



**TOWNSHIP OF VOORHEES
GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY**

In a continued effort towards sustainability, the Township of Voorhees desires to incorporate green grounds and maintenance practices into its current grounds maintenance operations. It is the Township's goal, by adoption of this policy, to ensure best practices for grounds maintenance in the areas of efficient landscape design, minimized water consumption, recycled and composted materials, and integrated pest management. By doing so, the Township shall continue to promote healthy, environmentally sound public lands and, in turn, promote a truly sustainable community for Township residents.

GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Efficient Landscape Design

- Use native, low maintenance plants
- Group plantings according to their water needs
- Reduce water evaporation by mulching plantings
- Encourage regular maintenance
- Promote healthy soil
- Advance smart design of landscaped areas to allow for energy efficient maintenance while promoting aesthetically pleasing public spaces

Minimized Water Consumption

- Use low-water, drought tolerant plants
- Reduce public lawn irrigation to the minimum amount practicable
- Further water conservation by installing automatic flush and sink sensors in Township buildings whenever possible

Recycled and Composted Materials

- Use only recycled/composted mulch on all Township grounds
- Continue to produce mulch products yearly from residential brush and leaf pickup programs
- Educate residents on the benefits of recycled/composted materials
- Continue the cut-it-and-leave-it practice on all Township lawns and playing fields

Integrated Pest Management

- Continue maintaining public parks and green spaces as pesticide-free zones
- Keep Township grounds and facilities free of trash, litter, and unnecessary debris to discourage pests



- Establish a reasonable action threshold with regard to pest levels
- When required, use only environmentally friendly fertilizers and pesticides
- Reevaluate and adjust IPM practices annually

The above stated Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy shall be supported by the Township of Voorhees and adhered to by all municipal employees to the maximum extent practicable.


Lawrence Spellman
Voorhees Township Administrator

March 12, 2013
Date