



# BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

OFFICE OF BOROUGH MANAGER  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Borough Council, Mayor  
**FROM:** Shane Brown, Management Fellow  
Dwight Boddorf, Borough Manager  
**DATE:** April 9, 2026  
**RE:** Trial Use of TruGreen for Park Weed Control

Council Members,

At the direction of the Borough Manager and as part of my fellowship, I was asked to help identify a solution to improve the park's overall appearance throughout the season while reducing the amount of Public Works labor dedicated to ongoing weed control. The goal is to maintain a higher-quality park environment while allowing staff to focus on other necessary summer duties.

After conducting research and discussing options with the Borough Manager, I recommend a trial of TruGreen for seasonal weed control.

### Current Approach and Cost

Currently, weed control in the park requires:

- 4–5 Public Works staff
- 6–7 hours per day
- Approximately every two weeks

At an estimated fully burdened rate of **\$52 per hour per employee**, this represents a significant and recurring labor investment. In addition, the Borough incurs ongoing costs related to:

- Equipment wear and replacement (weed whackers and accessories)
- Fuel and maintenance
- Operational inefficiencies due to repetitive work

This also limits staff availability for other priority summer work.

### Proposed Trial Program

The proposed approach would utilize TruGreen for:

- 3–4 applications per year
- Cost of approximately \$320 per application
- Estimated annual cost: \$960–\$1,280

Key considerations:

- Treatments are designed to be **as non-toxic as possible**
- Applications would occur during **early morning hours**
- Products are **quick-drying**, minimizing public exposure
- Focus is on **preventative treatment**, reducing the need for constant reactive maintenance

### **Operational Benefits**

This approach is expected to:

- Reduce the demand on Public Works staff time
- Allow reallocation of labor to higher-priority projects
- Improve the consistency and appearance of the park
- Reduce long-term equipment costs and wear

### **Budget Impact**

The cost of this program can be covered by **reallocating existing funds within the park maintenance budget**, with no additional appropriation required.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend proceeding with a **one-year trial program** to evaluate effectiveness, cost savings, and operational impact. At the conclusion of the season, results can be reviewed to determine whether to continue or adjust the approach.

Thank you,

Shane Brown,  
Management Fellow

CC: Dwight Boddorf, Borough Manager