

Willowbrook

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 835 MIDWAY DRIVE, IN THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - a) March 1, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
4. PRESENTATION – Organic Turfcare Program Vendors
5. DISCUSSION – Special Event Updates / Planning:
 - a) Easter Egg Hunt, March 26, 2016
 - b) 2016 5K Fun Run, May 1, 2016
 - c) Co-Rec Softball
6. DISCUSSION – Annual Park Landscape Fertilization Contract: Consideration of Alternative Environmentally Friendly Services
7. REPORT – FY 2016/17 Budget Process - UPDATE
8. VISITOR'S BUSINESS – Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person
9. COMMUNICATIONS
10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor

Frank A. Trilla

Village Clerk

Leroy R. Hansen

Village Trustees

Sue Berglund

Umberto Davi

Terrence Kelly

Michael Mistele

Gayle Neal

Paul Oggerino

Village Administrator

Tim Halik

Chief of Police

Mark Shelton



Proud Member of the
Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016, AT THE VILLAGE HALL, 835 MIDWAY DRIVE,
WILLOWBROOK, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cobb called the meeting to order at the hour of 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Those present at roll call were Chairman Richard Cobb, Commissioners Ron Kanaverskis, Laurie Landsman, Carol Lazarski, Robert Pionke, Rene Schuurman, and Doug Stetina.

ABSENT: Commissioner Lorraine Grimsby

Also present were Village Administrator Tim Halik, Temporary Interim Superintendent of Parks and Recreation John Fenske, and Administrative Intern Tiffany Kolodziej.

A QUORUM WAS DECLARED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 2, 2016

The Commission reviewed the February 2, 2016 minutes.

MOTION: A Motion was made by Commissioner Stetina and seconded by Commissioner Lazarski to approve the February 2, 2016 minutes as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Chairman Cobb, Commissioners Kanaverskis, Landsman, Lazarski, Pionke, Schuurman, and Stetina. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Grimsby.

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

4. DISCUSSION – SPECIAL EVENT UPDATES/PLANNING

a. Easter Egg Hunt – March 26, 2016

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that pictures will begin at 10:15 a.m. and the egg hunt will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. Interim Superintendent Fenske related that he had contact the Hinsdale South Honor Society and they will have students volunteering for the event. He stated that he will be at the park at 8:30 a.m. to set out the eggs.

Jimmy Johns will be at the event to hand out sandwiches. Chick-fil-A will also participate in the event. The new daycare, Little Sunshine Playhouse, has donated temporary tattoos for the eggs and will also be present at the event.

Commissioner Landsman asked if there will be a box to collect the unwanted empty eggs. Interim Superintendent Fenske related that there would.

b. 2016 5K Fun Run – May 1, 2016

Commissioner Schuurman advised that approximately \$5,900 in donations/sponsorships have been received to date from 31 vendors. Some vendors are providing gift certificates and coupons instead of cash donations. A raffle will be conducted using the participants' racing numbers to give away the gift certificates.

Willowbrook Ford is the big sponsor for the inflatable arch and their logo will be prominently displayed on the legs of the arch. The arch can be used for other events and the banners on the arch can be changed. Four teardrop banners will also be ordered to be placed throughout the race course. These banners will not have a sponsor and will only have the Willowbrook logo on them. The banners also have a interchangeable base so that they can be used indoors or outdoors.

Commissioner Schuurman advised that the style of race bag has been chosen that is similar to last year's bag. The designs for the t-shirts have also been chosen. Entries were only received from the students at Gower Middle School.

Commissioner Schuurman related that postcards have been designed that will be mailed to all Willowbrook residents. The race will be advertised on the Chicago Athlete and Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA) websites. The course will be measured and certified for the CARA site. The cost is approximately \$400 and as long as the course layout is not changed, the certification is good for 10 years. CARA will also promote our race at any of their upcoming races. Extra resident postcards will be provided to CARA.

Detective Tim Kobler assisted in getting the race posted on the police union website. First responders have been given a 50% discount code. The race has also been advertised through the Boy Scouts and Tri State Fire Protection District.

Interim Superintendent Fenske advised that he and Trustee Sue Berglund had walked door to door at the Willowbrook Town Center to distribute sponsorship flyers. It was determined that none of the stores had received the mailing.

Commissioner Schuurman advised that Chick-fil-A, who had distributed sandwiches at last year's event, would probably not be able to pass them out again this year. There was an issue at the corporate level with the event being on a Sunday.

Sports Authority has agreed to be the site for packet pick up on the Saturday before the race. They will provide a table for the distribution. Sports Authority will be giving participants a 15% discount coupon valid for that Saturday only.

Commissioner Schuurman stated that he is working on the race day logistics and organizing volunteer duties. Commissioner Schuurman also advised that the week or two prior to the race, volunteers will need to assist in distributing flyers to the residents affected by the street closures.

Chairman Cobb suggested that raffle tickets should be sold for the gift certificate prizes to help raise additional money for the charities involved.

5. DISCUSSION – ANNUAL PARK LANDSCAPE FERTILIZATION CONTRACT: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SERVICES

Administrator Halik related that in April of 2015, the Village received contact from a resident that lives next to Waterford Park about the overuse of lawn care chemicals. The resident advised that he dog had passed away from lymphoma and attributes it to these chemicals. The resident attended a Municipal Services Committee meeting in May of 2015 and provided the Committee with information about why the reduction of the use of these chemicals is important.

The contract for the grass maintenance had already been approved by the Village Board for the fiscal and nothing could be done at the time. The Municipal Services Committee authorized Village staff to perform research on environmentally friendly options that could be considered as an alternative.

Administrator Halik related that Administrative Intern Tiffany Kolodziej was given the assignment to complete the research. Intern Kolodziej advised that the Village currently pays approximately \$20,000 to TruGreen to provide the lawncare for all public parks, medians, and roadways throughout the Village, and includes six (6) chemical applications throughout the year.

Intern Kolodziej stated that by going to a “greener” lawncare system, the grasses would not have the “golf-course” look to the grass. During the transition from chemical to organic care, it will take longer to obtain the green look of the grasses.

Commissioner Kanaverskis asked if any other park districts are using this approach. Interim Superintendent Fenske and Intern Kolodziej related that this is a new trend for municipalities and Willowbrook would be a leader.

Intern Kolodziej proposed a phase-in approach to going organic in order to test how well the system works for the Village.

Administrator Halik stated that the lawncare contracts would begin May 1st. The contractors that provided bids advised that they would come to a future Commission meeting to give additional information if requested. Chairman Cobb stated that they can come to the next meeting in April and would be in time to decide for the next fiscal year budget.

6. DISCUSSION – 2015 CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS

Administrator Halik advised that he had been contacted by a resident in reference to allowing dogs in the parks. Administrator Halik related that every other year, the Village sends out surveys to random Village residents to rate various services and amenities that the Village offers. One of the questions asked was if leashed animals should be allowed in the parks. The survey results were 55% yes and 45% no.

Commissioner Kanaverskis advised that there is a health issue with those pet owners that do not pick up after their pets. He also stated that there could be liability issues with aggressive dogs.

Commissioner Stetina advised that he had contacted two neighboring communities that allow dogs in the parks. He stated that there has only been one instance in 20 years. Commissioner Kanaverskis stated that we are trying to invite people to use our parks and by allowing dogs, it will turn people away.

The consensus of the Commission was to not have a dog park at this time.

7. DISCUSSION – WILLOWBROOK WEBPAGE – NEW PARKS & RECREATION BUTTON

Administrator Halik advised that during a 5K race update meeting with Commissioner Schuurman, it was requested that the Parks Department obtain their own website. Administrator Halik stated that would not happen but compromised on making the Parks portion of the Village website easier to view. Administrator Halik stated that a Parks button has been placed on the home page of the Village's website.

8. VISITORS' BUSINESS

There was no Visitors' Business.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Interim Superintendent Fenske related that he had received an email from Hinsdale South High School asking to book the date for Holiday Party. Consensus was to book it for Sunday, December 11, 2016.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Landsman, seconded by Commissioner Schuurman to adjourn the meeting at the hour of 8:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Chairman Cobb, Commissioners Kanaverskis, Landsman, Lazarski, Pionke, Schuurman, and Stetina. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Commissioner Grimsby.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

MOTION DECLARED CARRIED

PRESENTED, READ and APPROVED,

April 6, 2016

Chairman

Minutes transcribed by Executive Secretary Cindy Stuchl.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

PRESENTATION – Organic Turfcare Program Vendors

COMMISSION REVIEW

- Report
- Discussion
- Presentation

Meeting Date:

April 5, 2016

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2016, the Parks and Recreation Commission requested additional information regarding environmentally responsible turfcare programs for the Village of Willowbrook. The consideration of an alternative turfcare treatment method was prompted by a request from a Willowbrook resident, Mr. Blaine Panitch, who in April 2015 raised concerns in regards to the harmful use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers within park properties. Staff research into this matter resulted in a February 8, 2016 Municipal Services Committee meeting and a March 1, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting that presented various options for the Village to consider in order to reduce their usage of chemicals on Village turf. The options detailed include vendor-created programs produced by Pure Prairie Organics, Digrightin Landscaping/Lupfer Landscaping, and TruGreen.

After review of this information, the Parks and Recreation Commission members requested supplemental information be presented at the next regular meeting to be held on April 5, 2016. During the meeting, brief presentations will be heard from the three (3) vendors regarding two (2) different organic lawn care programs:

- Representing Pure Prairie Organics, owner Chris Burisek will present informational background and vendor service plans for the Village of Willowbrook.
- Representing Digrightin Landscaping, partnered with Lupfer Landscaping, owners Jeff Swano and Tom Lupfer will present informational background and vendor service plans for the Village of Willowbrook.

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

After the March 1, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Commission members requested supplemental information to staff research and findings. The supplemental information that will be provided will be given by the vendors themselves, and they will answer any further inquiries the Commission may have.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission discuss the organic lawn care vendors and their program proposals after hearing their presentations.

Suburbs / Park Ridge Herald-Advocate / Park Ridge News

Chemical-free lawn care planned for Park Ridge park



Maine Park, 2701 W. Sibley Ave. in Park Ridge. (Jennifer Johnson / Pioneer Press)

By **Jennifer Johnson** · **Contact Reporter**

Pioneer Press

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 7:31 PM

Pesticides and weed killers won't have a place in the grass at **Park Ridge's Maine Park**.

The Park Ridge Park District, in partnership with Go Green Park Ridge and the Midwest Pesticide Action Center, is launching a natural lawn care pilot program and using Maine Park, 2701 W. Sibley Ave., as the first test site.

According to a park district press release, the park's grass will be maintained "without use of synthetic pesticides" and by using "alternative weed control methods," like increasing grass height to improve root strength and make it too shady for weeds to grow between the blades.

"The park district's natural lawn care park pilot program is one of the first in the northwest suburbs of Chicago," the park district said in the news release. "If successful, the pilot program will be extended and could be expanded to include more parks in the future."

Members of Go Green Park Ridge, a citizens' group that encourages environmentally friendly practices, had been urging the park district to explore natural lawn care for some time, said Amy Bartucci, the group's founder. Bartucci is also a columnist for the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate.

Two years ago, Go Green contacted Midwest Pesticide Action Center to assist in the effort. According to its website, the Midwest Pesticide Action Center's mission involves "reducing health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides by promoting safer alternatives."

The center's role in Park Ridge is to act as a "go-between for the park district and Go Green," while also providing education on natural lawn care and how to communicate the initiative to the public, said Midwest Pesticide Action Center Executive Director Ruth Kerzee.

"It's been quite an effort to get the park district to engage fully and understand what were asking," Kerzee acknowledged. "Park districts are really reticent to make any changes that might incur the wrath of the public, so they are very nervous [to move to natural lawn care]."

But just because the park district won't be using synthetic weed killer at Maine Park doesn't mean visitors will find dandelions outnumbering the blades of grass, Kerzee said.

"If it's managed appropriately, that won't be the case," she said of a weed outbreak. "When transitioning to natural lawn care, you have to get your lawn off the 'drugs' that it's been given all these years, so there may be an adjustment period."

Over time, however, weed growth will be reduced, Kerzee said.

Midwest Pesticide Action Center also works to shift perceptions of what lawns should look like, Kerzee said.

"We're trying to get people to change their expectations about lawns," she said. "A little clover is not a big deal, a few dandelions is not a big deal."

Bartucci had initially called upon the park district to start natural lawn care techniques at Prospect Park, the former Youth Campus, when it is eventually developed, but she says she believes the project will work well at Maine Park, which is already home to a native prairie area.

"In general, we're excited," she said of Go Green Park Ridge. "We just wanted to be a part of something that could be a good first step."

Bartucci said Go Green's view is that some chemicals used in synthetic fertilizers and pesticides aren't healthy for people or pets, who are the users of Park Ridge's many parks.

"I don't like to expose myself to toxins and chemicals and I don't think other parents would if they knew more about the ingredients being used," she said.

Both Bartucci and Kerzee stressed that natural lawn care is a "process, not a product." Kerzee said at least three years of natural lawn care techniques are recommended for a pilot program.

"You don't see the results until you have put it in place for a number of years," she said.

Bartucci said she hopes the park district's initiative spreads beyond Maine Park and to individual homes.

"If a park makes a first step, it would be a nice talking point to increase awareness of residential changes as well," she said.

The park district has also compiled recommendations for residential lawn care. They include:

- Watering to 1 inch, but no more than once per week. To measure, place an empty tuna can on the lawn and when it is filled by the lawn sprinkler, watering is complete for the week.
- Keeping lawns mowed at a length of at least 3 inches or higher
- Using organic fertilizers
- Weeding naturally
- Using grass seed mixed with compost and topsoil.

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This article is related to: [Park Ridge](#)



chicago park district

Chicago Park District Continues to Limit Use of Pesticides in Parks

5/11/2015

Each spring, park patrons may see dandelions growing in their neighborhood parks throughout Chicago, signifying a chemical free park that's safe for play. The **Chicago Park District** for a sixth year is partnering with **Midwest Pesticide Action Center** to offer park visitors a safer and healthier park by limiting the use of pesticides throughout the district.

Close to 90 percent of Chicago parks avoid the use of chemicals that are sprayed to control weeds. This is done in an effort to minimize the impact on our environment.

"The Park District strives to keep our Chicago parks a healthy place for everyone to enjoy," said Mike Kelly, Chicago Park District Superintendent and CEO. "We use natural lawn care techniques that helps keep the parks safe and healthy."



The Chicago Park District mows turf grass to keep weeds down. Following natural lawn care basics, the Park District keeps the grass three inches high. This allows the roots to grow strong and access water deep in the ground. As a result, the taller grass naturally shades out some weeds. Even after being cut, dandelion flowers are persistent and sometimes grow back overnight. However, the sight of dandelions indicates the grass is safe for all park patrons to play on!

"Midwest Pesticide Action Center applauds the Chicago Park District's commitment to limit the use of pesticides in order to create healthy places to play," says Ruth Kerzee, Executive Director of Midwest Pesticide Action Center. "Follow these four simple and cost-effective tips, and you too can enjoy a beautiful yard that is safe for children, pets, and the environment."

Four Natural Lawn Care Tips

- **Water Deeply and Infrequently:** This encourages deep root growth. One inch per week is ideal. You can easily measure that amount by placing a cup in your yard while watering. When your sprinkler fills it one inch deep, your watering for the week is done. Water early in the morning to minimize disease problems.
- **Mow High:** Keep your lawn mowed at three inches or higher. This will increase the root strength and naturally shade out weeds. Don't mow your lawn unless it needs it. This creates healthy grass that can withstand drought and stay green longer.
- **Use Organic Fertilizer:** Commercial fertilizers easily wash away, polluting nearby lakes and streams. Many contain toxic weed killers. Choose an organic fertilizer to capture and deliver nutrients in the lawn throughout the growing season. Keep grass clippings on the lawn as they are an excellent natural fertilizer.
- **Weed Naturally:** Proper lawn care maintenance naturally eliminates most weeds. Annual reseeding gives grass an advantage over weeds. Avoid using pesticides, as they can harm other beneficial living things such as bees, birds and fish. The right tool makes quick work of weeding. After pulling weeds, use grass seed and soil to fill in the hole. Your lawn will be strong and healthy as a result.

Midwest Pesticide Action Center

Midwest Pesticide Action Center is the only Midwest organization dedicated to protecting people and the environment from the serious impacts of pesticides. Based in Chicago, Midwest Pesticide Action Center works to implement long-term policy changes and to develop innovative, model programs for indoor and outdoor pesticide use reduction.

For more information about Midwest Pesticide Action Center and its 20th anniversary celebration this year, please visit midwestpesticideaction.org.

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

**DISCUSSION – Annual Park Landscape Fertilization
Contract: Consideration of Alternative
Environmentally Friendly Services**

COMMISSION REVIEW

- Report
 Discussion
 Seeking Feedback

Meeting Date:

April 5, 2016

BACKGROUND

In April of 2015, Village staff received concerns from resident Blaine Panitch regarding the use of chemical herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers within park properties. Mr. Panitch resides adjacent to one of the Village parks and feels the frequencies of treatments are excessive resulting in overuse of the chemicals which can cause a health risk. The Village of Willowbrook is currently contracted with the lawn care provider, TruGreen, and is subject to renewal in April/May of this year. In light of resident concerns, staff investigations, and program proposals from organic vendors, the Parks and Recreation Commission must consider all lawn care service options for the 2016/2017 season.

Provided staff research and vendor presentations, the Parks and Recreation Commission shall discuss which lawn care option the Village should pursue. There are three (3) available hybrid programs from four (4) potential vendors. Pure Prairie Organics, Digrightin Landscaping in partnership with Lupfer Landscaping, and TruGreen. All three programs vary in application method and chemical usage, and therefore the Parks and Recreation Commission should take all three into account within their discussion.

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Staff investigations into this matter involved research retrieved from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the University of Illinois Extension, the Midwest Pesticide Action Center, and the Morton Arboretum. After the March 1, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Commission members requested supplemental information to staff investigations and findings. The supplemental information that will be provided will be given by the vendors themselves, and will answer any further inquiries the Commission may hold.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff will be prepared to present the three (3) programs options and their projected costs to the Parks Commission for further consideration at the next regular meeting on April 5, 2016.

Village of Willowbrook

2016-2017 Lawn Care

PURE PRAIRIE ORGANICS

PURE PRAIRIE ORGANICS

Chris Burisek

2405 Essington Road #61
Joliet IL, 60435
630-777-2600

For 22 years I have been taking care of lawns in this area. Most of those years I have owned my own business so I've had the pleasure of not only knowing the feeling of making lawns look nice and making sure my customers are happy, but also about the products we use and what it does to Mother Nature. From classes like Ornamental Horticulture to Business and Marketing my experience has been diverse dealing with the many sides that are involved in just making our lawns look beautiful.

I have also learned a lot about the soil and types of grass growing and how to best take care of it with fewer or no chemicals/pesticides... this is why most of our customers find me and want to use our service. The trick is getting the soil fixed, back to being healthy, and full of good microorganisms. Microorganisms get the salt flushed out and make the soil softer so the roots grow deeper, and therefore, the lawn will become more capable of finding water on its own. Also, microorganisms make the soil a habitable place for certain beneficial insects that help produce nutrients for the grass and help aerate the soil season after season.

I started off doing chemical lawn care because that was all I knew and there wasn't such a demand for organic/natural lawn care. I learned as I went along and spent time reading about different methods and researching what happens in the soil when we use less chemical products and pesticides and more organic stuff and natural methods. There is A LOT of stuff that is supposed to happen in the soil and the more and more harmful methods are used the worse off the soil gets and the more we'll need to rely on chemicals and pesticides to make the grass look nice.

When chemical fertilizers and weed control are used season after season and year after year it adds salt to the soil. This is the Salt Index or SI of the soil. When the SI of the soil gets too high it's difficult for insects to live there and the populations of worms and other beneficial insects greatly diminishes. Worms and certain insects are beneficial and vital to a healthy soil. Certain insects like pill bugs, roly pollies or doodle bugs decompose organic matter in the soil turning it into a natural and free nutrient for the grass to use. Earthworms make thousands of tunnels in the soil naturally aerating it allowing water and air to enter deeper into the soil making it a healthy earthy soil. They also eat organic matter in the soil turning it into another natural nutrient for the grass to use. When picking an insect control it's important to choose one that can specifically target the insect you want to kill and not EVERY insect in the soil.

We want to improve the soil season after season and year after year so we can move in the direction of less chemical fertilizers and less pesticides and we'll create a healthier environment for everyone in and around the Village of Willowbrook.

PROPOSAL

Organic Based Blended Program & Organic/Natural Program

1. Organic Based Blended Program:

Mixture of 5 visits for Parks, and 3 visits for Roadside Rights of Way, Medians, and Specified Facilities.

Park

Midway Park (2.1 acres)
Creekside Park (5.1 acres)
Lake Hinsdale Park (1.0 acres)
Ridgemoor Park (5.4 acres)
Waterford Park (4.3 acres)
Farmingdale Terrace Park (3.0 acres)
Willow Pond (3.0 acres)
Prairie Trail Park (5.0 acres)
Rogers Glen Park (1.5 acres)
Public Works Facility (2.0 acres)

****TOTAL: 32.4 acres**

Roadside Rights of Way, Medians, and Specified Facilities

Medians areas and road side rights of way on Route 83 from approximately the 5900 block of Route 83 to Route 83 south 79th St., including the bermed area at Midway Drive, (south of Midway Drive).
(24.67 acres)

73rd Ct. Pump house site (3.37 acres)

Village Hall (.30 acres)

****TOTAL: 28.34 acres**

2. Organic/Natural Program:

5 visits in the early spring, late spring, early summer, late summer, and fall

Park

Borse Memorial Community Park (8.8 acres)

****TOTAL: 8.8 acres**

****Proposed Cost: \$19,074.00 (Current TrueGreen Rate: \$19,970)**

Organic Based Blended Program

Parks: *will be on our 5 visit program (Early Spring, Late Spring, Early Summer, Late summer, and Fall)*

1st "Early in Season"- We typically start when the snow goes away and things start warming up... some years it's mid March and some years it has been mid April based on the weather.

Organic Based Blended Program will start off with:

17-0-2 Fertilizer. Granular Product

With Prodiamine (Crab Grass Control) also a granular product

Applied by Perma Green (Spreader/Sprayer Machine)

Organic/Natural Program will start off with:

Blend of liquid Compost Tea

Liquid blend of Kelp with Humic Acids, Fulvic Acids and Amino Acids

Applied by Perma Green (Spreader/Sprayer Machine)--

2nd-5th- *Our applications will be spaced apart about 5-6 weeks*

Organic Based Blended Program for most parks will continue with:

Kelp (12-0-6), Compost Tea and Weed Control Mixture. Liquid Product

**Triplet SF, common liquid weed control will be used throughout the year (spot treatment)*

Applied by Perma Green (Spreader/Sprayer Machine)

Roadside Rights of Way, Medians, and Specified Facilities: *will be on our 3 visit program (Spring, Summer and Fall)*

1st-3rd- Our visits will be timed with Mother Nature (rain and temperature) and when the weeds are most effectively controlled.

Organic Based Blended Program for Roadside Rights of Way, Medians, and Specified Facilities

Kelp (12-0-6), Compost Tea and Weed Control Mixture. Liquid Product

**Triplet SF, common liquid weed control will be used throughout the year (spot treatment)*

Applied by Perma Green (Spreader/Sprayer Machine and 200 gallon Lesco spray tanks and 300 ft hose sprayer)

Organic/Natural Program

Borse Memorial Community Park: will be on our 5 visit program (Early Spring, Late Spring, Early Summer, Late summer, and Fall)

We typically start when the snow goes away and things start warming up... some years it's mid March and some years it has been mid April based on the weather.

Our applications will be spaced apart about 5-6 weeks

Each visit of our Organic/Natural Program will include:

Blend of liquid Compost Tea

Liquid blend of Kelp with Humic Acids, Fulvic Acids and Amino Acids

Applied by Perma Green (Spreader/Sprayer Machine)

Why Compost Tea? Compost Tea contains microscopic organisms that will live in the soil. They help decompose stuff in the soil... lots of stuff. They recycle nutrients in the soil, build soil structure and organic matter and work synergistically with the roots of the grass. They also hold nutrients in the soil and then release them when needed. Many times existing soil lacks these microscopic organisms because of damaging chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Why Kelp and all the organic acids? They aid the grass during the growing and bloom stages and promotes photosynthesis. It's how we focus on soil and plant health instead of just making grass look nice. It's a nice gentle organic mixture that helps make the grass healthy and the soil earthy... similar to the ground in a forest.

Additional information about organic/natural lawn care

Our mixture is a natural composition of compost tea, organic acids, amino acids, fulvic acids, humic acids and kelp. This aids in soil composition and health, increasing microbial activity in the soil. Microbes consist of a variety of beneficial fungi and bacteria within the soil. Their balanced microbial activity breaks down organic and non-organic matter in the soil, to which their by-product acts as a natural nutrient. Mycorrhizal fungi aids in root health and development. They grow/live one step ahead of the root system. They create an environment for the roots to thrive and grow well.

“When chemical fertilizers and weed control are constantly being used it adds salt to the soil each time which sterilizes the soil” –Burisek

Healthy, microbial activity increases the soil’s natural ability to ward off undesirable pests such as grubs. One of the ideas behind organic/natural lawn care is to create a deep and extensive root system so that when and if grubs are present and they start feeding on and near the root system it is healthy enough to withstand some insect activity... similar to someone being very healthy with a strong immune system and being around someone that may be sick. If someone is healthy and has a strong immune system they may not get the “bug” that the other person has. That does not mean it can’t be damaged by grubs... but it’s less likely to be damaged similar to someone less likely to get sick from a “bug” carried by some close to them.

Another idea behind organic/natural lawn care is to make the cell wall thicker than the typical chemically fed grass or trees/shrubs. If a cell wall (skin) is healthy and thick and certain insects (sod webworms in the lawn or Japanese Beetles in trees/shrubs) come to feed and they are trying to eat the grass blades or leaves of a tree/shrub but they are a bit thicker and crunchier they may go elsewhere to feed on a weaker food source. They’ll be like “the heck with this... let’s go someplace else”. Similar to a person wanting a snack and picking a tasty salty easy to eat potato chip that’s of no benefit to their body/health instead of a healthy homemade crunchy quinoa cracker full of good stuff.

Many times I relate the soil to our own bodies the importance of living a healthy lifestyle instead of just eating junk food and drinking energy drinks. If we take care of our bodies, eat well and sleep enough we are typically healthy overall... if we eat junk food, don’t sleep a lot and are around people that are sick we may get sick too and feel run down. It’s a very easy comparison to make and helps relate to organic/natural lawn care in a basic way. There are many complex things that go on in the soil and many factors that help create beautiful grass... but the stuff we use are a very important piece of the puzzle.

We have some lawns that we don't use pesticides in or on and when we visit these lawns for our next application we see few or no weeds there in the lawn... this is one of the ultimate goals of organic/natural lawn care. They just don't grow much in healthy thick lawns. This will be our long term goal for the areas within the Village if we are the ones servicing the grass. It does not just happen right away but in contrast the soil did not get damaged right away... it took years to damage and make it sterile so why not start now to improve, go green and use less pesticides?

Because the village has been using chemical lawn care it will take steps to go all organic or natural... nor do I think you need to be at that point immediately. Most of our customers start with our Organic Based Blended Program which includes some organic fertilizers, some traditional fertilizers, some crabgrass control and some weed control. These are steps in going green and in making sure the grass still looks nice while improving the health of the grass, soil, and environment. Some clients then switch the second year to our Organic/Natural Program in the back yard (where the kids and pets may be most of the time) and the Organic Based Blended Program in front (where they want to look nicer for the neighbors) ... just another step and way we can be flexible and give our customers what they want. Then maybe the following year switch to our Organic/Natural Program in front and back.

On a larger scale you can have us do the Organic Based Blended Program in most of the areas and focus on one park (such as the Borse Memorial Community Park) using our Organic/Natural Program. If at any time you want to add weed control to the program at the Borse Memorial Community Park just let us know and we can add weed control so some or all of that park.





Organic Turfcare Program
Prepared for the Village of Willowbrook

Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc. (DRI) and Lupfer Landscaping, LLC (the Team) will work in coordination to provide the services herein. Details of the organic turfcare program include the following services. Please refer to Services Agreement #16002A.

Item #2 – Herbicide applications with biologicals – provide TWO diluted herbicide applications seasonally to all properties detailed in the RFP. The additional biological components are meant to provide food for the soil biology applied during the compost tea treatments and to increase humates in the soil. This also allows for a reduced solution (only 60%) of herbicide due to the uptake of the chemical caused by the increased biologic activity. The last component provides a natural green-up of the turf.

All of this together replaces traditional weed-and-feed type chemical applications (and therefore no spring or fall compost tea applications are being proposed).

The following is for Borse Park only:

Item #4 – Community Education & Outreach – The team proposes to conduct TWO 2-hour organic turf care educational presentations at the venue and schedule selected by the Village. Typically, these are presented at the Village Hall, school or public library and consists of the following:

- A PowerPoint presentation that educates residents of the science and strategies behind a successful organic turfcare program. Information is presented to allow residents the ability to implement organic care at their own homes.
- The pros and cons associated with both conventional (chemical-based) and organic lawn care programs. In essence, this prepares residents for what to expect out of the organic turfcare program and provides the basis for a paradigm shift in how the public perceives turfcare.
- An overview of integrated pest management (IPM) concepts that provide ideal turfcare results.

In addition, the Team proposes providing an additional 2- to 3-hour hands-on presentation during the aeration, top dressing and overseeding service in late summer. It requires the Village to identify and cultivate stakeholders (students, residents, community groups, and media) to participate in the event.

The Village would be responsible for formatting and publicizing all events, for which the Team will provide copy (wording) and graphics.

The Team will publicize the Village's organic turfcare effort as a case study to publish in the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) monthly magazine (date and copy to be determined). Team leaders Tom Lupfer is a former Chairman of the ILCA Sustainable Landscaping Committee, and Jeff Swano is current Chair.

Item #5 – Composite Soil Sampling – The Team will collect and analyze a composite (one soil sample collected and blended from several locations) soil sample to identify baseline conditions (soil biology and nutrients) needed to develop the appropriate types and quantities of compost tea additives. This is the key science behind an organic turfcare program: whereas chemical programs simply “apply-til-you-die” with no regard for what the plants actually need, organic programs know what is needed and consequently apply that, thereby achieving maximum results.

In future years, soil sampling determines the overall improvement of soil biology and nutrients (with the intent of finding out when a sustainable soil food web has been established and fewer inputs are needed for organic turf care). This information should be shared with the public to demonstrate the effectiveness of the turfcare program.

Item #6 – Insect Control – consists of two applications of beneficial nematodes (spring and summer). Nematodes are more effective than a targeted chemical application that only controls Japanese beetles because nematodes “come in hungry” and control a wide variety of turf damaging insects, including Japanese beetle (and many other beetle larvae collectively known as “grubs”), sod webworms, cutworms, weevils and even ticks.

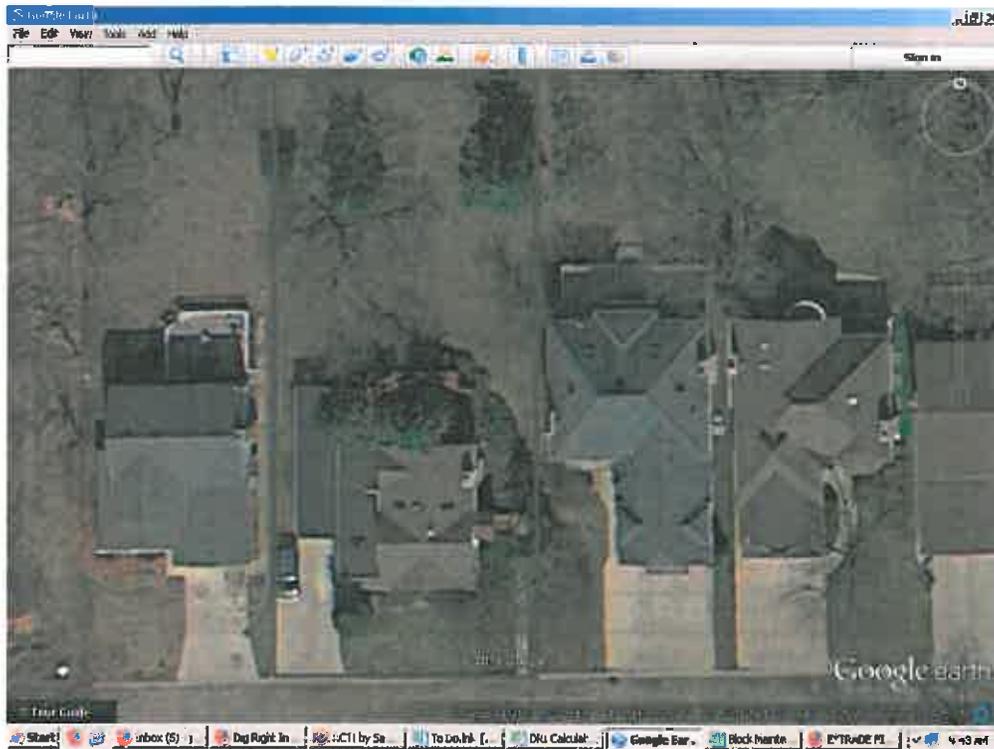
Item #7 – Summer Tea Treatment – includes DRI-formulated compost tea fortified with additional organic humates and kelp to promote drought tolerance. Additional nutrients or minerals will be applied as deemed necessary from the soil sampling results.

Items #8 through #10 – Aeration, Top Dressing and Overseeding – to be conducted in late-August/early-September at the latest. Provide a machine-core aeration (cores will take about 2 weeks to subside depending on the weather). Then apply an approximately 1/4” layer of leaf compost and full-sun, athletic turf style grass seed. Keep off for approximately 4 to 6 weeks. If this is not possible, utilize budget to provide spring and fall tea applications.

Conclusion – Organic turfcare is successful because it feeds the soil, which feeds the plants. As a result, plant food is available 24-7 during the growing season. The growing season starts and stops based on meteorological conditions and, hence, is different year-to-year. In addition, it provides a wide variety of nutrients that plants naturally need to be healthy.

Chemical turfcare provides only three nutrients (N-P-K) and only when they are applied. These nutrients are prone to runoff, which pollutes local waterways and contributes to the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico (far from Willowbrook!). In addition, the effect of long-term applications of all chemicals (including herbicides and pesticides) actually sterilizes the soil, thereby depleting its natural ability to feed plants, leading to the long-term need to keep on applying chemicals for turfcare.

This can be visually confirmed by the Google Earth image below taken on 4/2/13. The yard outlined in black is a DRI customer who has been on an organic turfcare program for three years (as of 2013). The neighbor to the left is managed chemically and no chemicals have yet been applied (it is very early in the season). The organic lawn is already greening up because the nutrients are already available as the earth is warming up in the spring. The chemically managed lawn is starving and waiting for its first feeding.



Source: Google Earth

The same applies to the following Google Earth image taken on 4/30/15:



Source: Google Earth



landscaping

9900 derby ln. westchester, il 60154

Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc.

ph (708) 485-1234

fx (708) 485-7751

date: 1/25/2016

contract # 16002A

SERVICES AGREEMENT

Prepared for:

Village of Willowbrook

7760 Quincy St.

Willowbrook, IL 60527

email takolodziej@willobrook.il.us

Work 630-920-2486

Item #	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price
1	Details of turf care specifications under separate cover.				
2	Herbicide application with biologicals for all areas detailed in the RFP.	2	lump sum	\$5,651.00	\$11,302.00
3	All following work to be conducted at Borse Memorial Community Park, covering 8.8 acres only.				
4	Education and outreach	1	lump sum	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Composite soil sample collection and analysis.	1	lump sum	\$375.00	\$375.00
6	Insect control	1	lump sum	\$473.00	\$473.00
7	Summer tea treatment	1	lump sum	\$3,150.00	\$3,150.00
8	Aeration	1	lump sum	\$1,703.00	\$1,703.00
9	Compost top-dressing	1	lump sum	\$2,933.00	\$2,933.00
10	Overseeding	1	lump sum	\$2,820.00	\$2,820.00
11	Customer to provide DRI with a copy of IRS tax exempt letter.				

Your designer is: Jeff Swano 708-485-1234

Total

\$22,756.00

Estimate completed by: Swano

on 1/25/2016

Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc.

Date

TERMS & ACCEPTANCE

This proposal is intended to be accepted in its entirety and the items and services included herein are not considered to be offered as ala-carte. Items marked as OPTION, if accepted, will be added into the scope and price of the proposal. To accept an OPTION, place initials in the Total Price column; the total will be added into the final bill.

All work to be completed in a professional manner according to common landscaping practices and Dig Right In (DRI) procedures and standards. Any requests by Customer to conduct work in some other fashion will incur a Change Order. Furthermore, the undersigned will treat all Dig Right In personnel in a courteous and professional manner; inappropriate customer behaviors are grounds for immediate termination of this contract and forfeiture of monies collected and materials purchased under this contract.

Changes to the work requested by the Customer after the Contract has been executed, may be accomplished only by written Change Order without invalidating this Contract. The Change Order is a written addendum to this Contract specifying the changes in work, date of request for changes, all additional costs, and Customer acceptance to same. If Customer requests a stop to work already in progress under the terms of this contract, then a stop-work fee of \$500 will be incurred, and all subsequent labor, equipment and material costs will be charged to the Customer.

Any alteration or deviation from the above specifications involving extra costs, including unforeseen site conditions, events or design oversight requiring additional labor, equipment or materials will be charged to me accordingly. When possible, charges will be accepted through the written Change Order process, but otherwise will be added to the Final Statement.

All services will be billed upon completion of work and payment is due within 30 days of invoice date. Balances that remain due after 35 days will immediately incur either a 1.5% monthly fee or the maximum rate allowable by law and will void all guarantees until paid in full, including late fees. Returned checks will incur a \$35 fee in addition to any other fee(s). Signature(s) below are responsible for any and all fees associated with recovering payment for work performed at the above address under this contract.

This estimate is void if not accepted within 30 days of estimate date. By signing below, you hereby accept the items, quantities, prices, terms and conditions in this contract as satisfactory and authorize Dig Right In Landscaping, Inc. and/or its subcontractors to complete the work as specified.

Acceptance Signature

Date

Acceptance Signature

Date



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION

REPORT – FY 2016/17 Budget Process - UPDATE

COMMISSION REVIEW

- Report
- Discussion
- Seeking Feedback

Meeting Date:

April 5, 2016

BACKGROUND

The Village Board held its FY 2016/17 Budget Workshop on March 16th. The final budget will now be prepared for the Board's consideration during their regular meeting to be held on April 25, 2016, before the new budget takes effect on May 1, 2016.

With regard to the Parks & Recreation Department proposed budget for FY 2016/17 all existing services and programs were included. With regard to larger planned expenditures within the department, the following were also included:

- **Schematic Design Phase of Community Resource Center (CRC) Building** – Although the 825 Midway Drive building will be used as a temporary police station during the renovation of the 7760 Quincy Street building, \$25,000 was included in the budget to complete the schematic design phase as part of the planning for the CRC renovation.
- **Willow Pond Park Renovation** - \$750,000 was included to fund the renovation of this park, pending release by the state of the OSLAD grant (\$400,000 of which will be reimbursed from grant).
- **Lake Hinsdale Park** - \$22,000 was included to fund the renovation of this park, once the Willow Pond Park project is underway.
- **Prairie Trail Park** – The Village was previously awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to add an amenity to this park. However, the grant has since been suspended due to the lack of a state budget. If this grant is released, this project will be back on track.
- **2017 Family Special Event Race (5K Run)** - \$21,000 was included for next year's 5K Run.
- **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** - \$7,500 was included for a 2016 event.

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A