



# Environmentally Preferable Products Purchasing Program Case Study



## Going Green with Cleaning at DCR / MassParks

### Bradley Palmer State Park

#### Summary:

Bradley Palmer State Park, a facility of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is a 721 acre Park located in Topsfield, MA; in the northeastern part of the state. It includes expansive hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, as well as opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and fishing. In addition, there is a well-utilized wading pool that services up to 30,000 users during the summer months. Restroom facilities are provided for the public at the adjacent picnic area into the fall. Other restroom facilities are available to visitors all year.

In 2011, the Park Supervisor and Regional Business Manager attended a Green Cleaning Workshop and learned the science behind these products available on State Contract. They learned that products on **FAC59: Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products, Programs, Equipment and Supplies** were effective, and had been third party tested by the Toxic Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell. They discovered that these cleaners could replace the commonly used chlorine-based ones that posed health risks and problems to workers.

The Park initially purchased and began using two products from FAC59 to clean the bathrooms and the pool area. The initial purchase was 2 years' worth; however they have found that the product actually lasted close to 3 years, saving money.

#### Original Products Used:

- 120 Peroxide Multi-surface Cleaner
- 121 Pro-Zyme: APC, Odor Control & Waste Degradator

Both products come with a hose dispensing system for directed spray foam or mechanically mixed concentrated cleaner for application bottles. The success of the original products prompted the Park to expand the green cleaning program, see below.

#### Additional products purchased as of 2014:

- 117 Winterclean Neutralizing Cleaner
- 118 EPS Stripper / Degreaser
- 122 Oxy-dis H2O2 Disinfectant Cleaner

#### Methodology

##### Bathrooms in Pool and Picnic areas:

- Areas first sprayed with water, then 120 Peroxide Cleaner is applied through mixing hose attachment for proper measure. All hands off. Areas scrubbed as needed.

- For odor and heavily soiled areas, 121 Pro-Zyme is applied as foam, sits overnight, and is rinsed off in the morning.
- Daytime touchup cleaning is done with 120 in spray bottles.
- 118 Stripper/Degreaser is sprayed in the toilet bowls to remove rust and hard water stains

##### Pool Area:

- 122 Oxy-dis is now used in lieu of chlorine for blood, feces or vomit. Communication is needed with DPH in order to make this practice acceptable within the current code.

##### Clivus Composting Toilet:

- Maintenance of the Clivus composting toilet is part of this regimen. 120 and 121 are the best products since they do not hinder the composting process, as chlorine cleaners do.
- 117 Winterclean is sprayed on the floor before mopping to neutralize the salt and sand carried in during the winter.
- Mopping will now be done with the ergonomically friendly, Rubbermaid Pulse / Wet Microfiber System, eliminating the unsanitary and cumbersome bucket/string mop process.

**Benefits:** The Park has now reduced its use of non-green cleaners. Disinfectant and sanitizer chemicals are pesticides and may cause health problems, including coughing, wheezing, asthma, and eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation. Selecting safer cleaning products and limiting disinfectants protects Park Staff as well as the public.

**Challenges:** A common complaint is that "It doesn't smell clean". However, it is important to understand that clean does not have a smell! The purpose of cleaning is to remove soil and germs. Richard Scott believes that it is important to review the science behind these new cleaning products, in order to understand that they work just as well as non-green cleaners.

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#### Resources:

- Massachusetts Environmentally Preferable Products Purchasing Program, Green Cleaning Products, Programs, Equipment and Supplies at [www.mass.gov/EPP](http://www.mass.gov/EPP).
- Toxic Use Reduction Institute-UMass Lowell  
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\*Please note there may be other vendors that provide this product. They can be found on the [Approved Green Product List for FAC59](#) at [www.mass.gov/epp](http://www.mass.gov/epp).