While rodents do not abide by certain rules, there are areas throughout cities they tend to gravitate. Train stations, parks, stadiums, business districts and tourist areas are all high activity areas during the day, with minimal population at night. It’s the ideal setting for a rodent’s nocturnal personality. Look at maps of a city and point out areas like these around an account that might be prone to a rodent infestation.

Proper and thorough inspection will highlight the best areas to place equipment. “One tip we learned from Bobby Corrigan, was to double back on city streets during inspections,” said Haddad. “By simply walking north and south on one street, the change in perspective south on one street, the change in perspective offers completely different clues about where rodents might be.”

When placing bait in high activity areas, it is important to be sensitive to the surroundings. Use a camouflaged bait station, like Bell’s Protecta EVO Circuit around buildings, and Bell’s Protecta EVO Landscape in parks for disguised bait station placement.

Overcoming the city’s rodent problem takes tenacity, city-smarts and a sound understanding of rodent elimination strategies for urban areas. So, this past May, the Bell team took to the streets with rodent expert Dr. Bobby Corrigan, president of RMC Pest Management Consulting. For two days, Corrigan led an in-depth “rodent academy” that touched on rodent biology, behavior and control techniques. The training culminated with a nighttime trek down the back alleys and side streets of the city and into its subways for a glimpse of the challenges facing rodent control workers in New York. “It was a fantastic opportunity for the whole team to gain a better understanding of urban rodent control with real life scenarios,” said Sheila Haddad, Bell’s Vice President of Sales - East. “Bobby Corrigan gave us extremely useful ideas that our technical team can use in day-to-day talks and presentations, as well as real-world experience for use in inspections.”

The Bell team saw firsthand the day’s trash piled up on the streets ready for collection – scattered with telltale signs of rodent chew marks. The group also witnessed plenty of rats scurrying in and out of burrows throughout the city’s parks. A common sight, given nearly 70 percent of rodent control in Manhattan consists of burrow baiting.

City parks are equal parts sanctuary and feeding ground for rodents. One rat peaks its head out of one of the many burrow openings.

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I t is a well-known saying that if you can make it in New York City, you can make it anywhere – a motto that rings true to rodents as well. Featured as one of Animal Planet’s most rat-plagued cities, the Big Apple’s thriving rodent population is certainly not overstated. For two days, Corrigan led an in-depth “rodent academy” that touched on rodent biology, behavior and control techniques. The training culminated with a nighttime trek down the back alleys and side streets of the city and into its subways for a glimpse of the challenges facing rodent control workers in New York. “It was a fantastic opportunity for the whole team to gain a better understanding of urban rodent control with real life scenarios,” said Sheila Haddad, Bell’s Vice President of Sales - East. “Bobby Corrigan gave us extremely useful ideas that our technical team can use in day-to-day talks and presentations, as well as real-world experience for use in inspections.”

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The theme of the rodent boot camp centered on “great rodent control,” accessing the rodent source with good inspections and correct equipment installation, versus simply setting the bait and waiting for rodents to come to it.

“Sebum trails, caches of food and trash, droppings and waiting for rodents to come to it,” accessing the rodent control, “said Bell’s Pat Lynch, Vice President of Sales - West. “It was an excellent opportunity to learn from the recognized world expert in rodent control, Bobby Corrigan, so we can continue to be the experts in the field.”

Though the perspective was from New York, a comparison can easily be drawn to other cities around the world that struggle to eliminate rodents in suburban sanitation and environmental issues.