

Municipal Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan

Village of Bensenville

1. Introduction

The Village of Bensenville is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all residents. Effective management of rodent infestations is critical to this mission. Bensenville's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach emphasizes prevention, monitoring, and control to manage rodent populations in an environmentally responsible manner. This plan outlines our comprehensive strategy for addressing rodent infestations within the Village.

2. Objectives

- Reduce rodent populations in Bensenville.
- Minimize health risks associated with rodent infestations.
- Implement sustainable and environmentally conscious pest control practices.
- Engage the community in proactive rodent prevention efforts.

3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategies

A. Prevention

1. Sanitation and Waste Management

- Ensure proper waste disposal and regular garbage collection.
- Promote secure storage of food waste in rodent-proof containers.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on proper waste management practices.

2. Elimination of Food and Water Sources

- Mandate that restaurants and food manufacturers use rodent proof waste receptacles and have sufficient refuse pickups.
- Encourage residents to store pet food indoors and clean up food spills immediately.
- Remove pet waste from lawns immediately.
- Fix leaky pipes and eliminate standing water in and around homes and businesses.
- Remove fallen fruits, nuts, and other food sources from yards.
- Eliminate fruit-bearing trees from public property and recommend removal from private property in infested areas.
- In impacted neighborhoods, the use of bird feeders should be reduced.

3. Habitat Modification

- Enforce property maintenance code to eliminate clutter and potential rodent nesting sites.
- Promote the trimming of overgrown vegetation and removal of debris.
- Reduce standing water in areas where rodent activity is noticeable.
- Seal cracks and holes in buildings to prevent rodent entry.
- Building permits that require digging shall be conditioned upon including rodent mitigation measures.

B. Monitoring

1. Regular Inspections

- During rental inspections, the properties bait stations will be checked to ensure that rodenticide bait is being used properly.
- Conduct routine inspections of public spaces, parks, and common areas.
- Use traps to monitor rodent activity.

2. Community Reporting System

- Establish a reporting system through See-Click-Fix for residents to notify the Village of rodent sightings.
- Community Development staff will follow up with every See-Click-Fix request. Follow-up may include a site visit to discuss rodent habit and food sources, baiting, or property owner responsibilities.

C. Control

1. Rodenticide Bait Stations

- Continue using third-party vendors for deploying and resupplying rodenticide bait stations to rodent infested areas.
- Ensure bait stations are strategically placed throughout the Village and regularly monitored.

2. Extermination Services

- Require all rental units to maintain a contract with a certified exterminator.
- Require all commercial properties to install and properly refresh rodent bait stations.
- Offer free guidance and support to homeowners seeking professional extermination services.

3. Biological Control

- Explore the use of natural predators, such as barn owls and feral cats, to control rodent populations.
- Promote the installation of owl nesting boxes in suitable locations.

4. Best Management Practices

- The Village will employ a certified Structural Pest Control Technician licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).
- Rodent abatement will be conducted using the standards established by the National Pest Management Association.
- All activities in the Bensenville Integrated Pest Management Plan will be conducted to maximize effectiveness with consideration of the budget allocation and minimizing harm to people, pets, and the environment.

4. Community Engagement

- **Education and Outreach**
 - Community Development inspectors will provide outreach and free assessments to any resident, property owner, or business inquiring about rodent infestations.
 - Distribute educational materials, such as brochures and flyers, to residents.
 - Utilize social media and the Village website to share tips and updates on pest management efforts.
- **Partnerships**
 - Collaborate with local businesses, schools, and community organizations to promote rodent prevention measures.
 - Partner with neighboring municipalities to share resources and best practices to mitigate regional rodent issues.
 - Engage with refuse haulers to ensure that garbage cans and dumpsters are in good repair to reduce access to rodent food sources.

5. Evaluation and Adaptation

- **Performance Metrics**
 - Track the number of reported rodent sightings and infestations.
 - Monitor the effectiveness of bait stations and other control measures.
- **Review and Adjust**
 - Regularly review the IPM plan and adjust based on feedback and performance data.
 - Stay informed about new IPM techniques and integrate them into the plan as appropriate.

6. Conclusion

By adopting this Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, the Village of Bensenville aims to effectively manage rodent infestations through a combination of prevention, monitoring, and control strategies. This comprehensive approach will ensure a healthier, safer, and more pleasant environment for all residents.