

# Tick Management Techniques in Lookout Park

## “TICK-SAFE” LANDSCAPES?

Lookout Park’s landscape management plan is designed to decrease the exposure of our residents to ticks while enjoying these facilities. Research has linked removal of thick non-native groundcovers and invasive understory with decreases in tick populations. Out of control deer populations and rampant invasive plants are two of the most important factors that influence tick populations.

Lookout Park’s No-Mow zones include deer-resistant native plantings that help to create a “tick-safe” landscape. **Sunny, upland meadows and butterfly gardens are typically too hot and dry for ticks to proliferate.** The establishment of these sunny meadows, along with border paths within the park allow for intimate connections with natural areas while decreasing our exposure while using the park.

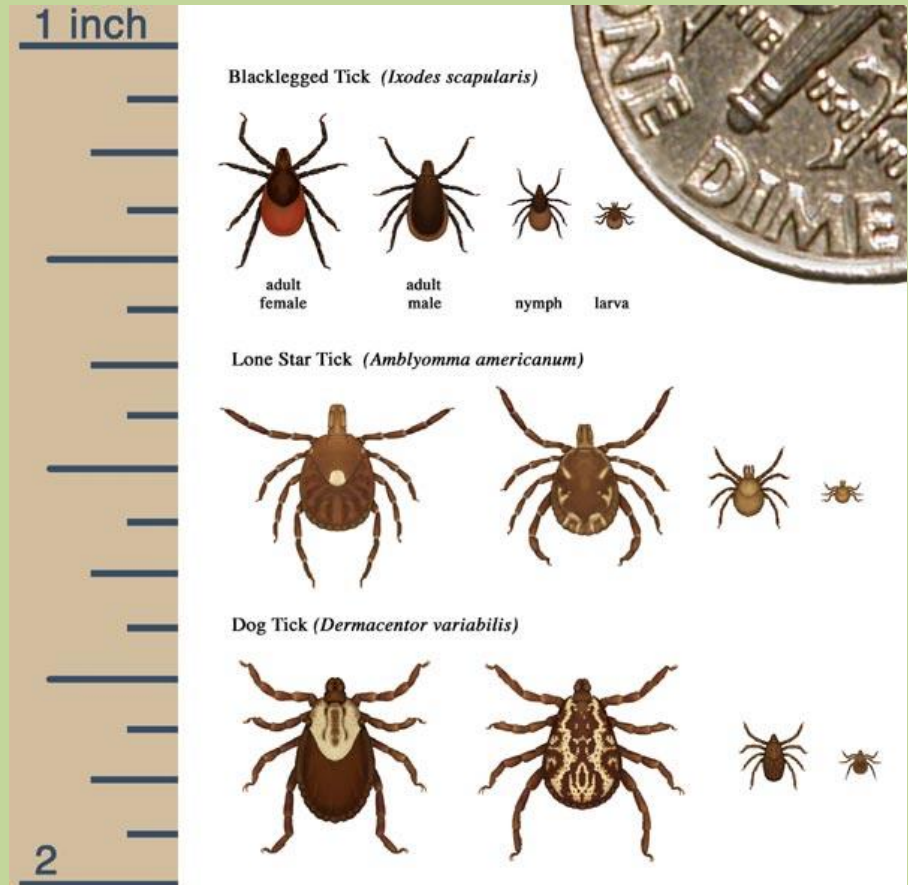
In Southeastern Pennsylvania, tick populations are intrinsic, so complete elimination of these pests is not possible. However, by implementing better landscape management techniques, tick populations can be managed to decrease our exposure to these native arachnids while enjoying the outdoors.

*Additional information, as taken from, “MANAGING TICKS ON YOUR PROPERTY”  
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## LANDSCAPE MODIFICATIONS

*Deer ticks are most abundant in the woods where hosts for the tick flourish and ticks find high humidity levels necessary for survival. On lawns, most deer ticks (82%) have been recovered within 9 feet of the lawn edge, especially areas adjacent to woods, stone walls, or ornamental plantings. Fewer ticks are found in the sunny, manicured areas of the lawn. Ticks may also be found in groundcovers such as Pachysandra.*

*Create a tick safe zone by altering the landscape to increase sunlight, reduce tick habitat and discourage rodent hosts. Create a clearly defined, manicured border. A dry wood chip, tree bark, mulch, or gravel barrier between woods and lawn can reduce tick migration into the lawn. The removal of leaf litter at the lawn perimeter also can help reduce the number of I. scapularis nymphs on the lawn.*



For more information on stormwater and landscape management in the park, contact the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council

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