Attachment A: City of Redmond – Parks and Recreation Department Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Practices

The Parks and Recreation Department utilizes a comprehensive approach with regards to managing pests (weeds, insects, rodents) on City properties. Current Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices are utilized by City staff. Outlined below are the steps followed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Staff training: The Parks and Recreation Department dedicates a large amount of financial resources and staff time towards the education of proper IPM practices. All staff members who are involved with pesticide applications are licensed and certified through the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Staff members attend regular recertification classes to maintain their pesticide applicator licenses. Much of the focus of the recertification training includes information on current environmentally sensitive pest control techniques and methods.

Acceptable pest thresholds: It is not the goal to eliminate all of the pests in the parks system, but to maintain pest population levels at an acceptable level. Pest population levels are established based on the pest and site where they are located. A small number of aphids on a tree are not a problem. A large infestation of aphids on a tree can be a big problem! Clover in a lawn at a neighborhood park is approached differently than clover on a sportsfield. The Parks and Recreation Department utilizes population thresholds for all pest infestations.

Prevention and cultural practices: The City utilizes many different preventative measures to minimize pest problems. Examples of these preventative practices are listed below.

- Utilizing high quality soil that grows strong, healthy plants
- Selecting the right plants to grow in the right place
- Selecting pest resistant plants
- Maintaining optimum soil moisture through proper drainage and irrigation
- Proper pruning techniques to reduce stress on plants
- Overseeding, de-thatching, and aerating turf areas to enhance overall health of the grass
- Applying mulch to planting beds for weed suppression and water retention
- Eliminating habitat, nesting areas, and food sources for rodents

Control techniques: The City strives to use the most environmentally safe control measures available for pest control. Examples of these environmentally safe control measures include manual weeding, using radiant heat/flame equipment/horticultural vinegar for weed control, and applying horticultural soap to plants to control insect infestations. Synthetic pesticides are only used in limited situations when other methods of pest control are not effective or practical.