




Township of Stafford

Fertilizer Education Course

Presented by
John R. Spodofora
Councilman, Stafford Township

“Are perfect lawns more important than a clean healthy bay or the continued degradation of our groundwater?”

- Councilman John R. Spodofora

A photograph of a dead tree in a body of water under a blue sky with clouds. The tree is the central focus, with its bare branches reaching upwards. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the tree. In the background, there are more trees and a distant shoreline.

The EPA and NJDEP recognize that the largest factor that is detrimentally affecting our lakes, streams, bays, lagoons, estuaries, marshes, freshwater wetlands, fish nurseries, and groundwater is non-point source pollution.

Including runoff of chemicals and related substances from the improper application of fertilizer products.

Key Concerns

- **We had to do something now**
- **Important to have an ordinance supported by strong scientific and empirical data.**
- **Effectiveness is determined by acceptance and usability by the public and businesses.**
- **Education of the public & commercial landscapers is paramount to the success.**
- **Ordinance must withstand legal challenges.**

Fertilizer Impacts

- **Contaminates and Chemicals can be harmful to potable water supplies. Dr. Hale, Rutgers reported a 60% increase over 10 years**
- **Phosphorous & Nitrates can enter waterways and cause elevated growths of algae and aquatic vegetations.**
- **Improper application of fertilizers cause detrimental effects on waterways.**
- **Local soil conditions have little ability to remove nitrates, phosphates, nutrients, and other common ingredients in fertilizer**

**Based on those concerns,
The Stafford Township Mayor and Council
on December 15, 2009, enacted
Ordinance # 2009-50.**

**This ordinance created Chapter 105 of the
Stafford Township Code entitled
“Fertilizer Application Requirements”**

Chapter 105-1, Purpose

- **The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the outdoor application of fertilizer products so as to reduce the overall amount of excess nutrients from fertilizers entering the waterways, thereby helping to protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.**

Wellhead Protection Zones

Existing Zoning of Stafford and its Adjacent Municipalities

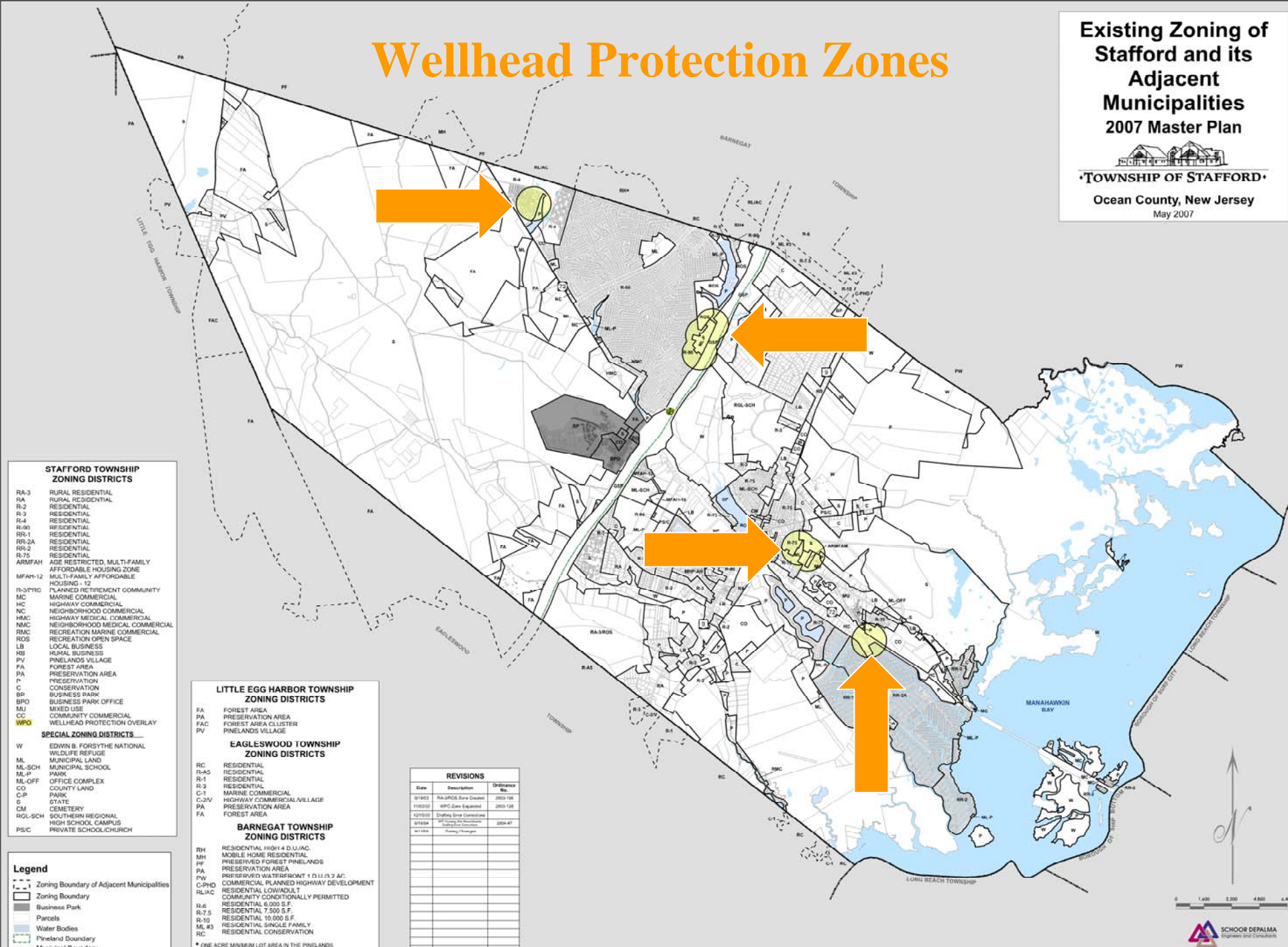
2007 Master Plan



TOWNSHIP OF STAFFORD

Ocean County, New Jersey

May 2007



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP ZONING DISTRICTS

- RA-3 RURAL RESIDENTIAL
- RA RURAL RESIDENTIAL
- R-2 RESIDENTIAL
- R-3 RESIDENTIAL
- R-4 RESIDENTIAL
- RR-80 RESIDENTIAL
- RR-1 RESIDENTIAL
- RR-2A RESIDENTIAL
- RR-2 RESIDENTIAL
- R-75 RESIDENTIAL
- ARMAFH AGE RESTRICTED, MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING ZONE
- MFAH-12 MULTI-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING - 12
- TR-1/PRC TRANNED RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
- MC MARINE COMMERCIAL
- HC HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL
- NC NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL
- HMC HIGHWAY MEDICAL COMMERCIAL
- NMC NEIGHBORHOOD MEDICAL COMMERCIAL
- RMC RECREATION MARINE COMMERCIAL
- ROS RECREATION OPEN SPACE
- LB LOCAL BUSINESS
- HB RURAL BUSINESS
- PV PINELANDS VILLAGE
- PA FOREST AREA
- FA PRESERVATION AREA
- P PRESERVATION
- C CONSERVATION
- BP BUSINESS PARK
- BPO BUSINESS PARK OFFICE
- MJ MIXED USE
- CC COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL
- WPO WELLHEAD PROTECTION OVERLAY

SPECIAL ZONING DISTRICTS

- W EDWIN B. FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
- ML MUNICIPAL LAND
- ML-SCH MUNICIPAL SCHOOL
- ML-PF PARK
- ML-OFF OFFICE COMPLEX
- CO COUNTY LAND
- C-P PARK
- C STATE
- CM CEMETERY
- RGL-SCH SOUTHERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS
- PSC PRIVATE SCHOOL/CHURCH

LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP ZONING DISTRICTS

- FA FOREST AREA
- PA PRESERVATION AREA
- FAC FOREST AREA CLUSTER
- PV PINELANDS VILLAGE

EAGLESWOOD TOWNSHIP ZONING DISTRICTS

- RC RESIDENTIAL
- R-4S RESIDENTIAL
- R-1 RESIDENTIAL
- R-3 RESIDENTIAL
- C-2/M MARINE COMMERCIAL
- PAV HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL/VILLAGE
- PA PRESERVATION AREA
- FA FOREST AREA

BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP ZONING DISTRICTS

- RH RESIDENTIAL HIGH 4 D.U./A.C.
- MH MOBILE HOME RESIDENTIAL
- PF PRESERVED FOREST PINELANDS
- PA PRESERVATION AREA
- PW PRESERVED WATERFRONT 1 D.U./1/2 A.C.
- C-PHD COMMERCIAL PLANNED HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT
- RLAC RESIDENTIAL LOWADULT COMMUNITY CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED

- R-6 RESIDENTIAL 6,000 S.F.
 - R-7.5 RESIDENTIAL 7,500 S.F.
 - R-10 RESIDENTIAL 10,000 S.F.
 - ML-83 RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY
 - RC RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION
- * ONE ACRE MINIMUM LOT AREA IN THE PINELANDS WITHOUT MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM

REVISIONS

Date	Description	Ordinance No.
8/18/03	RA-3/80S Zone Created	2003-108
11/02/03	WPO Zone Established	2003-128
12/10/03	Creating Small Commercial	
3/15/04	SR	2004-47
4/11/04	Planning Changeover	

Legend

- - - Zoning Boundary of Adjacent Municipalities
- Zoning Boundary
- Business Park
- Parcels
- Water Bodies
- Pineland Boundary
- Municipal Boundary

Chapter 105-3, Prohibited Conduct

- Applicators shall be prohibited from engaging in any of the following activities.
 - The application of any phosphorous fertilizer **except** as demonstrated by a need for a specific soils in accordance with a soil test and the associated annual fertilizer recommendation issued by the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension.
 - The deposit of grass clippings, leaves, or vegetative debris into water bodies, retention or detention areas, drainage ditches or stormwater drains, or onto impervious surfaces except during scheduled cleanup programs.

Chapter 105-4, Exemptions

- The following activities shall be exempt from the provision of section 105-3
 - The application of any phosphorous fertilizer when:
 - Establishing or re-establishing vegetation.
 - Commercial Farms, recreational fields, parks, with an approved BMP & turf management plan.
 - Container plantings, gardens -

Chapter 105-5, Recommendations

- **Drop spreaders, rather than broadcast spreaders or other type spreaders,**
- **Nitrogen-based fertilizers in slow-release formula should be used absent a documented need for other fertilizer types.**
- **Fertilizers should not be applied within twenty-four (24) hours of any substantial rainfall consisting of any storm generating one-half inch of rain or more within a twenty-four (24) hour period.**

Chapter 105-5, Recommendations

- **Soil testing should be conducted once every three (3) years to determine which nutrients, if any, are necessary before any fertilizers are applied.**
- **Fertilizers should be applied, if at all, no more than four (4) times per year on a single parcel of property.**
- **Fertilizer should not be applied to areas within the 25-foot buffer of any waterbody.**

Chapter 105-6, Fertilizer Education

- **All Landscape Professionals who apply fertilizer to properties within Stafford Township must complete this course no later than January 1, 2011.**
- **There will be a charge of \$20.00 for each Landscape Professional for the course.**

Chapter 105-7, Enforcement

- **The provisions within this ordinance will be enforced by the Stafford Township Code Enforcement Officer.**
- **Only real enforcement is through education and publicity.**

“We all live on the same planet and each individual’s actions have an impact on all of us”

- Councilman John R. Spodofora

A lush green park scene featuring a pond in the foreground, a wooden bench in the middle ground, and a large, leafy tree on the right. The water in the pond reflects the surrounding greenery. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Questions?