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## Deer & Tick Committee

### Simplified Tick Control Strategies

Below are several actions that could be taken to decrease your risk of contracting a tick-borne disease. Employing as many actions as possible should offer the highest degree of protection. The Committee understands not all actions may be feasible in all situations. Additionally, the Committee respects the rights and preferences of individuals to choose what works best for them.

State and local regulations may apply to several of these methods. The Committee encourages the use of these methods provided it can be done in a safe and compliant manner. Those interested in learning more should read the [Tick Management Handbook](#) and [Application of Tick Control Strategies](#).

**Personal protective measures are the most effective way to prevent tick borne illness. Below are actions you can take to protect yourself.**

- **Dress appropriately:** Light colored long sleeves and pants offer the best protection. Tucking pants into socks also helps.
- **Wear repellents:** There are several skin safe products and you can pre-treat clothing and footwear with permethrin. Factory treated clothing is also available.
- **Avoid high risk areas:** Stay on trails and away from tall grass and brush.
- **Perform tick checks:** Look close; they're hard to see. Parents, thoroughly check the kids.
- **Shower after outdoor activity:** Helps with the tick check and washes away unattached ticks.
- **Place clothes in dryer upon returning home:** In the dryer first! Ticks die in very dry conditions.
- **Protect your pets:** Talk to your veterinarian about available tick prevention products.

**Taking steps to protect your property will also decrease your risk. Below are actions you can take on your own land.**

- **Keep property manicured:** Mowed lawns and clean flowerbeds make poor habitat for ticks and hosts.
- **Design low risk outdoor spaces:** Keep play areas, fire pits and barbeques away from wood lines.
- **Alter tick habitat:** Trim trees, hedges and brush. Periodically perform controlled burns where permitted.
- **Treat tick habitat:** Have a licensed person apply EPA/DEC approved products according to the label. Remember that broadcast application of any pesticide may also pose a risk to beneficial organisms.
- **Deploy tick tubes:** DIY or have a licensed person help. This will only target baby blacklegged ticks.
- **Exclude deer:** Fence what you can to keep deer (and other wildlife) away. Ticks come and go with them.

For more information please visit <https://www.shelterislandtown.us/deer-and-tick>



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- **Remove deer:** Allow hunting on your land. Less deer means less ticks.
- **Deploy a 4-Poster™:** If you own (or can group) 40 acres, kill blacklegged and lone star ticks on deer.

**Larger land areas may be able to pursue area wide interventions. The Town, Homeowner's Associations, Preserves and Farms may be able to expand protection by implementing the actions below.**

- **Create trails:** Establish and maintain safe places to enjoy the outdoors.
- **Post tick warning signs:** Simple and uniform info to warn visitors of the risks ticks pose.
- **Alter tick habitat:** Large scale alteration (mowing, burning) may amplify small scale efforts.
- **Facilitate private property efforts:** Larger entities can help navigate regulatory concerns and cooperative procurement can decrease costs.
- **Coordinate deer reduction:** Centralized management increases safety and efficiency.
- **Create a 4-Poster™ program:** Navigate the regulatory hurdles and employ area wide tick reduction.
- **Promote public education:** Give people the information they need to protect themselves. Utilize multiple platforms to reach a variety of audiences.

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## **Deer & Tick Committee**

### **TOWN ACTIONS TO MITIGATE TICK-BORNE DISEASE RISK**

Recognizing there is no single, standalone strategy that could address all tick-borne disease concerns in all circumstances, the Committee embraces the principles of integrated pest management. Therefore, we recommend that the Town take the following actions in an effort to address tick-borne disease risk within the community.

- Action 1:**
  - A. Identify tick sampling locations suitable for entomological risk assessment.
  - B. Identify quantity, species and life stage of ticks needed to develop an entomological risk index (ERI).
  - C. Identify laboratory to conduct testing.
  - D. Identify sampling frequency.
  - E. Collect and submit tick samples.
  - F. Monitor changes in ERI.
  
- Action 2:**
  - A. Establish compliant data sharing with Shelter Island Medical Center.
  - B. Monitor changes in tick-related medical information
  
- Action 3:**
  - A. Promote public education pertaining to tick borne disease prevention.
  - B. Utilize conventional and digital media platforms to maximize exposure.
  
- Action 4:**
  - A. Pursue island-wide deer reduction pursuant to the Deer Management Plan.
  
- Action 5:**
  - A. Monitor changes in 4-Poster™ regulations.
  - B. Reactivate 4-Poster program if possible.
  
- Action 6:**
  - A. Identify Town-controlled property suitable for habitat modification.
  - B. Modify habitat.
  
- Action 7:**
  - A. Identify private property suitable for habitat modification.
  - B. Promote and facilitate habitat modification.
  
- Action 8:**
  - A. Promote public education pertaining to responsible chemical control of ticks.
  
- Action 9:**
  - A. Promote and facilitate rodent host-based interventions on private property and/or groups of properties.

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