

## **Section IV. - City Parks**

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department manages 44 parks and 10 future parks. This encompasses approximately 2828 acres of park land. In addition to this the city is responsible for 3 cemeteries totaling 86 acres, and 3 athletic complexes totaling 103 acres. This IPM plan will only be utilized for areas categorized as parks, athletic complexes, and cemeteries, and will uphold our policy of no pesticide application in chipped playground and park shelter areas within our parks. This plan will exclude city right-of-way locations, including medians, city-owned public buildings and all other areas maintained by the city.

Each park, athletic complex, and cemetery is individually separated into zones designated by color. These zones are labeled either green or yellow. An area labeled as a **green zone** is park-land where pesticides are not applied in the management of the park. An area labeled as a **yellow zone** is park-land where pesticides can be utilized as a maintenance tool to manage the park.

The Pesticide Hazard and Exposure Reduction Zone System to standardize was adopted to produce a results-based/ reduced- risk pest management strategy and addresses several common challenges faced by the cities Integrated Pest Management Strategy.

The objective of the Zone system is to:

1. Select specific risk-reduction goals for the green zone management.
2. Establish a measurable timeline (transition) for the risk-reduction activities.
3. Communicate and educate the public the general level of pesticide hazard on a site-by site basis through the colored zones map.

### **Green Zone:**

Green Zones are areas that will immediately be converted to a reduced –risk pest management, with a goal of no pesticides. Only very low-hazard materials will be applied to that area on a controlled and limited basis.

### **Yellow Zone:**

Yellow Zones are areas that will be managed with low – hazard materials for some length of time. The goal is to ultimately transition every Yellow Zone into a Green Zone; the variable is how long it takes to undergo that transition. If the areas poses very little exposure potential to humans or wildlife, the site may be designated as a Yellow one indefinitely, unless it is the goals of the jurisdiction to completely transition all area to Green Zones.

### **Special Circumstances Exemptions\Pest Management Action Plan:**

In some cases, a particular area is managed as a Green Zone, but cultural and mechanical means and other non pesticide control methods have proved ineffective. A special circumstance exemption may be allowed. Reasonable examples may include: reduction in a health hazard such as poison ivy near human contact; reduction in significant & historically invasive plants such as Bermuda grass, Nut Sedge, Clover and other perennial weeds in park turf & landscaping; to create habitat modification; and/or compliance with state regulations for noxious weeds. Staff must make written requests to IPM Coordinator.

Pesticide applications made in yellow zone areas may include but are not limited to the following examples: In Park or Cemetery turf grass herbicides may be applied to control annual grassy weeds such as crabgrass and foxtail in addition to the control of perennial weeds such as dandelions, Yellow Nut Sedge, Bindweed and Bermuda grass. Applications are typically made using a spot treatment method targeting the actual weed or the area where the weed may develop. An herbicide may also be applied to create a mowing

strip and reduce the labor needed to trim or hand weed around utility poles, building foundations, grave markers, fences, landscape beds, tree trunks, etc.

In mulched landscaped beds, flower beds, and on trees and shrubs examples of pesticide applications may include the use of insecticides and miticides to control bagworms, spider mites, caterpillars and other insects with the potential to destroy a plant. A fungicide may be applied to prevent diseases on Austrian Pine trees, roses and annual flowers when weather conditions are favorable for their development. A weed prevention herbicide is used on some newly installed landscape beds and flower beds to reduce weed growth until the plants have had a chance to grow and fill in and shade out weeds. Spot herbicide treatments are made to control invasive weeds such as Bermuda grass, Bindweed, Poison Ivy and Yellow Nut Sedge.

Athletic field turf requirements are different than those of Parks and Cemeteries. Different species of grass, high use along with different mowing heights required for play make these turf areas prone to weed development, diseases and insects. Herbicides are applied to control both annual and perennial weeds. Insecticides are applied to control grub worms and other insects which have the potential to make the field unusable. A fungicide may be applied if weather conditions favor the development of certain fungal diseases.

These are examples of different types of application that take place within a designated yellow zone. There is a wide range of applications that can take place. These examples demonstrate that just because an area is zoned yellow does not mean the entire area has pesticide applied. In most cases these areas are just spot treated for invasive weeds and insects.

Following this section are individual photos of each park property selected to be involved in this IPM policy. Information of each park's pesticide application is also included. The information shows park acreage; areas of the park receiving pesticide applications; and the percentage of the park having pesticides applied vs. the percentage having no pesticides applied. Also identified on the park photos are the yellow zones and green zones. Yellow zones are denoted as yellow hatch marked areas.