

## Tick Management Options for Camp Maintenance Staff

Camps are managing their properties for safety and fun - keeping workers, campers and visitors safe from tick encounters is a part of any landscaping plan.

These are the most effective landscaping strategies to reduce risks of tick bites and Lyme disease:

- Identify higher risk tick habitat areas, make a map for staff, then use signs or barriers or policies to protect people who work or play in or near these areas
- Fence off areas with thick brush and tall grass
- Manage the landscape to reduce or avoid higher risk tick habitats, such as tall grass, tall herbaceous vegetation (like flowers) or thick brush
- Make and maintain trails to be sunny, wide, and free of vegetation that ticks can live on
- Lower humidity pockets through pruning and thinning and keep grass mowed
- Restrict the use of groundcover plants that are low, leafy and moist, such as pachysandra (or Japanese spurge), in areas frequented by campers and critters
- Increase solar exposure in order to reduce damp, shady areas where ticks thrive

Developed by the Tick Free NH Council:

BeBop Labs, Community Health Institute (JSI), Ecological Solutions, Exeter Health Department, NH Charitable Foundation, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food, NH Department of Health & Human Services, NH Medical Society, UNH Cooperative Extension

- If feasible, move play equipment away from the edge of the woods and shade and into the sunlight
- Remove brush and leaves around stone walls and wood piles
- Discourage rodent activity by removing food sources, nesting areas, and trapping or increasing predator access (i.e. birds of prey, etc.)
- Move firewood and bird feeders away from buildings and walking paths. Keep firewood neatly stacked, away from camp structures

Remember, landscaping practices can be helpful and the use of tick repellents on skin or clothing are the most effective way to reduce tick bites and tickborne disease.

- Always use EPA-approved repellents and/or permethrin-treated clothing when landscaping, gardening, mowing, or working outdoors
- Conduct tick checks or showers within two hours of working in tick habitats
- Keep staff trained on best tick management and prevention and inform guests and campers on how to stay tick-free

## Scan for free resources, materials and training from the Tick Free NH Council partners.

### Shareable Resources



### Community Presentations



[tickfreenh.org](https://tickfreenh.org)

### Tick Safe eLearning



### UNH Extension



[extension.unh.edu](https://extension.unh.edu)

#### References:

Richardson M, Khouja C, Sutcliffe K. Interventions to prevent Lyme disease in humans: A systematic review. *Prev Med Rep.* 2019;13:16-22. See Section 3.3. Domestic strategies. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6240635/>  
Eisen L. Personal protection measures to prevent tick bites in the United States: Knowledge gaps, challenges, and opportunities. *Ticks Tick Borne Dis.* 2022 Jul;13(4):101944. doi: 10.1016/j.ttbdis.2022.101944

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