



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHATHAM TOWNSHIP TO UTILIZE ORGANIC LAWN MANAGEMENT TO
TREAT ITS RECREATIONAL FIELDS AND THE COLONY POOL CLUB**

Switch Will Help Ensure the Health of Residents Where They Play and Relax

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP, NJ – May 1, 2018 – Chatham Township today announced that in an effort to reduce the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers in Chatham Township it has contracted with Lincoln Landscaping, a Northeast Organic Farming Association registered organic company, to provide organic lawn management of its recreational fields (Shunpike, Nash, Esternay, and Mountainview) and [The Colony Pool Club](#).

“Our decision to move to organic lawn management for our athletic fields and The Colony Pool Club will eliminate the need to use chemical fertilizers in these areas and help ensure the health of our many residents who use these recreational areas,” said [Chatham Township Mayor Curt Ritter](#). “I want to thank Chatham Township Environmental Commission Vice Chair Cara Feeser and the entire Commission for their efforts in researching the benefits of switching to organic lawn management. We found that by going organic we can, for the same price as our previous lawn management care, provide an increased level of lawn care while not compromising the aesthetics or quality of the lawns.”

The New Jersey American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement urging the reduction of pesticide use where children play. In addition, organically maintained fields are less susceptible to disease than chemically treated fields over time. Organic lawns have a much deeper root system compared to chemically treated lawns, and as a result, fields may not

get the wear patterns commonly seen, such as bare spots around the goal or the center of a field.

Dot Stillinger, Chair of the [Chatham Township Environmental Commission](#), noted, “The pesticide runoff from many fields eventually ends up in the Passaic River, which is the drinking water source for Chatham Township. This is a wonderful move by Chatham Township to protect our vital resources.”

Cara Feeser, Vice Chair of the Environmental Commission, spearheaded the research efforts and worked closely with Township Administrator Tom Ciccarone to ensure its implementation. She commented, “I am thrilled by this decision. We had a concern and the Township took action. Children come into contact daily with pesticides, which is the umbrella term for herbicides, fungicides and insecticides. They are on our food, in the air we breathe, on residential lawns, and are tracked indoors. This repetitive, low-level or ‘chronic low-level’ of pesticide exposure has many pediatricians and researchers concerned.”

[Chatham Township Deputy Mayor Karen Swartz](#), who serves as the Chatham Township Committee liaison to the Environmental Commission and the Chatham Mayors’ Wellness Campaign, added, “Where there is a chance to eliminate a threat to the health of our children, it’s a pretty easy decision. We thank Cara and the Environmental Commission for their efforts.”

Editor’s Note:

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About Chatham Township

Chatham Township is located in Morris County New Jersey. It has approximately 11,000 residents and nearly 4,000 households. Individuals interested in receiving emergency and community alerts can visit www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/resident-communications and can learn more about Chatham Township at www.chathamtownship-nj.gov

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