQ based on a formula factoring in toxicity, soil half-life, systemicity, leaching potential, plant surface half-life, surface loss potential, as well as worker, consumer and ecological effects.

However, EIQs should not be compared directly. Cornell University recommends calculating the EIQ field use rating (EIQ-FUR) for each active ingredient. The EIQ-FUR is critical for measurement because it considers the dose, the formulation or percent active ingredient of the product and the frequency of application in its assessment of impact. The EIQ-FUR allows true comparisons between pesticides and pest management programs. For example, a product could have a high base EIQ but a lower EIQ-FUR if it is applied less often.

The lower the EIQ-FUR of a product, the lesser the environmental impact. General guidelines regarding EIQ-FUR can be found in the below table:

<b>EIQ- Field Use Rating</b>	<b>Level of Impact</b>
<25	Very Low
<50	Low
50 - 100	Moderate
> 100	High
>150	Very High

The department has not yet calculated the EIQ-FUR values for its product applications, but integrating this step will likely be a recommendation of the intradepartmental committee. Columbus Recreation and Parks' Pesticide and Fertilizer data sheet allows the department to benchmark annual application of each active ingredient across all asset classes and set goals to reduce or eliminate products with EIQ-FURs higher than the department's acceptable limits.

## Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Regulations

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's use of pesticides on managed lands complies with all applicable laws and regulations. The application of pesticides is subject to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136 et seq.); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulations in 40 CFR; Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations; and state and local regulations. The following links provide additional information about pesticide oversight that is the most pertinent to day-to-day CRPD Land Management:

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act](#)
- [Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Pesticide Law Section, 921.01](#)
- [Ohio Administrative Code, Ohio Pesticide Law Section, 901:5-11](#)
- [Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Program](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Worker Protection Standards](#)  
(pertinent only to the department's nursery)

# Department-wide Integrated Pest Management Practices

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Columbus Recreation and Parks' Integrated Pest Management Policy Statement outlines the following pest management practices applicable across all asset classes.

## Data Acquisition

Columbus Recreation and Parks staff shall perform pest assessments before and after applying any treatments to determine the proper turf application and the effectiveness of the prescribed treatment. The assessment should identify the location of the pest assessment, the types of pest(s) identified, the percentage of pests identified within the assessment grid and the type of treatment needed.

## Record Keeping

Columbus Recreation and Parks staff shall document all pest assessment results, pesticide application data, non-pesticide treatment data. Pesticide application records shall contain, as mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture:

- Name of responsible commercial applicator and names of the trained service persons applying pesticides under the commercial applicator's direct supervision;
- Name and address of the person contracting for service;
- Date of application;
- Type and size of the area to be treated;
- Location or field identification number of the treatment area;
- Trade name (brand name) and EPA registration number of pesticides used;
- The total amount of each pesticide product used;
- If diluted, the total volume of use dilution applied;
- Type of equipment used;
- Time of day of application, including the time of starting the actual application and the time of completion of application or, if uncompleted, the time when operations ceased for the day; and
- Wind direction, velocity and air temperature.

Documentation may occur electronically or in print, but copies of records must be printed for onsite storage within 10 days following the date of completion. Records shall be retained on-site for three years from pesticide application or inspection.

## Posting and Notification

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department shall notify the public and staff of any application of lawn pesticides. Notification may occur either through the posting of permanent or temporary signage. On golf courses, prime facilities, athletic fields and green space fields, signage is permanently posted at all common access points. The permanent signs direct all inquiries regarding specific pesticide applications to the course clubhouse or facility office, where information about current applications is posted. Within parks, temporary signage is posted within five feet of common access points prior to application of pesticides, for 24 hours after application.

## Storage and Purchase

Pesticide purchases will be limited to the amount authorized for use and safe storage during the year. Pesticides will be stored and disposed of in accordance with the U.S. EPA-registered label directions and state regulations. Pesticides must be stored in an appropriate, secure site with proper ventilation and no access to unauthorized personnel.

## Pesticide Application

The controlled use of selective and non-selective pesticides shall be applied using the following practices and procedures:

- Whenever the use of pesticides is necessary, staff shall make every effort to select a pesticide that provides the least amount of risk to human health, local ecosystems and the environment, while factoring in cost and effectiveness.
- The lawn application of pesticides will only be considered when the turf quality for an area does not meet the established standards and all other methods to improve the turf quality are ineffective and/or cost prohibitive.
- Pesticides will be applied in accordance with the product label.
- Spray patterns for non-selective herbicides will not exceed 24 inches around any object or on either side of a fence line, except for softball/baseball field warning tracks.
- Herbicide applications on turf for broadleaf control will be applied in spring, summer and/or fall with a systemic herbicide, which shall be absorbed into the plant within 24 hours.
- Pesticides will not be used in close proximity to stormsewer systems.
- Spot application, as opposed to broadcast application, will be used whenever feasible based on pest assessment data.
- Care shall be used when applying pesticides along waterways, playgrounds, sports courts, etc., and applied according to the product label or manufacturers' recommended setback or buffer zone requirements.
- No park, sports field or golf course use will be permitted or scheduled within the re-entry period prescribed by the product label, after treatment with any pesticide.
- The applicator shall follow all application rates and wear all personal protective equipment required by the product label and Safety Data Sheet.

## Fertilizer Application

The controlled use of selected fertilizers shall be applied using the following practices and procedures.

- Fertilizers will be used when establishing new or re-establishing existing turf areas from sod, seed or sprigs.
- Fertilizers shall not be applied within the required setback or buffer zone of any waterway or water conveyance system as indicated on the product label.
- The amount of fertilizer applied will be in accordance with the produce label.
- Fertilizers will be swept, blown off or removed from impervious surfaces.
- Fertilizers will be applied on a schedule to increase plant uptake and reduce any potential runoff or leaching.
- The applicator shall follow all application rates and wear all personal protective equipment required by the product label and Safety Data Sheet.

## **Training and Professional Education**

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department employees and contractors adhere to the professional standards and continued education requirements outlined by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Applicators shall be properly trained and possess the appropriate pesticide applicator licenses or trained serviceperson credentials where applicable and must be trained on the proper use of the products according to the manufacturer and the product Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before application.

Licensure as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator requires an initial examination testing both core knowledge and category-specific pesticide use. Licenses must be renewed annually. Every three years, Commercial Pesticide Applicators must also recertify by retesting or by completing a minimum of five hours of continuing education. Trained servicepersons, working under the direct oversight of a Commercial Pesticide Applicator, are required to review the Ohio Department of Agriculture manual "Safety Training Guide for Trained Servicepersons," or complete an employer-sponsored training program, which provides training equivalent to that provided in the manual.

# Asset Class-Specific Integrated Pest Management Practices

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Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's 15,000 acres of managed land are divided into asset classes that reflect the unique ecosystems, developed features and amenities and intended public use of the land. While department-wide procedures apply to all asset classes, the specific characteristics present in each of these groups often require the development of additional guidelines and procedures for responsible pest management within that class. The below list provides a non-exhaustive overview of Columbus Recreation and Parks' asset classes and class-specific guidelines:

## Sports Fields

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Sports Division oversees turf and pest management for the department's sports fields, which the department categorizes as prime facilities, athletic fields and green space fields. Sports staff assign and maintain IPM turf management practices to individual sports facilities based on the level of service required to meet established pest pressure thresholds. Alternative methods to turf treatment, other than the use of pesticides, will be given preference in all categories. For example, aeration and over-seeding or mowing techniques would be used in lieu of pesticide treatment.

## Prime Facilities

Prime facilities include 376 total acres and 267 maintained acres in 2019. Prime fields and facilities host our most high-profile events, including Recreation and Parks and private leagues, tournaments and other special events. The grounds crew is on-site daily at these facilities and has reporting locations at four of the department's prime sports facilities.

- Field has a dense stand of grass maintained at an appropriate height, less than 5 percent damage from weeds, insects, diseases or other pests, and no bare areas larger 3 square feet.
- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas may have no more than 40 percent of turf thinning.
- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas have stable footing throughout.
- No divots deeper than 1 inch throughout the field.
- Grass clippings are evenly dispersed on the playing surface, and blown off/removed from hard surfaces.

## Athletic Fields

Athletic fields include 31.6 total acres and 28.4 maintained acres in 2019. Athletic fields host events such as soccer, football and rugby. The grounds crew visits each location no fewer than three times per week and performs field preparation for events. The department offers customers enhanced field maintenance service at direct cost to increase availability and use of typical green space.

- Field has a dense stand of grass maintained at a minimum 3 inch height of cut, less than 15 percent damage from weeds, insects, diseases or other pests, and no bare areas larger than 5 square feet are present.
- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas may have no more than 45 percent of turf thinning.

- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas have stable footing throughout.
- No divots deeper than 1 inch throughout the field.
- Grass clippings are evenly dispersed and not on top of the playing surface.

## **Green Space Fields**

Green space fields include 10 acres maintained in 2019. Green space fields host baseball, softball, soccer and other sports for extended permit customers for games and practices in neighborhood parks. Grounds crew visits these fields twice per week throughout the season.

- Field has a dense stand of grass maintained at a minimum 3 inch height of cut, no more than 30 percent damage from weeds, insects, diseases or other pests, and no bare areas larger than 5 square feet are present.
- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas may have no more than 45 percent of turf thinning.
- Goalmouths, outfield player positions and other commonly expected wear areas have stable footing throughout.
- No divots deeper than 1 inch throughout the field.
- Grass clippings are evenly dispersed and not on top of the playing surface.

Utilizing proper cultural practices and controls are paramount to providing safe, healthy, playable sports surfaces with limited chemical inputs. This includes the following practices and procedures:

### ***Landscape and Design***

- Preference will be given to non-chemical means of controlling turf growth around all city trees, posts, fences or structures by utilizing mulch, weed barrier fabric or other landscape bedding material.
- Design standards ensure turf and landscape features have appropriate drainage, spacing and plant selection to ensure vigorous competition to weeds and other pests.
- Design specifications detail proper plant and turf selection for the purpose and application of each field, feature or green space.

### ***Mowing***

- All playing surfaces at prime sports facilities will have a minimum 2 inch height of cut.
- All common areas at prime sports facilities will have a minimum 3 inch height of cut.
- Mowing of prime sports facility fields typically occurs twice per week.
- Mowing of prime sports facility common areas typically occurs once per week.
- Rotary mowing blades will be sharpened bi-weekly to ensure effective quality of cut.
- All clippings will be mulched into existing turf and blown off hard surface areas.

### ***Aeration***

- Prime Facilities are aerated on a monthly basis with a goal of 20 percent annual surface disruption.

### ***Topdressing***

- Application of Com-Til and/or sand topdressing is standard practice to promote healthy soils, improved drainage and vigorous turf on playing surfaces.

## ***Irrigation***

- Sports staff maintains 32 irrigated acres of playing surfaces on five separate smart controllers.
- All controllers are equipped with rain sensors to disable systems in the event of rain.
- Moisture meters use data to determine when and how much to irrigate.

## ***Turf Species Selection***

- Staff review National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) trial data from around the country to select the best possible species and cultivars of turf.
- Species are selected based on disease resistance, traffic/wear tolerance, drought tolerance and endophyte levels (when applicable).

## ***Turf Renovation***

- Overseeding of prime sports facility playing surfaces will occur each spring and fall.
- Areas below 70 percent turf cover will be seeded as needed at a proper rate of pure live seed.
- Spot seeding of major wear areas including goalmouths, outfield position areas and cricket run ups, will occur on an on-going basis throughout the growing season.
- Dormant seeding of prime sports facility playing surfaces may occur on fields or areas where play has continued into late fall.

## **Golf Courses**

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department maintains six golf courses totaling 915 acres. Only 24 percent of golf course acreage receives turf care. Golf staff establishes aesthetic and functional thresholds for insects, fungal diseases and weeds for all managed areas, including the greens, tees, fairways, roughs, natural areas and waterways. The 20 acres of greens within the golf portfolio receive the most concentrated application of turf care due to the requirements for playability and aesthetics.

Golf uses biological, cultural, physical and mechanical controls to reduce the need for more intensive chemical pest management and turf care. Examples of Golf's best practices are below:

- Planting pest-resistant and stress-tolerant cultivars on playing surfaces and in landscaping. Airport Golf Course is testing the use of Infusion, a seed product that has shown disease tolerance to gray leaf spot, pink snow mold and crown rust.
- Using rollers in rotation with mowers so the greens are rolled every other day. The primary purpose is to suppress diseases on the greens, which should help decrease the number of applications.
- Restoring degraded habitats, such as eroded slopes, compacted soil or polluted water sources. Airport Golf Course added 14 acres of native prairie to the golf course as well as buffers to the creeks and ponds. Raymond Memorial Golf Course completed a stream restoration project that addressed stormwater peak flow capacity, and in turn, reduced erosion into the creeks. This added several acres of natural area to the course and a larger buffer for the creek.
- Regularly working to improve soil health, including performing deep tine aeration on the greens of all six courses to encourage early season growth and a healthier plant.

## Urban Forestry Operations

Columbus Recreation and Parks' Urban Forestry Division is responsible for the management and maintenance of Whetstone Park of Roses and the Shadeville Tree Nursery. Additionally, the CRPD Urban Forestry Division is responsible for planting, pruning and the removal of trees in parks, public grounds and street rights-of-way. The division has 29 full-time staff, which includes nine arborists certified through the International Society of Arboriculture. Asset-specific pest management practices follow:

### Whetstone Park of Roses

Whetstone Park of Roses is a 13-acre area within Whetstone Park that showcases 12,000 roses consisting of more than 400 varieties. The Park of Roses was established in 1953 and is a world-renowned destination of historical significance. An integrated pest management plan for gardens that feature a monoculture of plants such as this must consider the size of pest populations, as well as the greater threat that a pest infestation can pose. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy includes the judicious application of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides to protect this historic asset.

### Shadeville Tree Nursery

The Shadeville Tree Nursery is a 58-acre operational facility that accommodates 10,000 trees and 3,500 seedlings. The nursery staff grows trees for future planting throughout the park system and city street rights-of-way. Limited application of herbicides and insecticides is necessary in the tree nursery to protect the health of this investment in the city's future tree canopy.

## Parks

As an asset class, the city's parks includes the 13,654 acres of neighborhood, community and regional parks and trails, and special use areas. Park type designations are primarily determined by the size of the park and the expected service area. For establishing maintenance standards, parks are classified into four maintenance tiers, each with a set level of service.

Integrated Pest Management Practices are adopted to complement the levels of service prescribed to each maintenance tier. In each designation, alternative methods of turf care other than the use of pesticides will be given preference. The vast majority of parks in the portfolio do not receive turf care, and pesticides are applied sparingly in parks—such as along fence lines, tree rings, signposts and cracks in hard surfaces to address specific weed problem areas.

Pesticides are applied by spot treatment to specific areas whenever feasible, minimizing the practice of broad-based application of the product and limiting the exposure to the applicator, park user and the environment.

### Tier 1: High Maintenance

Applies to downtown and specialty parks only, with high levels of development, high profile areas, visitor destination locations or highly programmed areas with a regional attraction. Typical mowing frequency is weekly, and litter and trash is removed daily. Irrigation is installed, and landscaping and floral plantings are present. Turf receives fertilizer as well as necessary pesticide application.

### ***Downtown Premier Parks***

Downtown Premier Parks fall within Maintenance Mode 1 and are typically the only parks receiving turf care including fertilization and minimal pesticide application. Considerations include the high standard of aesthetic appeal expected of the turf and landscaped beds at downtown locations, as well as the durability of turf necessary to endure high-impact visitation.

### ***Dog Parks***

Dog Parks within Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's park system are treated with a slow-release fertilizer that allows the turf to withstand the high-impact use of their visitors.

## **Tier 2: Normal Maintenance**

Applies to regional, community and neighborhood parks, and this also includes street islands as applicable. These generally have moderate to high levels of development. They may have programmed athletic fields and/or programmed facilities, and serve moderate to high levels of local and regional users. The typical mowing frequency is between seven to 12 days, with litter and trash removed twice weekly. Parks within this maintenance tier do not receive turf care, and pesticides are applied only sparingly as needs are identified. Equipment and facility repairs are conducted as needed.

## **Tier 3: Minimum Maintenance**

Applies to undeveloped parkland, natural areas, conservation areas and areas inaccessible to the public. The mowing schedule addresses buffers as needed. Old field succession mowing is completed at designated sites for wildlife and conservation purposes. Maintenance of these sites includes annual or bi-annual mowing on or after mid-October (pollinator-based dates), and not after February. Litter control is addressed as needed or coordinated through volunteer projects. These areas remain untreated as a general rule. Within nature preserves, exceptions shall be made when the targeted application of selective herbicides are deemed necessary for the purposes of controlling invasive species and aggressive native plant species, as well as to prepare sites for restoration planting.

## **Tier 4: Maintained by Others**

Scope and frequency of maintenance varies based on site. Generally applies to properties under contracted maintenance. Examples include the Spring-Long bridge caps, Franklin Park (partnership with Conservatory) and portions of bike trails (Metro Parks partnership).

# References

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# Appendix

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- A. Current CRPD Approved Land Management Chemical List with 2018 Usage
- B. Record of Continuous Improvement

