



“Together We Learn”



Memorandum

Date: November 7, 2011
To: Planning and Facilities Committee
From: Alan Cumbers, Director of Operations

Action Item: Annual Integrated Pest Management Report

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

The Board authorizes the use of all suitable techniques in an organized program to suppress pest populations in effective, economical and environmentally safe ways.

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Policy #620 – Site Maintenance *“Each year a report shall be provided to the Board on the effectiveness of the pesticide management program, with appropriate recommendations for possible enhancements.”*

3.0 BACKGROUND

School District No. 23 Policy ensures that no chemical pesticides are used on School District grounds. This requires alternative measures to pest controls.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

5.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION:

Continue the program as currently funded and advised by School District horticulturists and external expert consultants.

6.0 FOLLOW-UP/REVIEW

Yearly report required as per Policy 620 - Site Management.

7.0 DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

School District No. 23 has invested significant additional funds for staffing and equipment to support a quality Integrated Pest Management program without the use of typical pesticides. More frequent cutting of sports fields, more attention to fertilization, aerating and over-seeding and more detailed inspection by qualified staff all work to crowd out the weeds and pests. Highlights in this year's report include xeroscaping work completed at Shannon Lake Elementary, the major restorations required by the fifteen modular structures, and the fourteen school sites extensively upgraded through aerating, overseeding, fertilizing and top-dressing. Focus on Integrated Pest Management program remained strong this year by controlling

irrigation schedules to limit water on long weekends. Integrated Pest Management is a long term program that appears to allow us to balance quality of fields and trees within the School District's pesticide policy.

8.0. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

THAT: The Planning and Facilities Committee forward to the Board the following recommendation:

THAT: The Board accepts the November 7, 2011 Memorandum from the Director of Operations as the Annual Report required in Policy 620 – Site Maintenance.

9.0 APPENDIX

Central Services IPM Report 2011

Central Services IPM Report 2011

The following report covers the maintenance and project work of the Grounds Department IPM program from October 2010 to November 2011.

We continue to work towards improving the efficiency and sustainability of the IPM program by using good sound cultural practices.

Trees / Pruning

- Any trees that were identified as hazardous were pruned to eliminate the hazard or the trees were removed.
- Continued ongoing pruning and cleaning up of shrubs and beds around the schools.
- Riparian areas were monitored for hazardous situations and dealt with appropriately.
- All autumn leaves were mulched on site and spread over turf and shrub beds.
- Planted several new trees.

Weeding / Shrub Beds

A weed crew worked from May to the end of August weeding and cleaning up shrub beds at the front of schools. The crew also aerated, over seeded, fertilized and top dressed turf at the front of schools.

Field Repair

- 14 schools had their sports fields repaired which involved aerating, over seeding, fertilizing and top dressing.
- The new Dakota top dresser greatly improved the speed and quality of the top dressing process.
- Large badly damaged sections of sports fields and goal mouths were sodded to speed up the growing in of turf. This was carried out on the middle sections of fields that would be heavily used starting in late August / early September.

Mowing / Fertilizing

- 3 applications of fertilizer were applied to District fields.
- Two grass crews mowed District fields from April to November. A third crew was used as needed for 2nd cuts.
- All grass cuttings were left mulched on fields. There was no need to sweep any fields.

Irrigation

- The irrigation technicians were kept busy this year re-routing disturbed irrigation systems to accommodate the Modular Classroom installations.
- Main lines, valves and wire, pipes and sprinkler heads had to be re-routed and relocated.

Projects

- Most of this year's projects were centered on Modular Classroom installations.
- Watson Road - Drainage / Re-grading included irrigation and sod work.
- Watson Road – Modular Classrooms needed major re-routing and relocation of irrigation around the building. Disturbed area was re-graded and turf was installed.
- Helen Gorman – work related to re-grading, irrigation and turf after sewer was hooked up to school. Turf was installed where the sports field was damaged during energy upgrade.

Chute Lake

- Major re-routing and relocation of the irrigation system after the Modular Classrooms installation.
- Re-grading and sodding around the building.

Shannon Lake

- Major reclamation project around new addition to school
- Hillside facing Shannon Ridge Road was planted with native drought tolerant plants. This will involve close attention and timely maintenance for the next 3-5 years. This could become a good example of how we might reclaim hillsides and design our landscapes in the future.

Job	Hours	Labour
Field Repairs	915	\$29,280
IPM	207.5	\$6,642
Weed Control *	2,038.5	\$65,232
Fertilizing	502	\$16,075
Pruning	595	\$19,040
Totals	4,258	\$136,269

*Weed control includes costs of repairs to front of schools (curb Appeal)

Material	Cost
Top Dressing	\$28,286
Grass Seed	\$9,400
Fertilizer	\$21,169
Bark Mulch	\$7,840
Glenmore Grow Compost	\$2,121
Totals	\$68,816

Project	Hours	Material	Labour	Total
Watson Road Drainage	154.5	2, 238.24	4,944	7,182.24
Watson Road Modular landscape work	390	6,075.74	12,481	18,556.74
Helen Gorman Sewer hookup landscape repair	265.5	2,213.48	8,496	10,709.48
Helen Gorman field work related to energy upgrade	248	3,842.23	7,936	11,778.23
Shannon Lake hillside reclamation project	173	919.80	5,536	6,455.80
Chute Lake	257	2,000	8,224	10,224.00
Totals	1,488	17,289.49	47,617	64,906.49

Challenges and Observations for Discussion

Pruning – There is a tendency to focus on field repair, more so than long-term tree health cultural practices.

Field Use – Sports field use early in the season (as soon as snow melts off the turf) is always an ongoing challenge. Early field use damages turf and slows down healthy turf growth. Repairs to damaged fields are costly and time consuming. We have an opening date for field rentals; perhaps we need to have an “Early Opening of Fields Plan” for school use. This mainly concerns the middle and senior sports fields.

Erosion of Slopes – Erosion of slopes is starting to be noticeable at several sites – Chief Tomat Elementary, Glenrosa Middle and George Pringle Elementary. Methods of limiting bank erosion need to be looked at, such as over seeding slopes every few years, or planting low growing shrubs or low ground covers (See Shannon Lake Project).

Water Restrictions – The expectation is that restrictions will become tight throughout the District. How to manage landscapes is a direction we need to move toward in the efficient use of water for high priority features such as sports fields, shrub beds and trees. Non-priority areas may need only minimal water and maintenance to maintain a healthy landscape.

Bryan Spanner – Horticulturist
Mike Daley - Horticulturist