



Borough of Watchung **Tree Removal Application and Permit**



Any person desiring to cut or remove any deciduous or coniferous tree having a diameter of greater than four (4) inches measured at a point four and one-half (4 1/2) feet above the ground; or any Dogwood, Birch or American Hornbeam have a diameter of or greater than two (2) inches measured at a point four and one-half (4 1/2) feet above the ground shall apply to the Borough Engineer for permit to remove such tree(s).

Chapter XXIV of the Code of Watchung titled “Tree Preservation”

24-1 Purpose

- A. The governing body of the Borough of Watchung finds and concludes that trees are a significant, historical, aesthetic and valuable ecological resource. Because of this, trees on public and private property are to be protected and preserved. Preserving and protecting the Borough’s trees will counteract air pollution, minimize soil erosion and other related environmental damage, enhance the aesthetic environment of the Borough and preserve property values. This Ordinance is intended to maintain and enhance the general health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Borough by preserving and protecting one of the Borough’s most valuable assets, its trees. This Ordinance provides that no trees shall be removed, cut down, or otherwise destroyed, unless a Tree Removal Permit has been issued by the Borough. Tree trimming and pruning are exempt from the permitting requirements unless the tree would be destroyed by the trimming or pruning.
- B. The governing body of the Borough finds and concludes that tree removal in the Borough has a significant impact on the Borough because of the topography of the land; therefore, tree removal is limited and a one (1) to one (1) replacement is required for each live tree removed outside the primary building envelope.

24-3 Permit Required – ... no person shall cut, remove, top, injure or damage any tree upon any lands within the Borough of Watchung without having first obtained a tree removal permit in accordance with this Ordinance.

24-5 Dead, Dying or Diseased Trees

- A. Any person desiring to remove trees, which are dead, dying, diseased, damaged or otherwise a hazard to structures or human life shall apply to the Borough Engineer for a tree removal permit. That person shall certify to the Borough Engineer that the trees to be removed are dead, dying, diseased, damaged or hazardous and the Borough Engineer shall issue a tree removal permit based upon that certification if it is five (5) or fewer trees. A tree removal permit for six (6) or more trees shall be issued by the Borough Engineer only after approval of the application by the Environmental Commission. No fee shall be charged for the issuance of a tree removal permit.
- B. In the event that the Borough Engineer disputes that a tree is dead, dying, diseased or hazardous the property owner will retain, at the property owner’s cost, a Certified Tree Expert to inspect the trees and provide a report to the Borough of the condition of the trees.

APPLICANT'S INFORMATION

APPLICANT: _____
 Name (Must be property owner or duly authorized agent) (Date)

 (Address)

 (Telephone Number) (Cell)

LOCATION OF PREMISES WHERE WORK IS TO BE PERFORMED

 Block # _____ Lot # _____
 (Street Location)

CONTRACTOR: _____
 (Name)

 (Address)

 (Phone) (Fax) (Cell)

CERTIFIED TREE EXPERT: _____ Yes _____ No **LICENSE NO.:** _____

Total number of trees requested to be removed: _____ Dead _____ Live = Total _____

<u>QTY</u>	<u>SPECIES TO BE REMOVED</u>	<u>SIZE (DIA.)</u>	<u>CONDITION (LIVE/DEAD/DISEASED)</u>	<u>DISTANCE TO NEAREST STRUCTURE</u>	<u>REPLACEMENT TREE (NO./ SPECIES/ SIZE)</u>

Describe in detail the work for which this tree permit is requested (removal, replacement, etc.) and the reasons for the work:

1. Payment of Application Fees:
 _____ \$25.00 per lot (waived if all trees are dead)
 _____ \$100.00 per lot for subdivision or site plan
2. Payment of Cash Bond
 _____ \$200.00/per tree with \$1,000.00 minimum per lot
 (number of trees removed _____ x \$200.00 = \$_____)
3. Submit three (3) copies of a Tree Removal/Replacement Plan prepared in accordance with the appropriate detailed checklist.

**Tree Removal/Replacement Plan
for Tree Removal with No or Minimum Land Disturbance**

_____ Provide copy of existing survey of property or create a sketch of property.

_____ Locate house, driveway, accessory buildings, streams, ponds and wetlands on survey or sketch.

_____ Identify the location(s), species, and diameter of all trees(s) to be cut or removed.

_____ Count total number of existing trees four (4) inches or greater in diameter on entire lot.

Total = _____

_____ Calculate proposed removal percent as number of trees proposed to be removed divided by total number of trees on lot. [Tree Removal % = #trees removed/total # trees]

Removal % = _____ / _____ = _____

_____ Calculate tree percentage remaining. [Tree Remaining % = 100% – Removal %]

Remaining % = 100% - _____ = _____

_____ Specify tree replacement proposed including species, quantity and size. (Total replacement count shall equal the number of trees removed).

_____ Identify name and address of owner on the plan.

_____ Identify street location and block and lot on the plan.

_____ Provide an approval block as follows:

Approved By:

(Borough Engineer)

(Date)

(Environmental Commission)

(Date)

Copy #1 – Post on Property
Copy #2 – Contractor's Possession

DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED PERMIT	
Applicant	
Environmental Commission	
Permit Log Block _____	Lot _____

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT	Permit No. _____
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APPLICANT: _____
(Property Owner or Tree Company)

(Address) (Telephone Number)

LOCATION OF TREE REMOVAL

(Street Location) Block # _____ Lot # _____

Total Tree Count = _____ **Date** _____
Removal % _____ **Remaining %** _____

The application for _____ trees to be removed is:

Approved by the Borough of Watchung Conditions: _____

 Denied by the Borough of Watchung _____

 Date of Field Inspection: _____

TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIRED

_____ Trees at 2 1/2" Minimum Diameter
 _____ Trees at 4" Minimum Diameter and/or \$ _____ Paid to Tree Bank Fund (\$200/Tree)
 _____ Total Tree Replacement

Tree Replacement must occur within one (1) year of date of permit, call for inspection as soon as trees are planted as per approved plan.

Borough Engineer Date

Environmental Commission Date

Additional approval required for removal of more than five (5) trees.

APPROVAL OF COMPLETED WORK

Date Tree Replacement Completed _____
 Escrow Account # _____ Escrow Amount _____ Returned two years after planting
 Final Inspection on or after _____ Date Inspected _____

I hereby certify that I have inspected the completed work and further certify that the work performed substantially complies with the conditions of the Tree Ordinance. Escrow to be returned.

Borough Engineer Date