

Pesticide Use Justification Form – Playfields 2023

Applicant Information:

Matt Trevino, Parks Supervisor

Parks Department

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Pesticide:

Proposed Dates of Use: February 6, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Products (with active ingredients): **Snapshot:** Trifluralin: α,α,α -trifluoro-2,6-dinitro-N,N-dipropyl-p-toluidine 2.0%

EPA Reg #: No. 62719-175

Isoxaben: N-[3-(1-ethyl-1-methyl-propyl)-5-isoxazolyl]-2,6-dimethoxy-benzamide and isomers.

Pesticide Type: Herbicide

City Use Type: Tier 1 – Most hazardous, most restrictive

Use Location:

Street Address/Site Name: Playfields Baseball and Softball field warning tracks and foul territory areas.

Detailed Location of Application Site: The warning tracks and foul territory areas that surround the baseball and softball fields. The areas are fenced off and only accessible to maintenance staff and for programmed usage that is scheduled through coordinators.

Posting and Notification: A notice of 72 hours will be given before the application. No applications will be in the vicinity of playgrounds, schools or picnic areas.

Justification:

Target Pests: Various broadleaf weeds and annual grasses.

Justification for Use: This herbicide use is justified because it is the only reliable method to keep the identified areas safe and free of vegetation. The warning tracks experience a regular amount of growth and impedence from the turf grasses that are kicked up during play. Mowing or string trimming are not reliable ways to manage the vegetation in these specific areas because they do not kill the plants and actually

promote new growth on the grasses. The areas are also composed of ballfield mix, which is not meant to be mowed because it can cause the material to be thrown out of the area and leave the warning track hard and unsafe for play. Because of this, it is hard on maintenance staff to use mechanical means, so hand tools and ballfield groomers need to be utilized to help with the grass and weed removal.

The benefits of applying a pre-emergent would minimize the amount of weed growth to the warning tracks and foul territories and also provide a longer lasting beautification, which will reduce the need for additional controls later in the season.

Explanation of IPM Methods Used: As previously stated, crews have completed mechanical controls (ex. string trimmers, steaming, and hand pulling) in the warning tracks and foul areas in an attempt to eradicate the weeds. String trimming is utilized when the weeds are already tall and have become both an aesthetic and safety issue. Steaming has been tested during early growth.

String trimmers throw debris and rocks when in use, which creates the need to refill the areas with more ball mix and also creates more labor to groom the areas so that they can be safe for play. Additionally, the current practices of trimming serve only to perpetuate the issue, as they create conducive conditions for weed growth. As the weeds are trimmed, their seeded remains are spread throughout the area. Even when they are cleared by raking, the seeds remain embedded in the soils. Steaming was tested as a less hazardous alternative to string trimming, but regrowth and new growth were observed within weeks post treatment.

This proposed application is part of our overall integrated pest management of the sites. We currently employ almost exclusively non-chemical control measures at the majority of our rights-of-way including mowing, trimming, hoeing and hand pulling where and when appropriate.

Snapshot herbicide is considered a more toxic herbicide due to its potential impact on aquatic life. The product will be applied according to label instructions and in a manner that minimizes over spray into adjacent hardscaping or road gutters.

Strategies to Prevent Future Applications: The primary strategy to prevent future herbicide applications is to manage the emerging vegetation with well-timed herbicide applications, thus preventing seed-set and reducing future infestation of the areas. Options such as soil binders, are being explored for their usage, but may not be a viable option for weed suppression.

NOTES: Richard Tsai and John McNerney have reviewed this pesticide use justification and find it to be sound.

ERD Approval: Richard Tsai Date: February 3, 2023

CMO approval:  Date: 2/7/23