



# Township of Hillsborough

COUNTY OF SOMERSET  
THE PETER J. BIONDI BUILDING  
379 SOUTH BRANCH ROAD  
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844  
(908) 369-4313  
[www.hillsborough-nj.org](http://www.hillsborough-nj.org)

## Resolution Approving the Adoption of a Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough strives to save tax dollars, improve the working and living environment, assure clean air and water, and build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially and which would thrive well into the new century; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is aware that utilizing “green practices” provides benefits to community sustainability; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Township of Hillsborough adopts Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy attached hereto, and made part of this Resolution:

1. That this resolution shall be effective immediately.

### HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

In a continued effort towards sustainability and green practices, Hillsborough Township desires to incorporate Green Grounds and Maintenance practices into the current grounds maintenance operations for the Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department. As responsible stewards of the municipal land, park systems and open spaces, it is Hillsborough’s goal, by the adoption of this policy, to ensure best practices for ground maintenance in the areas of efficient landscape design, minimized water consumption, recycled and composted materials, and integrated pest management. In doing so, Hillsborough shall continue to promote healthy, environmentally sound public lands, in turn promoting a truly sustainable community for Hillsborough Township residents.

#### Efficient Landscape Design

- Encourage smart landscape design that allows efficient maintenance and promotes aesthetically pleasing public spaces:
  - Use “Xeriscaping” to incorporate native and low maintenance plantings (native species require less maintenance and provide valuable habitat for local wildlife)
  - Promote healthy soil:
    - Test soils for pH to determine which plants are best-suited to the soil type.
    - Test soils to determine composition, and then apply specific fertilizers to correct soil chemistry if needed, instead of using a generic mix that often provides excess phosphorus
  - Minimize lawn area to reduce required maintenance and replace lawn areas with higher value landscaping
  - Remove invasive species of plants when feasible

- Design landscaping with stormwater management in mind (consider property contours and create plantings that will slow water flows and filter runoff to improve groundwater recharge and prevent erosion)
  - Incorporate “Rainscaping” design to minimize surface runoff, including, but not limited to rain gardens, bioswales, and other green infrastructure techniques where appropriate and feasible, and other measures to help mitigate and control stormwater runoff
  - Retrofit stormwater basins to improve groundwater recharge in order to decrease maintenance when feasible
  - Use materials such as pea gravel for walkways rather than macadam to improve groundwater recharge and prevent erosion
  - Design and maintain landscape/streetscapes that create or expand pollinator-friendly habitats

### Minimize Water Consumption

- Continue to strive for “Zero Irrigation” by using low water-use (drought-tolerant) plants when possible and improve operations with efficient watering schedules, improved irrigation equipment, and rainwater capture:
  - Group plantings according to their water needs
  - Water the landscape only when needed, instead of setting schedules that are not sensitive to weather and species-specific needs
  - Minimize evaporation, and utilize efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation systems
  - Be sure to search for and fix leaks promptly
  - Encourage collection and use of rainwater for non-potable water applications (rain barrels, etc.)
  - Reduce Water evaporation by mulching plantings

### Integrated Pest Management

- Create and adopt pollinator-friendly pest management practices through an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods (evaluate and adjust IPM practices regularly)
- Keep tree branches and shrubbery well-maintained and away from buildings
  - Adhere to a seeding and aeration program in the spring and fall
  - Discourage pests: keep Hillsborough grounds and facilities free of trash, litter, unnecessary debris
  - Establish a reasonable action threshold with the intent to control pest levels
- Where practical, use only environmentally friendly fertilizers (avoid excessive fertilizer use) and pesticides (use minimally)

### Recycled and Composted Materials

- Compost landscape waste (e.g. leaves, prunings, etc) generated from municipal operations and collected from residential brush and leaf pick-up programs:

- Use only recycled/composted mulch on grounds when possible
- Continue to provide mulch free to residents when available
- Utilize grass clippings and leaves to create natural fertilizer Grass and use for top dress of athletic fields
- Continue cut-it and leave-it practices on all Hillsborough grounds and playing fields
- Encourage material recycling practices is an efficient way to reduce materials' consumption for municipal operations and making projects more cost-efficient, while setting a positive example for others to use recycled materials:
  - Reuse materials from the municipal waste stream, such as tires and cement when possible, to produce hardscape products, including pathways, benches, planters, etc. and use recycled wood for benches, playgrounds, and other landscaping furniture
  - Recycled tires and other rubber materials can be broken down and used in replacing asphalt and concrete
  - Use excess of chipped stone in the chip seal program to reuse again
  - Repair and reuse bulk items collected such as pressure washers, lawn mowers, chainsaws, etc.

---

I, Pamela Borek, Township Clerk, hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Hillsborough at a regular and duly convened meeting held on November 10, 2020. In witness thereof, I have set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Hillsborough this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020.

*Pamela Borek*

---