

## **BOROUGH OF CHATHAM GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY**

In a continued effort towards sustainability and green practices, the Borough of Chatham desires to incorporate Green Grounds and Maintenance practices into the current grounds maintenance operations. As responsible stewards of municipal land, park systems, and 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 and composted materials, and integrated pest management. In doing so, the Borough shall continue to promote healthy, environmentally sound public lands, in turn promoting a truly sustainable community for Borough residents.

### **Efficient Landscape Design:**

- Use only native, low maintenance plants
- Group plantings according to their water needs
- Continue "Zero irrigation" by using only low water-use plants
- Reduce water evaporation by mulching plantings
- Encourage regular maintenance
- Promote healthy soil
- Smart landscape design: allow energy efficient maintenance, promote aesthetically pleasing public space
- Minimize lawn area to reduce required maintenance

### **Minimize Water Consumption:**

- Install no landscaping or plantings that require irrigation
- Zero irrigation: use only low-water plants
- Install automatic flush, sink sensors in Borough buildings whenever possible
- Install rain gardens, rain barrels, where appropriate and possible, and other measures to help mitigate and control stormwater runoff
- Water landscapes only when needed; be sensitive to weather and species-specific need
- Search for and fix leaks promptly

### **Integrated Pest Management**

- Where practical use only environmentally friendly fertilizers and pesticides
- Minimize use of pesticides
- Avoid excessive fertilizer use
- Keep tree branches and shrubbery well-maintained and away from buildings
- Ensure roofs are repaired in a timely manner so as not to attract insects to deteriorating wood
- Adhere to a seeding and aeration program in the spring and fall
- Discourage pests: keep Borough grounds and facilities free of trash, litter, unnecessary debris
- Establish a reasonable action threshold with the intent to control pest levels
- Evaluate and adjust IPM practices regularly

### **Recycled and Composted Materials**

- Use only recycled/composted mulch on Borough grounds
- Produce mulch annually from residential brush and leaf pick-up program
- Continue to provide mulch free to residents
- Continue cut-it and leave-it practices on all Borough grounds and playing fields