



Photo by Jim Bowling, Herald & Review, Oct 4, 2017

Ongoing and future projects for 2018!

View the complete, detailed, and interactive map at bit.ly/MPACprojects



From a Home to a House of Horrors: One Tenant's Battle with Bed Bugs

Ellie, MPAC's 2017 spring intern understood the bed bug issue when she left us for her new job. Yet, this bed bug veteran found herself at the mercy of an unresponsive landlord after moving into a bed bug infested Chicago apartment turning her home into a horror story. Read our cautionary interview with Ellie at bit.ly/MPACinterview.

Healthy Homes and Climate Change

MPAC has a long history of advancing healthy homes. Most notably, MPAC successfully promoted integrated pest management (IPM) to control pest problems in the Henry Horner Homes leading to the adoption of an IPM policy for all Chicago Housing Authority properties and reducing both pest and pesticide related asthma triggers for the vulnerable populations living there.

People spend about 60% of their time at home and evidence suggests physical and mental health problems relate to the conditions of our home environment. Housing disrepair exposes at risk populations disproportionately to pests, pesticides, and other air pollutants and contaminants. As buildings deteriorate, pest sightings increase and no amount of cleaning or pesticide use will solve the problem until the repairs are completed.

As we move into 2018, MPAC will create partnerships and lead projects that address the entirety of structural issues affecting the health of homes. We hope to use the issue of pest control to highlight the need for structurally sound, well maintained home environments. Proper use of IPM can even reduce the impact of home heating and cooling on climate change, creating more energy efficient spaces while keeping pests out. This is a lofty goal but in the days of dwindling resources, it's the best way to sustain our mission.

Home Repair Activity	Helps Keep Pests Out	Helps Keep Heating & Cooling In
Seal foundation cracks	YES	YES
Seal cable entry points	YES	YES
Seal Pipe Chases	YES	YES
Caulk around windows	YES	YES
Repair Roof Damage	YES	YES
Add Door Sweeps	YES	YES
Add electrical outlet insulation	Maybe	YES

MIDWEST GROWS GREEN

The sponge-like structures of healthy soils protect our ecosystems from stormwater runoff and toxic exposures by retaining pesticides, fertilizers, and water. Recent lawn care messages and marketing, however, ignore the importance of healthy soil in favor of growing a green, "perfect" lawn. MGG will shift lawn care values back to the soil in Milwaukee County through evidence-based research, engaging natural lawn care demonstrations, and peer-to-peer lawn care policy sharing sessions. To view a detailed, interactive map of current MGG projects, visit bit.ly/MGGprojects.

ASTHMA-FRIENDLY CHILDCARES

In some urban communities such as Chicago's Humboldt Park and Englewood neighborhoods, asthma rates exceed 25%. Many of those most severely affected are children, and some spend 40 or more hours per week in childcare. Using an expanded online training presence, technical assistance, and dedicated demonstration sites, MPAC supports in-home childcares to reduce asthma triggers such as pests and pesticides by increasing the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM). To view a detailed, interactive map of MPAC's school & childcare projects, visit bit.ly/MPAC-kids.

What's MPAC Up To?

There is more demand for Midwest Pesticide Action Center's brand of community-wide engagement than ever. Check out the map of our projects on the opposite page to see how and where we make an impact and see where your support goes.

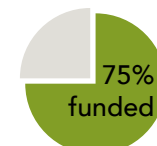
Support MPAC programs at <http://bit.ly/MPACgift>

Natural Lawn Care is Catching On

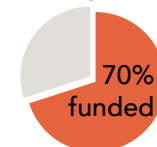
2017 sparked natural lawn care movement locally, regionally, and nationally. Some highlights include:

- The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 will eliminate glyphosate and 2,4-D use on all 45 acres of land. See the story at bit.ly/MGGprsr.
- The Naperville Park District will add eight pesticide free parks and expand organic fertilization to all parks in 2018. See the full plan at bit.ly/MGGnprparks.
- 66 park and school district staff, landscape contractors, and other large turf managers attended MPAC's inaugural MGG Lawn & Land Forum workshop, November 2017. See the recap of the workshop at bit.ly/MGGwhynt.
- The national Parks & Recreation Magazine interviewed MPAC's Ryan Anderson about our natural parks work. See the article at bit.ly/MGGnrpa.

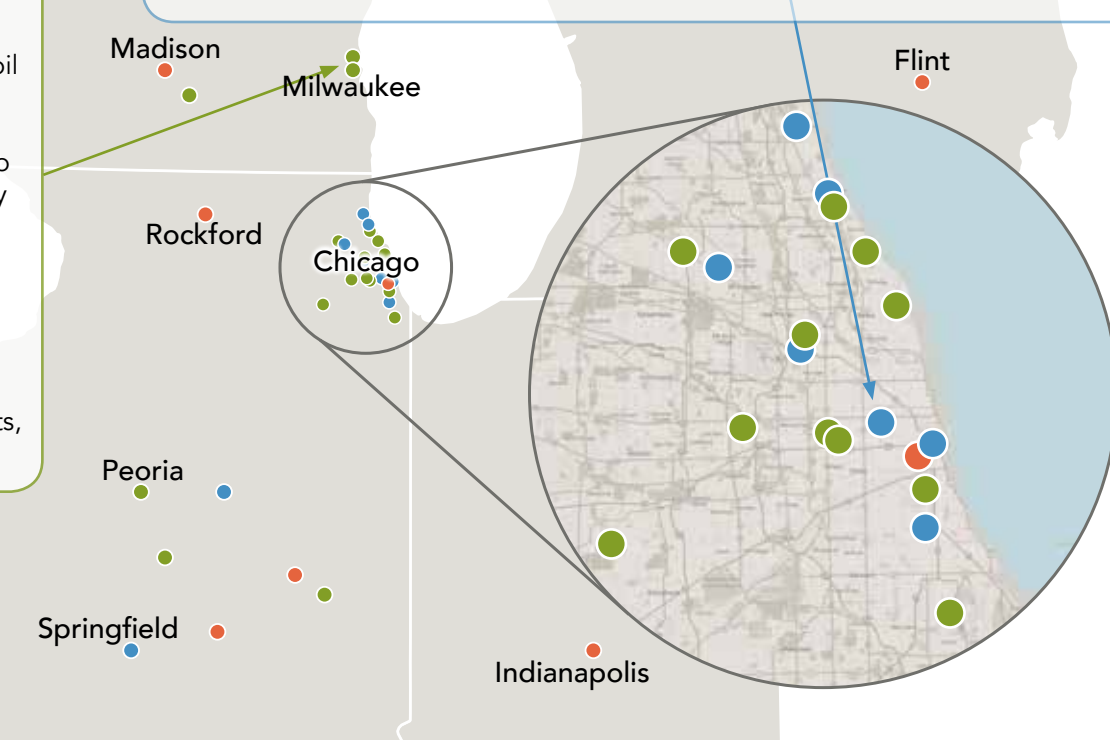
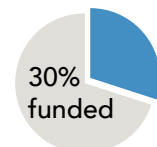
Midwest Grows Green



Healthy Homes



Schools & Childcares



HEALTHY HOMES

Living in a safe and healthy home environment is essential to the health and well-being of everyone, everywhere. Yet, we intentionally or unintentionally bring many toxins into homes that can cause serious harm. MPAC's housing program aims to prevent the unnecessary use of pesticides, especially in low income housing. This year we will expand our efforts to more rural areas such as St. Clair and Macon Counties that are experience an uptick in pest problems, connecting the use of integrated pest management (IPM) with energy efficiency, and creating new partnerships. To view a detailed, interactive map of MPAC's healthy homes projects, visit bit.ly/MPAC-homes.



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MidwestPesticideActionCenter

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Update

WINTER 2018
Protecting people and the environment

MPAC'S 2017 STATS

418 MGG pledges

171 Pesticide Free Park Acres

130 Chicago Childcare Providers trained online (over 1,500 statewide)

135,000 People have directly or indirectly benefited from our workshops, conferences, community engagements, and other events.

Pests in the News

Bed Bugs

The City of Chicago remained in the top five for Orkin's most bed bug infested cities, but stayed at the #3 spot for the 2nd year in a row - a drop from #1 in 2016 (see bit.ly/orkBB18). MPAC hopes this indicates Chicago residents, tenants, and landlords are improving their control practices. The presence of other cities on the list such as Indianapolis, Grand Rapids, and Decatur, however, greatly concerns us and we will offer workshops and technical assistance to help.



Rats

The City of Chicago found itself on top of Orkin's list of rattiest cities in 2017. The City's efforts to control rat populations have been well documented, including a controversial decision to use dry ice to suffocate the rodents. MPAC's Ruth Kerzee raised concerns about the safety and legality of these practices (see bit.ly/MPACrats). In 2017, the EPA eventually did approve dry ice for rat control. MPAC promotes rat prevention measures over chemical controls, however.



Zika Virus

A year following a reported 224 locally-acquired Zika cases in the US, Zika prevalence dropped dramatically in 2017 to only two home-grown cases (one case in Florida and one in Texas) and no Zika-linked cases of microcephaly. In the Midwest, MPAC discourages overreactions to the virus that has yet to impact our communities and recommends an integrated approach to mosquito management (see bit.ly/MPACmos).



Thank you to our 2016-17 Donors!

The following individual and institutional funders made contributions to Midwest Pesticide Action Center from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017. With so many wonderful donors, we make every effort to accurately acknowledge your support. Please call (773) 878-7378 with any errors or omissions, so that we may correct our records.

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