

Pesticide Free Places

CALIFORNIA LOCALITIES

Agoura Hills, CA

<https://horizon.agendalink.app/engage/agourahillsca/agenda-pdf/68642231c414cc39d25dbc35>

No rodent poisons or glue traps on city property.

Arcata, CA

<http://www.cityofarcata.org/423/Parks-Trails>

In keeping with Arcata's commitment to the health of our citizens and the environment, the parks and sports fields are all managed without the use of pesticides since 2000. Only allows EPA eco-exempt products.

Comment from Superintendent of parks:

<http://dontspray.weebly.com/uploads/9/1/3/7/9137281/dandiemerarcata.pdf>

Calabasas, CA

<https://calabasas.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=1577>

No rodent poisons or glue traps on city property.

Carlsbad, CA

Organic pesticides are to be used first when pesticides are deemed necessary.

Newspaper article:

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/communities/north-county/sd-no-organic-pesticides-20171206-story.html>

"The city earlier this month became the first in the county to adopt a policy that makes organic pesticides the preferred method for getting rid of weeds, bugs and rodents on hundreds of acres of city property and school athletic fields."

Encinitas, CA

http://encinitas.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=8&clip_id=1220&meta_id=54116

Glyphosate is banned.

Goleta School District, Goleta, CA

<https://www.gusd.us/about/green-policy>

The Goleta School District received the Santa Barbara County Green Award in 2005. The District adopted a *Pesticide Free Policy* in 2006 that allows for the use of pesticides only in the case of an emergency.

Irvine, CA

<https://www.cityofirvine.org/news-media/news-article/organic-pesticides-program>

With a population of over 250,000 people, the City Council voted unanimously to stop the use of hazardous pesticides on city property. The Council adopted an organic management policy that limits the use of synthetic pesticides. It includes 570 acres of parks and more than 800 acres of public right of ways.

Las Virgenes Unified School District

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1676278447/lvusdorg/gastride3hig0mxe4f4d/filedownloadashx_59.pdf

The Las Virgenes Unified School District has a Pesticide Free Policy that does not allow for the use of toxic pesticides unless an EMERGENCY situation exists. It includes sixteen school campuses.

Malibu, CA

<https://www.malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/24741/Earth-Friendly-Management-Policy-62419>

Malibu has a green pesticide-free policy that uses organic pesticides for emergencies only. Malibu school campuses are also pesticide-free.

Marin County, CA

<https://www.marincountyparks.org/~media/files/departments/pk/integrated-pest-mgmt/61813-bos-approved-ipm-policy.pdf?la=en>

Since 2003 the turf, playground, and picnic areas are pesticide free. Goal is to eliminate all pesticides. Giving preference to EPA eco-exempt products and those approved by the Organic Material Research Institute, OMRI, or by the National Organic Program (NOP) for use in organic systems.

Mill Valley, CA

<https://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/pw/mcstoppp/residents/mill-valley-ipm-policy.pdf?la=en>

Uses eco-exempt products, OMRI, and the National Organic Program
Pesticide free on play grounds and picnic areas

Oak Park School District, Oak Park, CA

<http://www.oakparkusd.org/cms/lib5/CA01000794/Centricity/domain/5/board%20policies/3000%20series/AR3514.2%20Integrated%20Pest%20Managment.pdf>

All 6 campuses. Oak Park received the nation-wide U.S. Green Building Council and the Green Schools National Network 2018 Best of Green Schools award - <https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/education/2018/05/11/oak-park-unified-recognized-green-schools/588341002/>. The School District has a Pesticide Free Policy that does not allow for the use of toxic pesticides unless an EMERGENCY situation exists.

Ojai, CA

<https://www.ojai.ca.gov/588/Earth-Friendly-Management>

Ojai has a green pesticide-free policy that uses organic pesticides for emergencies only.

Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA

<https://www.pepperdine.edu/sustainability/current-practices/native-vegetation.htm>. Maintains landscaping completely organically without fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals. In May 2014 Pepperdine phased out the use of rodenticides in favor of a poison free pest management system. Raptor perches were installed throughout campus to encourage natural predation by birds of prey, e.g., owls and hawks.

Richmond, CA

<https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/9412>

Least toxic pesticides are allowed for emergency only. Riparian areas, playgrounds, and picnic areas are pesticide-free zones.

Santa Barbara City, CA

<https://santabarbaraca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/PHAER%20Report%202006.pdf>

19 City parks were designated as “pesticide free” by April 2005. 40 are now pesticide free.

San Juan Capistrano, CA

From April. The city emphasizes the use of effective organic pesticides and/or herbicides in and on all city properties whenever practical, using a list of such materials from the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).

The policy -

http://sjc.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=1489&meta_id=84764

Newspaper article -

https://www.picketfencemedia.com/thecapistranodispatch/archives/city-council-approves-switch-to-organic-pest-and-weed-control/article_8acc4f58-51e2-5fc8-a037-73f0357d17fc.html

Beyond Pesticides story -

<https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2017/05/san-juan-capistrano-ca-passes-organic-landscape-policy-city-lands/>

Tiburon, CA

<https://www.marincounty.org/~media/files/departments/pw/mcstoppp/residents/tiburon-ipm-policy.pdf?la=en>

Turf areas and parks are pesticide free.

University of California Los Angeles

<https://adminvc.ucla.edu/news-views/winter-2025/ucla-first-california-campus-earn-green-grounds-certification>

UCLA became the first school in the state to receive the Green Grounds Certification from Re:wild Your Campus. The honor recognizes UCLA's efforts to improve human health and biodiversity by eliminating the use of pesticides on campus.

LOCALITIES IN OTHER STATES

Boulder, CO

<https://boulder.colorado.gov/services/reducing-pesticides>

Almost all pesticides are banned on city property, including the neonicotinoids and glyphosate.

Connecticut statewide schools - playgrounds, turf, and athletic fields

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/p2/government/TurfMgtwithoutpesticidesFINAL2pdf>

... banning lawn care pesticide applications on the grounds of day care centers, elementary and middle schools (grade 8 and lower), since 2010.

New York statewide schools - playgrounds, turf, and athletic fields

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/41822.html>

... no school or day care center can apply pesticides to any playgrounds, turf, or athletic or playing fields. All grades, since 2011.

Seattle, WA

<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/plans-and-reports/environment-plans-and-reports/environmental-stewardship-report>

Seattle Parks and Recreation has been maintaining 14 parks without the use of any pesticides since 2001. The program is expanding to include eight more parks and about 25 more acres, for a total of 22 parks and about 50 acres.

King County, WA

Duvall – All city parks

Hunts Point – All city parks and playfields

Olympic Sculpture Park – Seattle Art Museum

Port of Seattle – All 60 acres of port parks have been 100% organic since 1998

Powells Wood Garden, Federal Way

Seattle University – Pesticide-free methods since 1998

Shoreline – All city parks since 2000. See: <https://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/departments/public-works/grounds-maintenance> for non-herbicide methods used.

United States Forest Service– Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Henry Jackson Wilderness, Wild Sky Wilderness

University of Washington-Bothell/Cascadia Community College – Pesticide-Free since 2006

Washington State Department of Natural Resources – West Tiger Mountain, Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si.

Portland, OR

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/47501>

2004: A three-year trial of pesticide-free park management at three parks

2008: Two more added

Eugene, OR

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/633/Pesticide-Free-Parks-Program>

Most parks in Eugene have areas that are pesticide free. The City of Eugene has nine pesticide-free neighborhood parks located throughout the City's park system starting from 2006 to 2013.

Ashland, OR

<https://ashlandor.portal.civicclerk.com/event/304/files/attachment/126>

Parklands are 99.25% synthetic-pesticide-free with minor specific exceptions as of June 25, 2018.

Chicago, IL

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/about-us/news/chicago-park-district-proud-limit-use-pesticides-and-maintain-parks-safe-residents>

90 percent of Chicago's parks avoid spraying weed control chemicals.

Evanston, IL

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/sustainability/sustainable-infrastructure/pesticide-free-parks>

<https://www.iamgreenwise.com/about-us-3/pesticide-free-parks/>

City of Evanston in April 2015 with the designation of five parks as pesticide-free.

Reno, NV

<https://www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/parks-trails>

Reno has designated 12 parks as "pesticide-free" in Sept. 2015. These parks are managed without the routine use of herbicides, insecticides or other pesticides.

Dubuque, IA

<https://www.cityofdubuque.org/2361/Integrated-Pest-Management>

The city council has banned pesticides at nine public parks throughout the city. March 2016.

Rochester, MN

<http://www.rochestermn.gov/home/showdocument?id=10840>

The Rochester Parks and Forestry Division has created a pilot program and has identified six (6) pesticide-free neighborhood parks located throughout the City's park system in June 2016.

Lawrence, KS

<https://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/lprd/parks/ipm/ipm.pdf>

34 of 44 parks since 2005. Includes athletics complexes and cemeteries.

Cambridge, MA

<http://www.f2environmentaldesign.com/results5.html>

Harvard Yard Soil Restoration Project. 85 acres of the campus that is maintained by Harvard Facilities Maintenance Operations has been transitioned to a fully organic program.

Marblehead, MA

https://www.marblehead.org/sites/g/files/vyhli4661/f/uploads/organic_pest_management_regulations.pdf

No pesticides on city property from 2005. Marblehead is an example of a small town which has even gone beyond IPM to what they call “Organic Pest Management” (OPM) http://www.beyondpesticides.org/news/daily_news_archive/2006/01_18_06.php. “OPM” is defined in the policy as "a problem-solving strategy that prioritizes a natural, organic approach to turf grass and landscape management without the use of toxic pesticides.

Wellesley, MA

<http://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1030>

No pesticides on city property from 2002. Has organic-only policy. Uses eco-exempt and OMRI products or similar certifying body recommended products.

Calgary, Canada

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Planning-and-Operations/Pest-Management/Pesticide-free-parks-in-Calgary.aspx>

The City provides five pesticide-free parks for you and your family to enjoy. Some since 2001.

Ontario, Canada

<https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2009/03/ontarios-cosmetic-pesticides-ban.html>

Pesticides cannot be used for cosmetic purposes on lawns, vegetable and ornamental gardens, patios, driveways, cemeteries, and in parks and school yards, sports fields. Public and private. 2009.

More details: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/pesticides-home-lawns-and-gardens>