

**BOROUGH OF STONE HARBOR**

**Department of Public Works**

**8018 Third Avenue**

**Stone Harbor NJ 08247**

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**Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy**

In a continued effort towards environmental sustainability and green practices, the Borough of Stone Harbor wishes to incorporate a Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy into the current grounds maintenance operations and sustainable initiatives set forth by the Borough of Stone Harbor Go Green Community Committee.

As responsible stewards of municipal land, park systems, beaches, bayfronts and various tracts of open space, it is the Borough’s goal, by the adoption of this policy, to ensure best practices for grounds maintenance in the areas of efficient landscape design, minimized water consumption, recycled materials and pest management. In doing so, the Borough of Stone Harbor shall continue to promote healthy, environmentally sound public lands, in turn promoting a truly sustainable community fir Stone Harbor residents.

**Efficient Landscape Design:**

* Use Native, low maintenance plants
* Manage the Stone Harbor Dune system by following the Stone harbor Dune Vegetation management Plan while using the approved list of native dune vegetation.
* Continue when possible “Zero Irrigation” by using low water-use plants where applicable
* Encourage regular maintenance and review of Borough landscape design
* Promote healthy soil by aerating Borough ballfields in the late spring /early fall
* Employ smart landscape designs that encourage energy efficient maintenance, where promoting aesthetically pleasing public spaces
* Design and maintenance of public parks and open spaces using science based principles
* Continue best management practices by planting of dune grass that requires zero irrigation

 **Minimize Water Consumption:**

* Install, where possible, landscaping that requires minimal or zero irrigation
* Promote the use of indigenous and low water plants
* Install automatic flush toilets and sink sensors in Borough buildings when possible
* Water landscapes when needed while being sensitive to weather
* Continue our public information campaign regarding Stone Harbor Borough Ordinance regarding mandatory Irrigation watering schedule approved by Council 7/6/2013
* Search for and fix leaks promptly

**Recycled Materials and Composting:**

* Continue to recycle material collected from our brush and leaf collection program
* Continue to “cut it and leave it” practices on Borough grounds and playing fields
* Continue to exceed standards set by the State of new Jersey regarding the collection of recycled materials, including paper, cardboard, electronics, metal objects and rigid plastics

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM):**

* Where practical, use only environmentally friendly (low phosphate) fertilizers consistent with new NJDEP fertilizer laws
* Minimize use of pesticides, i.e. use only when necessary and in a manner consistent with label directions
* Apply pesticides in a safe manner, avoiding overspray and drift
* Continue practices of trimming trees and shrubbery on Borough property, especially along Borough streets and public open spaces
* Ensure roofs are repaired with surface treatments in a timely manner to prevent infestations of wood boring insects
* Discourage pests by keeping Borough grounds and facilities free from trash and litter
* Evaluate and adjust IPM practices regularly
* Operate a waste collection program for public areas and residents that precludes the use of waste by pest birds and mammals