

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

MANAGING PESTS AND INVASIVE PLANTS

**An update on how DPR is preserving
significant natural resources while
providing exceptional parks and
recreation experiences**



SAN DIEGO COUNTY is a biodiversity hotspot – rich in unique plant and wildlife species. The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) works every day to balance the preservation of our land and local wildlife with opportunities for safe recreation. The department manages 156 locations across 56,000 acres of land, and over 380 miles of multi-use trails.

POLICY, PEOPLE AND PROCESS

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Policy (F-45) outlines recommendations for chemical and non-chemical pest control in county-owned and operated facilities. DPR Policy (C-34) adopts the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy. These policies limit the use of synthetic pesticides when other methods of pest control exist.

DPR employs one IPM Coordinator who holds an Agricultural Pest Control Adviser License (PCA) and a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) – both issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations.

The IPM Coordinator facilitates pesticide use at parks, and trains DPR staff on how to use them. Additionally, any staff member who has been authorized to apply pesticides – or herbicides – must complete an annual training, as specified in Section 6724 of California Code of Regulations (Title 3, Division 6).





Willow trees affected by Invasive Shothole Borers at Tijuana River Valley

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Invasive tree pests like Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB), Invasive Shothole Borers (ISHB) and South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) have been threatening our native and ornamental tree population and, in some parks, have significantly reduced the tree canopy. In San Diego County, thousands of acres have been infested by GSOB in forests, parks and residential landscapes, leading to the loss of more than 50,000 trees.

Pesticide applications to protect trunks of large oak trees from GSOB, made only once a year in May, demonstrated about a 95% efficacy in preventing tree mortality, since DPR began implementation in 2015. Principles of Integrated Pest Management guided the process and continue to be an integral part of our comprehensive tree program.

Noxious plants, like poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and invasive plants, like Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.), and Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), among many others, spread dangerously into native biomes, trails, day-use areas and major thoroughfares – stifling the growth and vitality of native species while compromising the health and safety of our park users.

Routine removal of invasives, by hand or by herbicide, have proven effective in protecting native plant species and the ecosystems they harbor. It's a laborious and continuous process but the work is essential to maintaining the habitats that are unique to San Diego County.



Invasive Shothole Borer



INTELLIGENT LIMITED USE OF PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES

Pesticides are not applied in every park, and treatments within the DPR park system are an exception, not the rule. Some park areas require spot treatment to control various pests before they become a nuisance. The pesticides that are selected have low toxicity and fall under a signal word category no higher than “CAUTION” – a category determined by both the Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Pesticide Regulation. They are applied by trained DPR staff under the coordination and supervision of the DPR IPM coordinator.

For invasive plants, when manual control is not solely effective, herbicide treatments can suppress the growth of unwanted plants so native species don’t have to compete as much for sunlight, water and other nutrients. Herbicidal spot treatments can also protect newly

planted native species in habitat restoration areas – protecting them while they take root and get established.

There are rare situations in open space management when glyphosate-based herbicides may be applied to remove aggressive, non-native plants that can damage natural habitats (if left untreated). These are applied by environmental contractors, according to the EPA-approved label.

Weed management is necessary following seasonal rains. Trained DPR staff target invasive weed species through spot-spray applications of approved materials – only after all alternatives have been considered, and/or have proven less effective than a stronger solution. Decisions lean toward the most effective action with the least environmental impact.

DID YOU KNOW?

Glyphosate-based products, like Roundup, are not used by DPR staff and are not applied at any active County park.



CONTRIBUTING TO OUR FUTURE

Accessible, high-quality parks and diverse recreational opportunities improve the lives of residents and visitors in the region. DPR builds better health for individuals and families, enhances safety in communities, and preserves the environment so people can enjoy clean air, clean water, rich biodiversity, and access to open space. There are many factors at play to accomplish these goals including the preservation of native species through modern mitigation techniques, testing, tracking, and revisiting measures that have proven results.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PARKS AND RECREATION
AT (858) 694-3030 OR VISIT SDPARKS.ORG**