

01/16/18

replacement plantings in the spring or fall. Dead plants should be immediately removed. In addition, the removal of sucker growth from nursery stock trees should occur periodically throughout the year.

Pruning shall be done on an as needed basis in response to wind, snow or ice damage, vandalism or other unforeseen events. Pruning of dead wood shall take place after plants are in full leaf. Pruning in order to reduce the size or change the shape of a plant in order to clear a path should be performed in the summer, after new growth has ceased. All pruning should be done in accordance with ANSI pruning standards.

I. Mulching

Mulch should be applied to all landscape areas not intended to be covered in grass (turf grass or natural areas). Mulch helps retain soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, prevent erosion and the washing away of nutrients, and keeps unwanted plants from growing.

- Mulch should be kept no more than 2" to 3" deep.
- A flat layer of shredded hardwood bark should be provided over the root zone of all plantings in the spring.
- The previous year's mulch should be removed and discarded prior to re-mulching.
- The excessive piling of mulch against the trunk (e.g. volcano mulching) shall not be done. Mulch should not touch the trunk of the tree.

J. Management of Non-Native and Invasive Species

The parks contain many natural areas, many of which are directly adjacent to residential areas. These areas may be particularly susceptible to contact with non-native or invasive species as they are exposed to seeds from neighboring garden plants. Disturbed or newly created forest edges such as these are often more susceptible to invasive plants as well. Park natural areas should be inspected annually by a designated Township representative in order to identify any non-native or invasive species in order to eradicate them before they can spread further. Species of particular concern include those identified on the most recent "Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania" list prepared by Pennsylvania DCNR, attached hereto.

The planting of any material on lands owned by Lower Saucon Township is expressly prohibited unless written permission has been granted by the Township and only when native species of plants are used.

K. Mowing

Athletic Fields, Recreational Turf Areas and Township Owned Property

Grass in all Township parks will be mowed during the April – September period in accordance with the following chart.

- Mow when the grass is dry.
- If the grass gets too high, mow over the clippings a second time to further shred and scatter them.
- To prevent excess growth between mowings, raise the mower height, mow, then gradually lower it over a span of several mowings. This will help prevent shock to the plants.
- In areas that may be damaged by contact from mowers, such as in the vicinity of fencing, nursery stock and other improvements, string trimmers shall be used. NOTE: "Trimmers are not recommended at base of tree trunks, but only at the edges of mulched areas around trees.

Any weeding that needs to be done within the mulched zone, needs to be done by hand so as not to debark the trees.”

Park	Field	Grass Present	Mowing Height	Mowing Frequency
Town Hall Park*	Non-Field Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Ball Field		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Multi-purpose		2.5 to 3.5	***
Polk Valley Park**	Non-Field Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Soccer/Football		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Soccer/Football		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Soccer/Football		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Baseball		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Baseball		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Dog Park		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Natural Areas		****	****
Southeastern Park	Non-Field Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Baseball		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Meadow		****	****
Steel City Park	Non-Field Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Baseball		2.5 to 3.5	***
Heller Homestead Park	Grass Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
Kingston Park	Grass Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly
	Meadow		****	****
Easton Road	Ball Field		2.5 to 3.5	***
	Grass Areas		2.5 to 4.5	Weekly

* Town Hall Park must be cut in one (1) day or two (2) consecutive days but not on a Saturday or Sunday unless approved by the Public Works Director

** Polk Valley Park must be cut in a consecutive two-day period.

*** The mowing height and frequency in all athletic playing field areas shall be determined by the Director of Public Works by taking into account the rate of growth to be able to maintain a height of between 2.5” to 3.5” without removing more than the top 3rd of the blade.

**** Meadows and Naturalized Areas should be mowed to a height of 4”-6” once annually in late Fall (with prior Township approval).

L. Equipment Maintenance

- Only sharp mower blades shall be used. Dull mowers tear the grass blade, injure the plant and cause a brownish cast to the turf.
- Equipment (mowers, trimmers, etc.) should be cleaned on a daily basis to minimize the spread of invasive species.

M. Overseeding

Overseeding areas on athletic fields should be done in late summer (early Sept) in conjunction with aerating using a seed blend of 2-4 perennial ryegrass varieties. All seed should be less than 1 year old and applied at 4 to 5 pounds seed/1000 ft².

N. Slit-Seeding

Bare areas shall be slit-seeded at the rate of 8 to 10 lbs perennial ryegrass seed/1000 ft² as needed according to the seed recommendations list above.