

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee (IPMAC)**



Parks Division  
Gopher Trapping Policy  
October 2022

*Goal*

Control the gopher population in parks by trapping consistently throughout the year at an increased frequency.

*Description*

Gophers are present at almost all City parks. It is very difficult to determine a threshold for gophers in parks because they reproduce year-round and require constant trapping in this climate.

*Policy*

It is Parks Division policy that Grounds Maintenance Worker II's (GMWII's) and Senior Grounds Maintenance Workers (Seniors) shall set gopher traps each week in the parks for which they are responsible. Seniors and GMWII's shall coordinate to determine who is responsible for which park when both are assigned to the same park. These staff members shall fill out a Gopher Trapping Log each week to record the amount of traps set, time spent, and amount of gophers trapped. Those logs shall be submitted to Parks Administrative Assistant for entry into a running spreadsheet, entitled, Gopher Trapping Spreadsheet. To incentivize staff to complete this unpleasant task, from time to time, supervisors may award the staff member who trapped the most gophers with a small prize. The Parks Administrative Assistant shall provide trapping information to Parks Supervisors on a regular basis to communicate to all staff. Parks Staff shall provide trapping information to the IPM Advisory Committee at regular quarterly meetings. Parks Supervisors are also responsible for notifying the Parks Manager if there is evidence of an increase in gopher activity and/or population in any given park.

If regular, ongoing trapping by Parks staff is not sufficient to manage the gopher population in a particular park, the Parks Manager may assign staff from another crew to provide additional trapping support and may determine that further gopher management techniques are needed. If this occurs, the Parks Manager will bring forward an IPM Exemption Request for review.

Staff shall receive training on gopher trapping at least once a year. These trainings may be a time for staff to share their techniques, as everyone's may be slightly different.

The Division shall code all gopher-related expenses to the Integrated Pest Management account 10006912-531300-63255 so that cost can be factored into decision-making about gopher control.