Enrich the environment through practices of *STEP UP!* Sanitation, Teaching, Environmental Enrichment, Preventative actions and Universal Policy.

When we practice high standards of EFM, a healthy environment evolves.

*STEP UP!* to the plate and give the city a home run.

**S** - Sanitation

1. Trash dumpster lids should be closed at all times, and tightly fitted with a lock bar and no spillage on the ground.
2. Trash containers shall be rodent proof and checked regularly for overstuffing.
3. All public bathrooms shall be checked on a regular basis for cleanliness and sanitation.
4. Picnic only in designated areas.

**T** - Teaching

1. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has an excellent video series on the benefits of IPM that should be reviewed by everyone. Click on “Integrated Pest Management for Schools” at https://www.youtube.com/user/CaliforniaPesticides.
2. Encourage respect and love for our environment. Attend Earth Day Fairs and other events.
E - Environmental Enrichment

1. Enrich the environment by planting shade trees so people are protected from the harmful rays of the sun and can play safely outside in the fresh air. Encourage drought resistant trees.
2. Develop organic vegetable gardens. Raised boxes are available for urban environments where children can witness the miracle of life and raise their own vegetables from seed to mouth.
4. Soil testing and the development of a soil enrichment program that replaces chemical fertilizers. Poor soil conditions foster weeds and insect infestation.

P - Prevention

1. No synthetic pesticides or chemical fertilizers shall be used on the playground, turf and picnic areas.
2. Repel, Exclude, Deter
   Plant flora that repels mice and rats such as the mint varieties, lavender, rosemary, sage, marigolds, snapdragons, geraniums.
   Daffodils, narcissus and bearded irises for gophers and ground squirrels.
3. Encourage owl nesting boxes, raptor nesting platforms.
4. Utilize exclusion techniques in all structures.
   **Underground Barriers.**
   Mice/rats: A pea gravel trench barrier 6 inches deep in the ground and 2 feet wide.
   Gopher/ground squirrels: Surround a garden or field area with a trench barrier from 18 inches to 3 feet deep and 2 feet above the ground. Make an L-shaped bottom with the hardware cloth.
   Use hardware cloth to line the entire playing field.
   To exclude from foundations or crawlspaces/porches create an L-shaped barrier to at least 2 feet deep with the hardware cloth.
5. Exterior doors should have a threshold clearance of less than ¼ inch (if needed, can be retrofitted with an aluminum automatic drop seal).
6. Remove harborage and foliage that is conducive to rodent habitat.
7. Fill in gopher and ground squirrel holes immediately to discourage local residence.

UP - Universal Policy

Embrace *The “Precautionary Principle”*. The principle recognizes that:
   a) No pesticide product is free from risk or threat to human health, and
   b) Industrial producers should be required to prove that their pesticide products demonstrate an absence of risks rather than requiring that the government or the public prove that human health is being harmed.

*When we poison the wildlife and the Earth we are poisoning ourselves; nature is a united system. Pesticides are in the air that we breathe, the water that we drink and the food that we eat, and they are absorbed through our skin.*