

Integrated Pest Management Strategy

ISSUE

This report outlines considerations in the creation of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPM Strategy) and next steps for signage related to bird poisoning.

BACKGROUND

At its January 12, 2021 meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services resolved:

“That the Administration report back on the potential and implications of an integrated pest management strategy for the City of Saskatoon and that the Administration include a consideration for signage (ban bird poisoning).”

CURRENT STATUS

There is increasing concern about costs and impacts to human health which result from an abundance of pest species. As per the Federal *Pest Control Products Act*, pests are defined as

“any animal, plant or other organism that is injurious, noxious or troublesome, whether directly or indirectly, and an injurious, noxious or troublesome condition or organic function of an animal, a plant or other organism [parasite].”

For a list of Common Pests in Saskatoon (please see Appendix 1) which provides an overview of the current and emerging state. Currently, there are numerous Departments and independent strategies utilized to manage pests, with many services provided by Urban Biological Services, within the Parks Department. As such, the IPM Strategy will be a coordinated approach to mitigating current and future risks; in addition to pests, nuisance weeds such as Foxtail will also be incorporated into the Plan.

As well, this area is currently regulated through two additional pieces of Provincial legislation: *The Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act* and *The Pest Control Act*. Any IPM or other City measures for control will need to consider this layer of Provincial regulation as well as the Federal layer of regulation over pest control products.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The IPM Strategy is envisioned as a unified program which will guide and manage a variety of weeds and pests in the city by:

- Identifying strategies and methods to monitor and suppress pest populations;
- Emphasize and implement preventative techniques;
- Grow awareness to limit the use of pesticides for controlling pests, including pigeons;

Integrated Pest Management Strategy

- Developing appropriate levels of communication when pesticide application is required;
- Implementing natural control techniques, as much as possible;
- Minimizing risks to human health and the environment; and
- Being a point of reference to establish procedures, budgetary needs and education to the public.

The goals of the IPM Strategy are:

- To protect desirable vegetation and organisms throughout the city;
- Manage and/or reduce pest population growth and negative impacts to residents and property;
- Minimize and/or reduce the use of pesticides/herbicides where possible, utilizing natural controls and treatments whenever possible;
- Improve quality of life and enjoyment of open spaces; and
- Improve prevention over treatment/response.

Specifically, the IPM Strategy will include strategies and recommendations to answer questions regarding:

Pigeons:

- What risks, if any, do pigeons pose to the public and private property?
- How does one define or determine there is a pigeon problem?
- How are pigeon poisons regulated and other chemical measures regulated?
- What jurisdictions, if any, currently regulate the use of pigeon poisons through a local bylaw? Do these bylaws extend to private and/or public property?
- If there is already a layer of regulation for use of a product, is the ability of a city, to pass a bylaw in the area, constrained?
- Have other jurisdictions chosen to regulate or control the eradication of pigeons through other local bylaws?
- Would the banning of pesticide to control pigeons impact the ability of the City to use pesticides to control other pests?

Foxtail, Noxious and Other Weeds:

- What do other jurisdictions do to manage Foxtail? What level of Foxtail is considered acceptable?
- What level of inspections/enforcement is needed to effectively manage Foxtail to meet resident's expectations?
- Should the City spray herbicides, including glyphosate, in Foxtail/Noxious weed problem areas? Only certain areas?

- Should expanded regulation and enforcement be in place to ensure private property owners and developers actively control for nuisance weeds such as Foxtail?
- Should the City implement a 'Pesticide Notification Register', or similar, to inform residents 24 hours in advance of spraying on public spaces and Developer lands?
- What sustainable preventative strategies and bio-controls are currently available for noxious and nuisance weeds in Saskatoon?

Public consultation and surveys will be a key component in the development of the IPM Strategy and its recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications of this report. The development of the IPM Strategy will be added to the work plans and be conducted with available internal resources beginning late 2021 through 2023, as outlined below.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps in the development of the IPM Strategy will be to begin preparation and planning for the targeted timelines below:

- Consultation and public engagement – Quarter 4, 2021 to Quarter 2, 2022
- Plan development and formulation – Quarter 2 to Quarter 4, 2022
- Presentation to Committee and City Council – Quarter 1, 2023
- Begin Plan Implementation – Quarter 1, 2023.

APPENDICES

1. List of Common Pests in Saskatoon

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Konrad Andre, Operations Manager, Parks
Reviewed by: Darren Crilly, Director of Parks
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

SP/2021/PK/EUCS/Integrated Pest Management Strategy/mh