

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT APPROACH FACT SHEET

Overview

The City of Subiaco will be implementing an integrated weed management approach across its parks, streetscapes, and public spaces to ensure weeds are controlled effectively, while continuing to reduce environmental impacts wherever possible.

What is the City's integrated approach to weed management?

Experience across Perth, and other Western Australian Councils, has shown that use of a combination of weed management tools provides the most effective and sustainable results in long-term scenarios.

As part of the City's integrated weed management approach, a mixture of methods will be utilised to allow the City to reduce the number of repeat treatments, limit soil disturbance, and lower overall resource use, including fuel, water, and repeated maintenance visits.

Weed control methods as part of this approach will include steam weeding, manual removal, and targeted herbicide use in specific situations where alternative methods are not effective, and where it provides the best overall outcome.

This integrated approach reflects current industry best practice for local governments in Western Australia, balancing environmental responsibility, public safety, and the need for effective weed management.

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Frequently asked questions

Why are herbicides being used?

Over the past several years, the City has trialled a range of weed control methods, including non-chemical techniques, as part of efforts to reduce herbicide use.

These methods have not been as effective as required, and as a result, the maintenance standards of the City's parks and reserves have fallen.

The prevalence of weeds in the City's parks and reserves has also impacted the City's ongoing efforts to increase biodiversity and natural areas within the City. By taking an integrated approach, it will support healthier landscapes that deliver better biodiversity outcomes by reducing invasive weeds and allowing native species to establish and thrive.

How will herbicide use be managed?

Use of herbicides will be limited, and targeted only to specific areas where alternative methods have not been proven effective. Examples of this include in garden beds, where people do not generally walk. In high traffic or sensitive areas, like the town centre or within playgrounds, steam weeding will continue to be utilised.

Clear signage will be provided whenever herbicide application is undertaken, and all works will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines set by the WA Department of Health regarding pesticide use.

Does the City notify residents about herbicide spraying?

The City will continue to notify the community with on-site signage during spraying in parks, sports fields, natural areas and any other areas where the applications may be required.

Does the City use non-herbicide methods to manage weeds?

Yes. Steam weeding, manual removal, and other non-chemical methods will continue to be prioritised in high-traffic areas, including high streets, playgrounds, and other sensitive areas.

The City remains committed to using the least-impact methods available, while ensuring parks, streets, and public spaces remain safe, clean and well maintained for the community.

The City will also investigate options for local residents to weed areas as volunteers, for areas where the community does not want glyphosate to be used.

Steam weeding will also continue to be undertaken on hard surfaces across the City (footpaths, laneways, kerb lines, carparks). In isolated incidents where problematic or woody weeds have become established, we may consider different types of control which may include the use of herbicides, again using limited specific and targeted use

What should I do if my dog or I walk on recently sprayed turf?

If you or your pet come into contact with recently sprayed turf, it is recommended to rinse the affected area with water and avoid further exposure until the area is dry.

Signage will be in place during and following applications, as per the guidelines set by the WA Department of Health, to avoid this from occurring.

