INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
CITY OF CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS, a Bee City, USA

An Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) is an effective and environmentally conscious strategy for dealing with many of the common pests and disease problems that are found in the landscape of a community. The important thing to remember is that an insect-free landscape does not exist. Insects are a vital part of the environment and play an important beneficial role. Just because a pest is present doesn't necessarily mean there is a problem.

The City of Carlinville, community beautification groups, and Woodard and Curran, the company contracted to perform public works activities, will diligently practice the IPM style of landscape management to achieve and maintain a beautiful landscape on city grounds and property while continuing to be mindful of the ecosystems that are in and around the city. There are several strategies that the various groups will use that encompass the IPM, including:

- Identifying both plants and their pests.

- Being proactive by scouting the landscape for pests and determining the level of damage done.

- Identifying thresholds for treatment

    1. **Aesthetic Threshold** – How much does the damage impact the look of the plant and what amount of damage is acceptable before treatment is necessary?

    2. **Health Threshold** – How much damage can a plant take before the health of the plant becomes a concern?

    3. **Public Threshold** – At what point does public opinion need to be taken into account to treat a certain pest? Beneficial insects can be viewed by certain people as pests, i.e., honey bees in a tree cavity.

- Practicing appropriate control measures on an individual level:

    1. **Biological Control** – Relying on beneficial insects or animals to reduce or eliminate the presence of unwanted or harmful pests.

    2. **Cultural Control** – Mulching, removing small numbers of pests by hand, and planting the right plant in the right place are examples of this type of control. Properly managing plant material once planted helps minimize stress and unfavorable conditions for that plant. Healthier plants have less stress and less stress means less pests.

3. **Mechanical Control** – Pest numbers can be kept lower by mowing, weed-eating, raking, etc.

4. **Chemical Control** – Chemical applications are sometimes necessary when other control measures have proven ineffective. Regulated chemicals will only be applied by licensed personnel on an as needed basis.

- Follow up on treatments and take further action as needed.

Pests are not just limited to insects. Unwanted vegetation, diseases, and fungal infections also fit into this category and will be dealt with accordingly. Workers involved with landscaping projects will be trained and work towards being able to identify common pests and their host plants through the assistance of knowledgeable persons in the community. If and when a pest is identified, action will be taken to remedy the problem using the above mentioned guidelines for treatment. Anyone who discovers pests that appear to be causing damage or growing in areas that are deemed unacceptable should notify the City's Public Works Committee Chairperson as soon as possible so a plan of action can be implemented.