

## **Resolution 22-175**

### **Resolution Establishing the Township of Middletown, Monmouth County, Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Middletown desires to develop a green grounds and maintenance policy; and,

**WHEREAS**, this policy encourages, wherever practical, sustainable municipal operations and incorporates best practices of efficient landscape design, water conservation, the use of recycled materials and composting on municipally maintained grounds, parks, gardens, and landscaped areas to promote healthy communities and waste reduction; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Middletown shall encourage, consider and use wherever practical the following methods in its green grounds and maintenance policy:

#### **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.
- Continue to strive for “zero irrigation” by using low-water-use plants when possible.
- Design landscaping with stormwater management and energy efficient maintenance in mind while promoting aesthetically pleasing public space. Consider property contours and create plantings that will slow water flows and filter runoff to improve groundwater recharge and prevent erosion.
- Use of pea gravel for walkways rather than macadam to improve groundwater recharge and prevent erosion.
- Reduce water evaporation by mulching plantings.
- Minimize lawn areas to reduce required maintenance, and replace lawn areas with higher value landscaping.

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

- The Township will incorporate plantings that do not require irrigation systems where possible.
- Continue to strive for “zero irrigation” by using only low-water-use plants when possible.
- Further water conservation by installing automatic flush and sink sensors in Township buildings wherever possible.

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

- Utilize recycled/composted mulch material on Township grounds.
- Educate residents on the benefits of recycled/composted materials.
- Continue cut-it-and-leave-it practice on all Township grounds and playing fields.

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

- Utilize recycled/composted mulch material on all Township grounds.

- Significantly reduce or eliminate the use of conventional pesticides through an Integrated Pest Management program.
- Avoid excessive fertilizer use. Test soils for pH to determine which plants are best-suited to the soil type. Further 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.
- Improve operations with efficient watering schedules, improved irrigation equipment, and rainwater capture. 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.

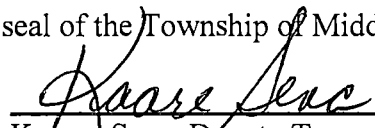
#### **MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

Committee Member	Approved	Opposed	Recuse	Absent
R. Clarke	X			
R. Hibell	X			
K. Kratz	X			
K. Settembrino	X			
Mayor Perry	X			

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Kaaren Sena, Deputy Township Clerk of the Township of Middletown, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Middletown Township Committee at their meeting held June 20, 2022.

WITNESS, my hand and the seal of the Township of Middletown this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022.

  
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 Kaaren Sena, Deputy Township Clerk