



# **Borough of Watchung**

## **Tree Removal Application for Permit**

Homeowner/Contractor With “**No Land Disturbance**” Application

Any 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 having 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 living 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.

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG  
TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION OF TREE REMOVAL:** Block # \_\_\_\_\_ Lot # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

**TREES TO BE REMOVED BY:** (Check One)

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

NJ Licensed Tree Service Provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Tree Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business License (NJTC) Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required)

\*LTE, LTCO or ISA Certified Arborist (CA) Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Per NJ Law N.J.S.A. 45:15C-11 (2017), all tree companies in NJ must employ at least one licensed tree expert.

**TREES TO BE REMOVED**

Total number of trees requested to be removed: \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	SPECIES (IF KNOWN)	TRUNK DIAMETER	REASON FOR REMOVAL

- Trunk Diameter = Trunk Circumference (distance around with tape measure) at 4' height, divided by 3.14
- List additional trees on back of this form.

Identify all trees requested to be removed with ribbon or colored plastic tape (spray painting or other permanent marking, damaging or defacing of trees is prohibited).

**Total Tree Count on Property (approx.):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Per Tree Ordinance, no more than 50% of existing trees within the property boundaries shall be removed.**

## TREE REMOVAL PLAN

- Submit a copy of existing survey or a sketch of property. Sketch should include house, driveway and accessory buildings.
- Identify the location of all trees to be removed with an X (with species and diameter if possible).

See additional checklist for tree removal with land disturbance.

## APPLICANT'S AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURE

I hereby certify that all information submitted on this application and accompanying plans (if applicable) is true to the best of my knowledge. I further attest that any tree destroyed or removed in violation of the Borough of Watchung Tree Preservation Ordinance shall be replaced with another tree of the same species or from the preferred tree list and shall be at least two and one-half (2 ½) inches in diameter if replacing a tree of 18" diameter or less or a minimum of four (4") diameter if replacing a tree with a diameter greater than 18" measured at a point of four and one-half (4 ½) feet above ground. In the event it is not possible to replace the required number of trees within the existing lot, a contribution to the Watchung Tree Bank of \$350.00 per tree will be submitted.

- ☐ Applicant will replace the required number of trees.
- ☐ Applicant requests to pay Tree Bank Fund for tree replacement in lieu of planting trees on property.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicants Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Any person who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be punishable by one (1) or more of the following: a minimum fine of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars not to exceed two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars or imprisonment for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days or to a period of community service not exceeding ninety (90) days at the discretion of the Municipal Court. In addition to these fines and penalties, any person found guilty of violating this Ordinance shall be required to replace each tree removed without the required tree removal permit with another tree of the same species or from the preferred tree list at a size of at least two and one-half (2-1/2") inches in diameter measured at a point four and one-half (4-1/2') feet above ground. If the trees removed without a permit were greater than eighteen (18") inches in diameter, then the replacement tree shall be four (4") inches in diameter.

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Field Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Tree Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Removal % \_\_\_\_\_

Remaining % \_\_\_\_\_

The application for \_\_\_\_\_ trees to be removed is:

☐ Approved by the Borough of Watchung (Permit Valid For 1 Year from Date of Approval)  
Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Denied by the Borough of Watchung

### TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIRED

\_\_\_\_\_ Trees at 2 ½" Minimum Diameter

\_\_\_\_\_ Trees at 4" Minimum Diameter and/or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid to Tree Bank Fund (\$350/Tree)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Tree Replacement

**\*Replacement trees must be at least 75% deciduous.**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Borough Engineer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**