

Best Management Practices and Policies

Best management practices (BMPs) aimed at preventing invasive species establishment and spread are a cost-efficient method of invasive species management for city and regional district workers, including maintenance and park staff. Many BMPs can be employed in regular activities within normal schedules or limitations.

- Identifying invasive species and providing a shortlist of species to watch for
- Regular mowing of roadsides, parks, vacant lots, and other areas with invasive species or timing mowing appropriately
- Mowing before seeds are produced (e.g. before full bloom)
- Cleaning mowing equipment between sites to prevent transporting seeds, plant parts and other invasive animals
- Avoiding creation of bare soil
- Re-seeding bare soil as soon as possible
- Ensuring that seed mixes do not contain invasive species
- Careful disposal of invasive species waste (bagged to the landfill or incinerated)
- Prohibiting invasive species from being planted or transported to local government parks
- Ensuring soil and fill are “invasive-free”
- Removing invasive species during park development or when undertaking natural area restoration
- Ensuring contractors who are working in local government areas are aware of concerns and best management practices for invasive species
- Developing policies or guidelines for both staff and contractors
- Staff training (as above)

These types of BMPs can be included in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for *Local Government Activities* or special SOPs for invasive species can be developed. For example, the City of Victoria has developed SOPs for the control of specific invasive species that includes the minimum number of crew required, personal protective equipment, material required, identification features of the plant and procedures for removal and disposal. The Parks and Recreation Commission for the City of Surrey has developed a policy on invasive alien plant species management and incorporated it into their Policy Manual and has also included invasive species in their Natural Area Trail’s standards and Natural Area Management Plan.