

# **Borough of Paramus**

## **Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy**

This policy encourages and promotes measures and initiatives that protect, preserve, and enhance the environmental quality and health of the residents of the community.

An integrated approach is used whenever possible to incorporate efficient landscape design, minimize water consumption, encourage the utilization of recycled materials and compost and to practice integrated pest management (IPM) on Borough properties.

### **GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES**

#### **1. Efficient Landscape Design**

- Use native, low maintenance plants when possible (as native species require less maintenance and provide valuable habitat for local wildlife)
- Group plantings according to their water needs.
- Design landscaping with storm water management and energy efficient maintenance in mind while promoting aesthetically pleasing public space. Consider property contours and create planting areas that will slow water flows and filter runoff to improve groundwater recharge and prevent erosion.
- Reduce water evaporation by mulching plantings.

#### **2. Minimize Water Consumption**

- The Borough will incorporate plantings that do not require irrigation systems where possible.
- Further water conservation by installing automatic flush and sink sensors in Borough buildings where ever possible.

### **3. Recycled and Composted Materials**

- Use only recycled/composted mulch material on Borough grounds.
- Educate residents on the benefits of recycled/composted materials.
- Incorporate a cut-it-and-leave-it practice on Borough grounds and playing fields

### **4. Environmentally-Conscious Maintenance**

- Significantly reduce the use of conventional pesticides through an Integrated Pest Management program.
- Avoid excessive fertilizer use. Test soils for pH to determine plants best suited for that pH and correct as needed for lawn areas.
- Improve operations with efficient watering schedules and improved irrigation equipment. Minimize evaporation by utilizing efficient irrigation techniques and timing. Check systems regularly and repair leaks promptly.