



# Parks & Pesticides

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**Parks & Pesticides**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) manages more than 6,800 acres of parks, trails and open spaces. Most of that acreage is used as maintained parkland, which includes neighborhood parks and recreation centers, playgrounds, paths and trails, multi-use athletic fields, golf courses and more. However, more than 2,800 acres remain as natural areas, which include upland and lowland forests, woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, wetlands and lakes. The vast array of landscapes vary greatly in management objectives. Golf courses and athletic fields must be managed for high performance playing surfaces. Open lawns and picnic areas are managed for passive recreation. Natural areas are primarily managed for invasive species, and in instances where non-native vegetation encroaches or crowds out native vegetation, management interventions are often necessary. All parkland must be managed in accordance with the [\*Minnesota Noxious Weed Law\*](#). When interventions are necessary, our approach to pesticides is simple: use as little as possible in as few areas as possible. Since the 1990s we have been working to reduce the amount of pesticides used on parklands by focusing on prevention, cultural, mechanical and biological methods of control before using chemicals through an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Pollinators
Golf Courses
Pesticide Advisory Committee

We use the most natural and least-harmful ways to reduce pests and their effect on our parks. Our [\*IPM strategy\*](#) [PDF] focuses on controlling or preventing pest problems with the smallest possible impact on human health, the environment and other organisms.

On February 20, 2019, a [\*MPRB Integrated Pest Management Policy and Pesticide Application Background presentation\*](#) was presented to the Operations & Environment Committee.

[\*View and listen\*](#) to Assistant Superintendent of Environmental Stewardship Jeremy Barrick make the presentation to commissioners. The presentation begins at the 02:46:00 mark.

## Pest Management Philosophy

IPM is not a set of rules. It is a gradual process for improving pest management and it requires a full understanding of pests, their life cycles, habitats and natural enemies. Our IPM strategy is to use a combination of control methods to keep pests from causing economic damage with minimum impact on human health, the environment and non-target organisms. **Before selecting a pest management control option, we ask:**

- Is the technique cost effective?
- Can the technique be used with current management methods?
- Are there any risks? If so, are the risks acceptable?

- Are environmental impacts minimized? For example, does this effect water quality?
- Are health risks to employees and others minimized?

Once those questions are answered, we move to selecting one or more control options:

☐ Prevention

☐ Cultural

☐ Mechanical

☐ Biological

☐ Chemical

## Park Board Announcements

The public parking lot closest to Minnehaha Falls will be closed Nov. 20-22 for landscaping and maintenance. All other parking lots at the park remain open.




## EXPLORE OUR PARKS

Established in 1883, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) oversees a renowned urban park system spanning 6,809 acres of parkland and water. Featured among its 180 park properties are 55 miles of parkways, 102 miles of Grand Rounds biking and walking paths, 22 lakes, 12 formal gardens, seven golf courses and 49 recreation centers. Altogether, MPRB properties receive about 23 million visits annually.

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