The Integrated Pest Management plan for the Skokie Park District was developed to set maintenance standards for the care of turf throughout the District’s open parkland space. The process for managing pests relies on knowledge regarding the plant or insect pest and its interaction with the environment. A variety of control measures are used including structural, physical, cultural, biological, and with minimal use, chemical. Control measures will be done in a way that minimize environmental, health and economic risks. The plan will be reevaluated annually by the Turf Specialist, Landscape Supervisor and Superintendent of Parks to determine its effectiveness and make alterations as needed.

**Park Classifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Parks/Low Use</th>
<th>Medium Parks/Medium Use</th>
<th>Large Parks/High Visibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Park*</td>
<td>Dammrich Park</td>
<td>Central Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa Park*</td>
<td>Emerson Park</td>
<td>Channelside-Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Street*</td>
<td>Gleiss Park</td>
<td>Channelside Pooch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Point/Terminal</td>
<td>Lauth Park</td>
<td>Devonshire Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harms Park*</td>
<td>Lorel Park</td>
<td>Devonshire Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Wright Park</td>
<td>Lyon Park</td>
<td>Gross Point Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menominee Park</td>
<td>Main/Hamlin Tennis Center</td>
<td>Hamlin Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulford Park</td>
<td>Peccia Park</td>
<td>Laramie Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navajo Park</td>
<td>Schack Park</td>
<td>Lawler Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pawnee Park*</td>
<td>Skokie Heritage Museum</td>
<td>McNally Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Services</td>
<td>Tot Learning Center</td>
<td>Oakton Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playtime Park</td>
<td>Lockwood Park</td>
<td>Oakton Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pohatan Park</td>
<td>Sequoya Park</td>
<td>Skokie Tennis Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca Park</td>
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<td>Sports Park East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shabonee Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terminal Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawnee Park</td>
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<td>Timber Ridge Park</td>
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<td>Tecumseh Park</td>
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<td>Weber Park</td>
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<td>Weissburg Park</td>
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<td>Veterans Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnebago Park</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Synthetic free test sites
Each park site with turf has been split into one of three categories. The category definitions are as follows:

**Small/Low Use Parks:** Parks that do not have a sports field, have low amounts of foot traffic and fall under 3 acres.

**Medium Parks:** Parks that have no more than one sports field, have lightly visited facilities and do not exceed 7 acres.

**Large/High Use Parks:** Parks that are highly visible to the public, are highly trafficked sites and may have one or more sports field.

The three categories will be cared for at a specified level of care. The levels of care are defined as:

**Small/Low Use Parks**

- **Soil Testing** - Soil testing shall be completed every four years to determine nutrient deficiencies or surpluses. Results of the tests may affect several of the following activities, most likely fertilization and soil amendments.

- **Aeration** - Aeration shall take place every other year to assist in providing oxygen, water and nutrients to root zones and to reduce soil compaction.

- **Over seeding** - Over seeding shall take place every other year in conjunction with aeration to allow for new turf to out-compete potential weeds.

- **Fertilization** - An extended release organic fertilizer shall be applied each year. This allows organic material to build in the upper layer of soil and provides a natural source of nutrients for the turf.

- **Topdressing** - Comprehensive topdressing will not take place unless larger areas are re-seeded or if there is a specific need.

- **Soil Amendments** - Soil amendments will be provided as necessary, in part determined as a course of action resulting from soil testing. Soil amendments add organic material and provide additional nutrients as needed.

- **Systemic Weed Treatments** - Weed treatments will be applied only as spot treatments when the Turf Specialist has determined thresholds are being exceeded and only after the weeds have been identified. With the permission of the Landscape Supervisor or Superintendent of Parks an appropriate treatment may be applied at the proper rate prescribed by the product label.

- **Pest Treatments** - The most common pest issue is grubs. Small/Low Use parks will not be treated preventatively. Instead, these parks will be treated curatively should there be extensive damage or if the threshold meets or exceeds six grubs per square foot. Any other pest shall be treated on a case to case basis.
Medium Parks

Soil Testing - Soil testing shall be completed every three years to determine nutrient deficiencies or surpluses. Test results may affect several of the following activities, most likely fertilization and soil amendments.

Aeration - Aeration shall take place every year to assist in providing oxygen, water and nutrients to root zones and to reduce soil compaction.

Over seeding - Over seeding shall take place every two years in conjunction with aerating to maximize seed to soil contact. Over seeding will help to suppress weed growth by outcompeting potential weeds.

Fertilization - A spring and fall application will be made at all Medium park turf sites.

Topdressing - Topdressing will occur in conjunction with over seeding on sports fields. Topdressing will not take place in general park areas unless larger areas are re-seeded or if there is a specific need.

Soil Amendments - Soil amendments will be provided as necessary, in part determined as a course of action resulting from soil testing. Soil amendments will add organic material and provide additional nutrients as needed.

Systemic Weed Treatments - Herbicides will be used as a fall broadleaf control on any sports field to a width of 15 feet around the field borders. Any additional controls will be applied in general turf areas only as spot treatments when the Turf Specialist has determined thresholds are being exceeded and the weeds have been identified. Additional treatments will take place with the permission of the Landscape Supervisor or Superintendent of Parks. The appropriate treatment will be applied at the proper rate prescribed by the product label.

Pest Treatments - The most common pest issue is grubs. Only sports fields in the Medium classification will be treated preventatively. The remaining turf areas will be treated curatively should there be extensive damage or if the threshold meets or exceeds six grubs per square foot. Any other pest shall be treated on a case-to-case basis.

Large/High Use Parks

Soil Testing - Soil testing shall be completed every two years to determine nutrient deficiencies or surpluses. Test results may affect several of the following activities, most likely fertilization and soil amendments.

Aeration - Aeration shall take place every year in general turf areas and no less than twice per year on athletic fields to assist in providing oxygen, water and nutrients to root zones and to reduce compaction.
**Over seeding** - Over seeding shall take place each season in conjunction with aerating to maximize seed to soil contact, improving the germination rates.

**Fertilization** - A spring and fall application will be made at all Large/High Use Parks sites. Additionally, an in-house late spring/early summer application will be made to all Large/High Use parks.

**Topdressing** - Topdressing will take place every other year and will be coordinated with aeration and seeding. This combination will ensure strong seed to soil contact and provide a higher germination rate for the seed, which will in turn assist in suppressing weed growth.

**Soil Amendments** - Soil amendments will be provided as necessary, in part determined as a course of action resulting from soil testing. Soil amendments will add organic material and provide additional nutrients as needed.

**Grub Control** – The tolerance threshold is 5-7 grubs per square foot.

**Systemic Weed Treatments** - A fall broadleaf application will be made to all Large/High Use parks. Spot treatments may be applied when the Turf Specialist has determined thresholds are being exceeded and the weeds have been identified. With the permission of the Landscape Supervisor or Superintendent of Parks an appropriate treatment may be applied at the proper rate prescribed by the product label.

**Pest Treatments** - The most common pest issue is grubs. Sports fields and areas with a reoccurring grub issue will be treated preventatively. The remaining turf areas will be treated curatively should there be extensive damage or if the threshold meets or exceeds six grubs per square foot. Any other pest shall be treated on a case to case basis.

**Additional Procedures**

The following actions are recommended at all turf sites where the actions are applicable to reduce and discourage weed growth:

- Tree rings and beds shall be mulched and maintained. Mulch reduces the ability of undesirable plants to grow in the tree rings and bed areas, helps retain moisture which benefits the intended plants and offers a buffer of protection from potential mechanical damage from mowing equipment.
- The frequency of mowing on athletic fields should be maintained at twice a week during the active growing seasons to promote turf growth and suppress weed seeds from germinating.
- Baseball fields should be dragged a minimum of once a week. This frequency should be maintained even when the field is not scheduled for practices or games to discourage weed growth along the edge field surfacing.
• Controlled burns will be used in perennial and native areas to control invasive species and minimize the need for synthetic pesticides.
• Mowing deck heights will be maintained at 3 to 3 ½ inches to suppress weed germination.

**Pesticides/Herbicides/Fertilizers**

Any employee applying a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer must have, at minimum, an Illinois Operators spray license. On the day of any application at least one employee with an Illinois Applicators spray license, within the same category of the work being completed, must be present.

**PPE**

Any employee applying a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer must wear personal protective equipment (PPE) per the instructions of the product label. Employees not adhering to this will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Documentation and Notification**

Documentation must be maintained for any treatments applied to parkland. The document for herbicide or pesticide applications can be seen as Exhibit 1. Documentation shall also be kept for any fertilizations that take place. These documents must be submitted to the Landscape Supervisor daily and will be kept as a paper copy for no less than two years and will be scanned and kept as a digital copy thereafter.

Once an area has been treated, notification flags shall be placed at a minimum at all park entrances. The flags will provide the contact information of the Landscape Supervisor. Additionally, these flags will be removed after a period of 24 hours from when the treatment was completed.

**Synthetic Systemic Nonselective Herbicides**

Use of synthetic systemic nonselective herbicides will be used only as necessary. These herbicides will only be used in low traffic areas such as tree rings, planting/shrub beds, sign and fence posts, sidewalk and asphalt cracks, and any additional like areas. Herbicides will also be used in native beds to remove invasive species and to prepare turf for native seeding operations. Weeds will be treated at the optimal time, before they have gone to seed, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment and prevent the germination of newly seeded plants and shall be used at no more than the rate listed on the product label.

Staff will continue to test organic systemic nonselective herbicides each season. If a cost-effective solution is found, reduction or elimination of any synthetic systemic nonselective herbicides will take place.
Synthetic-Free Pilot Program

The following sites will be part of a pilot program to eliminate synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers:

- Carol Park
- Chippewa
- George Street
- Harms Park
- Pawnee Park

Only organic products will be used at each of these sites. These parks were selected because they are not highly trafficked, have lower visibility, and the smaller size will make it easier to manage the program and determine its effectiveness.

Emily Oaks Nature Center and Kawaga Garden

The Emily Oaks Nature Center manages 13 acres of native trees, shrubs and forbs, as well as a two-acre pond. The staff at Emily Oaks will be subject to the Illinois Spray Licensing certifications required by the State of Illinois. For invasive and non-native weed and tree types where it is possible, mechanical removal will be the method of control, including hand-pulling, cutting or scything. For invasive and non-native weed and tree types where mechanical control is not feasible, herbicide wiping, painting and other spot-application methods will take place.

Kawaga Garden is currently maintained without the use of synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.
Application Date: ___________________________

Location: __________________________________________________________
(must be specific i.e.: west ball diamond, west ID sign bed, etc.)

TYPE OF APPLICATION: (circle one) Spot Blanket

Reason for Application: ________________________________________________
Target pest(s)/weed(s), or groups I.E.: Annual, perennial, biennial, broadleaf, White Grub, etc.

Product Applied: ___________________________________________________

Active Ingredient: ___________________________________________________

Application Rate: ___________________________________________________

Total Amount of Product Applied: ________________________________

Product Form: (circle one) Liquid Granular Other

Application Type: (circle one) Hand Spray Tank Push Spreader
Back Pack Sprayer Tractor Spreader
Z-Max Ryder Golf Cart-25G Tank
Other Golf Cart-50 G Tank

Application Time: ____________ A.M. /P.M.

Temperature: __________________

Wind Velocity & Direction: ____________________________________________

Weather Conditions: (circle one) Sunny Pt. Cloudy Cloudy

Operator Name: _____________________________________________________

Operator License Number: ___________________________________________