



# Resolution of the Township of Bernards

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## **Resolution #080520**

### **Adoption of “2008 Pesticide Management System Resolution”**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Bernards to promote matters which benefit the health, welfare, comfort and safety of the citizens of the community, and

**WHEREAS**, scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with asthma, cancer, development and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects and disruption of the endocrine system, and

**WHEREAS**, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure, and

**WHEREAS**, lawn pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are harmful to pets, wildlife, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems and can run off into streams, lakes and drinking water sources, and,

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Pest Management is coordinated use of pest and environmental information and all available pest control methods (sanitation, mechanical, biological and “least toxic” chemical) to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment, and

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Pest Management has been investigated and considered by the Environmental Commission and it’s recommended by the Environmental Commission as a desirable and appropriate policy in order to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides, and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Bernards does maintain public properties at which pest management issues are an ongoing concern, and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the health, welfare, comfort and safety of the Township’s citizens to adopt Integrated Pest Management as the Township’s pest management policy,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Bernards that the Township does hereby adopt Integrated Pest Management, as the pest control policy and strategy to be employed in the maintenance of the Township's public properties and facilities, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Bernards encourage all citizens to make every effort to participate in this endeavor on their own property, and that the Township will designate certain public properties such as community parks as "Pesticide Free Zones". These areas will be posted with a sign indicated that chemical pesticides have not been applied at the site.

Please send a copy of the resolution to NJ Environmental Federation, 223 Park Ave., Marlton NJ 08053 or fax to 856-768-6662

Agenda and Date Voted: 12/23/2008

**Explanative Statement:**

As you are aware, the Bernards Township Department of Public Works is now responsible for mowing, fertilizing and general pest control operations for our municipal buildings, parks, traffic islands in our municipal parking lots and roadways, and various other Public Lands throughout the Township.

Earlier this year we have been requested to look into converting over to organic fertilizers and minimizing the use of pesticides in our Public Areas. We have explored this request and are pleased to propose the "2008 Pest Management System for our Parks and other Public Areas". The Plan states that the Township shall employ "other tools "such as native planting, manual control hand weeding, organic agents, etc. before employing a"treatment of last resort" such as, various pyrethrins insecticides and glyphosate (with the appropriate notification). The plan would also set up "Pesticide Free Zones" at various areas within our parks, as described in our IPM.

We do anticipate some cost increase associated with conversion to organic products. These costs can be minimized with bulk purchasing and other proposed efficiencies.

Formalization of this policy would eliminate any confusion regarding our policy and commitment to the health, welfare and well being of our residents and all that use our facilities, parks and other public lands, as well as, the protection of our environment.

Date: 12/23/08

Pat Monaco  
Director of Public Works



## Bernards Township Department of Public Works

### **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS PARKS SYSTEM AND MUNICIPAL GROUNDS INCLUDING ALL PUBLIC LANDS**

**What is Integrated Pest Management?** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a method of managing insects, undesired plants, and plant diseases with the tools that are least likely to impact human health or the environment. It involves developing a plan, such as this plan for the Township of Bernards Parks System and Municipal Grounds. Integrated Pest Management means that regular monitoring of the site must occur to ensure detection of a pest problem and to correctly identify the problem. It will include steps in the management, such as recognizing a threshold where a pest will require action or where no action is necessary. When some action is necessary, IPM dictates what the action should be, typically starting with manual or non-chemical management tools and resorting to more persistent or stronger pesticides if the problem reaches a threshold identified by a knowledgeable IPM coordinator. After an action is taken, effective IPM will evaluate the success of the action and follow-up as appropriate. The best IPM balances the action and economics of pest control with impacts to the environment and human health. Briefly stated, IPM plans actions, monitors pest levels, sets, action thresholds and evaluates success of a coordinated array of tools to control pests.

This document will provide a plan for integrated pest management within the Township of Bernards Parks System and Municipal Grounds. As a policy and operational procedure, the use of pesticides will be limited at all Bernards Township parks and municipal grounds including all public lands. This plan will delineate what types of pest management practices will be used and what areas of the Township of Bernards Parks System and Municipal Grounds will receive particular treatments. This plan makes clear the Township Committees' intention to protect our natural resources and to provide children with safe and healthy places to play. The plan may be updated as necessary to recognize new management tools or options.

Implementation of this management plan must recognize that to minimize use of pesticides in all areas of Township Parks and Municipal Grounds, a close watch must be maintained. Regular inspections should be scheduled to assure that pests or invasive species do not gain so much territory that rapid, intensive, pesticide treatment would be necessary to regain control of the pest.

Integrated Pest Management activities will consist principally of using native plant species and biological controls to encourage natural land management. Manual/mechanical controls, such as pulling weeds by hand or mowing, will be the first choice for management of invasive plant species when and where most feasible. Other low impact pest management tools (listed below) are also available for use when manual or mechanical controls are impractical.

Conversely, the use of pesticides should be reviewed and limited so that they are not applied unnecessarily or as a matter of routine. An IPM coordinator should be designated or, if a contractor is used, the contractor should be required to follow this Integrated Pest Management Plan. Under the direction of the Director of Public works the IPM coordinator will schedule inspections, select the pest management tool to be used for any particular problem, and work with the Director of Public Works to maintain adequate supplies and to integrate the appropriate management options into the Township of Bernards maintenance plan for each township property.

Where plant, fungal or insect pests become otherwise unmanageable by the various low impact pest management methods, pesticides may be used as a control method of “last resort”. When pesticide use is required, public notification shall be made as detailed below and in accordance with applicable NJDEP regulation.

When pesticide use is necessary in any of the Township of Bernards Parks and Municipal Grounds, notice of the application will be posted at the park information board. Notice will be provided 48 hours in advance of the application and will state the area in the park to be treated and the pesticide that will be used in the treatment. Subsequent to treatment, notice will be provided on the park information board for a minimum of 72 hours, stating where the pesticide was used and what pesticide was used.

## **I. “Pesticide-Free Zones” (PFZ)**

The following areas have been designated as “Pesticide-Free Zones” (PFZ):

### **A. Family Areas**

The PFZ includes and extends to a distance of 50 feet from each of the following areas:

- Playgrounds – this will include all areas of play equipment
- Picnic grounds – this will include areas established as picnic areas with picnic tables and/or grills
- Pavilions/rest areas

### **B. Waterways**

The PFZ includes and extends to a distance of 300 feet from any stream bank, pond, lake or natural wetland.

Low impact Pest Management tools for PFZ’s include: These will be one of two “pesticide-free zones” (PFZ) in the Township parks system and municipal grounds including all public lands. Management will consist principally of using native species to encourage the natural management. Manual control, such as pulling weeds by hand, will be the first choice for management of invasive plant species. Where plant, fungal or insect pests become otherwise

unmanageable by manual methods, pesticides will be selected from the following list and used as a control method of “last resort”.

### C. Use areas

- Playgrounds – this will include all areas of play equipment and within 50 feet of these areas
  - Picnic ground – this will include areas established as picnic areas with picnic tables and/or grills
  - Pavilions/rest areas
  - Dog Park/Runs
  - Pool Area
  - Ball fields
1. Native Plantings – Planting will be primarily native species to ensure the least need for fertilizers and pesticides.
  2. Only pest management tools from the following list will be used in these areas: manual control – hand weeding, cutting, mulching
  3. Vinegar or citric acid products
  4. Burn-out
  5. Corn gluten
  6. Neem
  7. Horticultural oil (dormant oil)
  8. Potassium soaps of fatty acids
  9. Boric acid
  10. Diatomaceous earth
  11. Microbe based insecticides (B.t)
  12. Non-pesticide pest traps
  13. Biological controls (predator species)

These tools may be used at the discretion of Bernards Township Department of Public Works as necessary to effectively manage the areas. Additional tools and products may be used as they become available, and meet the intent of this plan.

If the low impact tools listed above are shown to be ineffective, the following chemical pesticides may be used (with notification posting):

1. Various pyrethrins insecticides
2. Glyphosate (different formulations)

## II. Invasive Species Control Area

Waterways: These will be the second of two “pesticide free zones” in the Townships Parks System and Municipal Grounds. Management will consist principally of using native species to encourage the natural management. Manual control, such as pulling weeds by hand, will be the first choice for management of invasive plant species. Where plant, fungal or insect

pests become otherwise unmanageable by manual methods, pesticides will be selected from the following list and used as a control method of “last resort”.

Use areas:

This will include all areas within 300 feet of any stream bank, pond, lake or natural wetlands.

Pest Management Tools:

Plantings will be primarily native species to ensure the least need for fertilizers and pesticides.

Only pest management tools from the following “low impact” list will be used in these areas.

Manual control – hand weeding, cutting, mulching, vinegar or citric acid products.

“Burn-out”

Corn gluten

Neem

Horticultural oil (dormant oil)

Potassium soaps of fatty acids

Boric acid

Diatomaceous earth

Microbe based insecticides (B.t.)

Non-pesticide pest traps

Biological controls (predator species)

These tools may be used at the discretion of Bernards Township Department of Public Works as necessary to effectively manage the areas. Additional tools and products maybe used as they become available, and meet the intent of this plan.

Some areas within the Township Parks System and Municipal Grounds may have existing or may develop disturbed and degraded areas with invasive species of vegetation or may be come infested with invasive insect species. These special habitats may require more drastic, rapid, or pesticide intensive treatments to retain the native species and minimize damage to parklands. However, in any control event, pesticides will be the tool of last resort.

Primary pest management tools for Invasive Species Control Areas include any of the tools listed above for waterways or family use areas. However, if the low impact tools listed above are shown to be ineffective, the following chemical pesticides may be used.

1. Various pyrethrins insecticides
2. Glphosate (different formulations)

### **III. Special Use Areas**

- Exhibit gardens
- Amphitheater
- Historic structures

As with all areas of the Bernards Parks System and Municipal Grounds, the low impact tools listed above will be the first choice for pest control. However, if the IPM coordinator determines these methods to be ineffective, then methods listed below may be employed.

- Indoors – Insecticides may be used from the list below. Baits/gels will be the preferred option if sanitation/exclusionary measures fail to control a pest problem. Notice will be posted at the structure or bulletin board. Pyrethrin applications will be used only if baits/gels fail to control a pest problem.
  1. Hydramethylnon roach bait stations
  2. Fipronil roach bait stations
  3. Avermectin roach/ant bait stations
  4. Sulfluramin ant bait stations
  5. Bromodionlone rodent control
  6. S-hydroprene roach and insect control devices
  7. Various Pyrethrin insecticides
  
- Outdoors – If low impact tools listed in I and II above are ineffective, pesticides used at these specific sites may include the following:
  - A. Glphosate (different formulations)
  - B. Biefenazate acaricide
  - C. Imidacloprid (different formulations)
  - D. Pyrethrin

Bernards Township Parks and Municipal Grounds will be posted with a map designating the PFZ zones at the park information shelter, and/or at the PFZ site with an explanation that PFZ means no pesticides are used in the area in order to protect children, pets and the waterways of the township parks, municipal grounds including all public lands. Non-toxic methods may be used if needed, and if a pesticide is deemed necessary, a sign will be posted in advance letting people know of the application.

Notice of the application will be posted at the park information shelter 48 hours in advance of the application and will remain in place for 72 hours after the treatment. The notice will state the area of the park to be treated, the pesticide to be applied with the EPA registration number, the precautionary statement from the label, and the reason the pesticide is being applied. The area will be flagged at the time of the treatment and the flagging will remain in place for 72 hours after the treatment.

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