



# Green Initiatives Briefing 2020

Park Maintenance and Operations  
November 19, 2020

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Park and Recreation  
City of Dallas



# Purpose



To provide an update to the Park and Recreation Board on green and innovative management practices adopted by Park Maintenance and Operations to sustainably maintain Dallas parks.



# Presentation Overview



- Notable Green Initiatives
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- IPM in Action
- New Standards for Glyphosate



# Low Emission Initiatives



- Green Team Pilot Program
- Robotic Field Marker
- Robotic Mowers

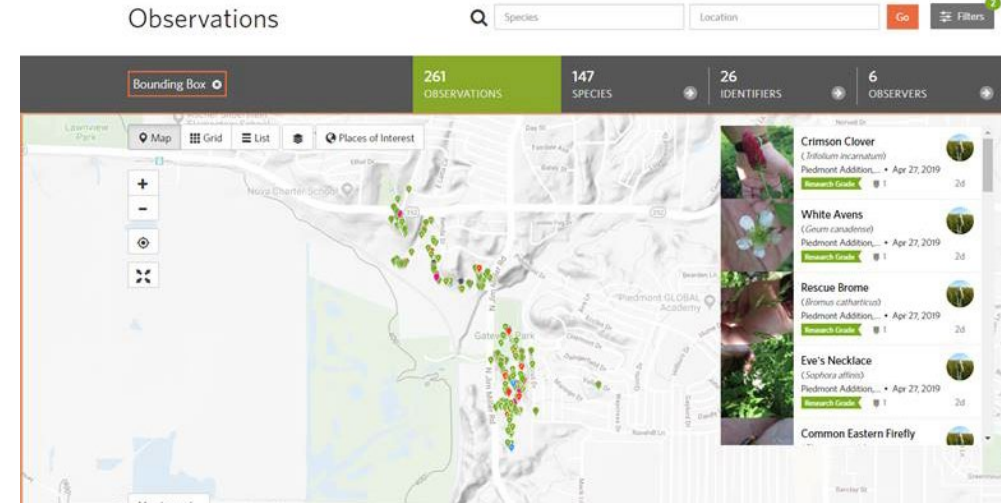




# Green Programming



- Adopt-a-Prairie
- Bioblitz!
- Branching Out
- Eco Warriors



***Volunteer Tree Planting Event***

Please join Council Member Lee M. Kleinman, District 11 and Park Board Member Jeff Kitner, District 11 for this community event:

“Branching Out”  
Reforesting Your Neighborhood Park

WEDNESDAY NOV. 4 10:00 AM

Valley View Park  
7000 Valley View Ln.

Dallas Park & Recreation 



# Bird City Texas



- Designation created by TPWD/Audubon to promote bird conservation practices in Texas
- PKR enacting habitat improvements, protections and outreach related to birds
- Dallas one of the inaugural “Bird City Texas” designees recognized



# Integrated Pest Management



- The Park and Recreation Department has an active Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program that has been in place since 2008
- Minimize risk to human health and environment by reducing use of pesticides in park and recreation facilities
- Manage pests at acceptable levels rather than complete pest elimination





# Integrated Pest Management



- IPM implementation practices include:
  - Monitoring **threshold** levels
  - Preventative means
    - Cultural controls (water, pest-resistance, mowing)
    - Biological controls
    - Chemical controls
  - Evaluating existing conditions prior to action to find most conservative of measure *if* action is required





# IPM In Action: Trained Staff



- Staff are certified pesticide applicators, licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture who recertify annually by obtaining five (5) CEUs
- Required knowledge and skills: regulations, plant and insect biology, safety requirements, mixing calculations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles



- **PKR Turf Management Program:** Uses pre-emergent herbicides and mechanical aeration to reduce weed pressure in parks, therefore reducing the use of post-emergent herbicides.





- **PKR GPS Enabled Sprayers on Golf Courses –**  
Sprayers have GPS units and golf courses are mapped using GPS mapping software.
  - Reduces pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer amounts as it only sprays the targeted area
  - Prevents overapplication of chemicals that might damage turf or soil since computer does not allow reapplication on crossover areas



- Treecycling Program
  - Projected to begin Phase I of program in Spring 2021
  - Recycles forestry byproducts to be used in parks as compost or mulch and diverts from landfill





**PKR Organic Pilot Program:** 3-year research pilot at Celebration of Life Park in downtown for full organic program

- Pilot concluded in 2019 and research helped determine costs of organic alternatives and which products were most effective.

**Organic Playgrounds:** Pest management in playground areas is now **fully organic**



# IPM in Action Glyphosate Free Pilot



- Park Maintenance District 4 researched/used glyphosate alternatives in parks From March 2019 to June 2020
- PKR used research results to update approved treatments for new best practice strategies and opportunities
- Glyphosate alternatives added to new Master Agreement solicitation list



# IPM in Action: Glyphosate Alternatives



- Cost of Glyphosate alternatives substantially higher than Glyphosate
- Enhancement bid for organics and alternative pesticides recently approved to offset increases enabling PKR to reduce glyphosate, neonicotinoids and other synthetic chemicals
  - \$509,847 allocated in FY 20/21

Product	Chemical	Cost
Ranger Pro Herbicide 2.5 gal	Glyphosate	\$45.00
Interline 2.5 gal	Glyphosate alternative	\$99.99
Cheetah Pro 2.5 gal	Glyphosate alternative	\$194.99



# New Standards for Glyphosate in Parks



- **PKR has used research from pilot programs to use glyphosate alternatives and organic products in parks as well as measure effectiveness**
- **This research has allowed the Department to extremely limit the use of glyphosate**

Glyphosate Usage		
Approved Location for Use	Former Application	Current Application
Athletic Fields	X	
Emerging Aquatic Vegetation	X	
Expansion Joints	X	
General Turf Areas	X	
Golf Courses	X	X
Gravel Areas	X	
Invasives in Non-programmed Areas	X	X
Liquid Edging	X	
Major Grounds Renovation Projects	X	X
Ornamental Beds	X	
Playground Surfacing	X	
Rec Center Areas	X	







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