

Township of Plainsboro

Tree Removal Permit Application

Purpose

The Township has instituted a process for landowners who wish to remove trees from their property by obtaining a Tree Removal Permit (TRP). Removal of a tree classified as a *significant tree* is either a deciduous tree (one that loses its leaves each fall) that could reach a mature height of 50 feet, or an evergreen tree that could reach a mature height of 30 feet. This form is the first step in the process of obtaining such a permit.

Tree Removal Permit Exceptions

The following types of tree removal are exempt from the permit process; however, the Township should be consulted to verify the exemption:

1. Removal or remedial work on a tree not categorized as a *significant tree*.
2. Removal of limbs that pose a threat or risk to the general health.
3. Pruning and trimming to enhance the growth of a tree in conformance with industry standards.
4. Approved forestry activities covered under the guidance of a New Jersey approved Consulting Forester and adhering to State Approved Woodland Management or Forest Stewardship Plan.

Application for Permit

- A. Any person desiring to remove a *significant tree(s)* shall provide the information requested below. The Township will either approve the tree(s) for removal or indicate the tree(s) should be preserved and list the reasons why.

☐ Permit fee of \$15.00 (may include multiple trees as applicable). Make checks payable to the Township of Plainsboro, NJ.

☐ Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____

☐ Address of affected property: _____

Tax Map Block Number: _____ Lot Number: _____
(refer to tax bill for current tax map block and lot number)

☐ Provide marked-up property survey clearly identifying the location and common name species of the tree(s) to be removed (e.g., White Ash, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, White Pine).

☐ Provide photos showing the condition of the tree(s) to be removed.

Check-off one or more of the following reasons for removal of the tree(s):

☐ Tree is dead or dying.

☐ Tree is diseased.

☐ Tree is causing a hazard to the house, outbuilding, sidewalk, or driveway.

☐ Tree removal is requested so other beneficial trees, shrubs, or other plant material can flourish or be planted.

☐ Other, please explain: _____

B. Please forward a completed application and payment check to:

Township of Plainsboro
Department of Planning and Zoning
641 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536.

C. The Township shall have thirty (30) business days to conduct a review of the complete application. However, the Township reserves the right to request an additional fourteen (14) business days to review all new and additional information.

Appeals, Violations, and Penalties

See attached ordinance.

Replacement Tree List

	Scientific Name	Common Name
Deciduous (shade) Trees	Acer negundo	boxelder
	Acer rubrum	red maple
	Acer saccharinum	silver maple
	Betula lenta	sweet birch
	Betula nigra	river birch
	Betula populifolia	gray birch
	Carya alba	mockernut hickory
	Carya cordiformis	bitternut hickory
	Carya glabra	pignut hickory
	Carya ovalis	red hickory
	Carya ovata	shagbark hickory
	Catalpa bignonioides	southern catalpa
	Diospyros virginiana	common persimmon
	Fagus grandifolia	American beech
	Juglans cinerea	butternut
	Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum
	Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree
	Nyssa sylvatica	blackgum
	Platanus occidentalis	American sycamore
	Populus grandidentata	bigtooth aspen
	Populus heterophylla	swamp cottonwood
	Populus tremuloides	quaking aspen
	Quercus ×bushii	
	Quercus ×heterophylla	
	Quercus ×jackiana	
	Quercus ×rudkinii	
	Quercus alba	white oak
	Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak
	Quercus coccinea	scarlet oak
	Quercus falcata	southern red oak
	Quercus imbricaria	shingle oak
	Quercus phellos	willow oak
	Quercus prinus	chestnut oak
	Quercus rubra	northern red oak
	Quercus stellata	post oak
	Quercus velutina	black oak
	Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust
	Salix nigra	black willow
	Tilia americana	American basswood
	Ulmus rubra	slippery elm
Evergreen Trees	Pinus echinata	shortleaf pine
	Pinus resinosa	red pine
	Pinus rigida	pitch pine
	Pinus strobus	eastern white pine
	Pinus virginiana	Virginia pine
	Chamaecyparis thyoides	Atlantic white cedar
	Juniperus virginiana	eastern redcedar
	Tsuga canadensis	eastern hemlock

**AN ORDINANCE ADDING TO THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
PLAINSBORO CHAPTER 36 TREE PRESERVATION**

WHEREAS, the intent of this ordinance is to preserve the environment and health benefits provided by maintaining trees throughout the Township; and

WHEREAS, that controlling soil erosion, cleansing the air of pollutants, and absorbing storm water are a few examples of the benefits gained by maintaining healthy trees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of Plainsboro Township, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION I

Chapter 36: Tree Preservation

§ 36.1 Purpose.

The Township has instituted a process for landowners who wish to remove trees from their property by obtaining a Tree Removal Permit. Removal of a tree classified as a *significant* tree is either a deciduous tree (one that loses its leaves each fall) that could reach a mature height of 50 feet, or an evergreen tree that could reach a mature height of 30 feet.

§ 36.2 Definitions.

- A. The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
1. *Certified Arborist*: an individual who earned and currently maintains the Certification of Arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture.
 2. *Deciduous*: trees that drop their leaves for part of the year.
 3. *Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)*: the diameter of a tree trunk measured at a point four and one-half feet above ground level, on the uphill side.
 4. *Diseased Tree*: a tree that is irretrievably diseased or infested with insects that cannot be treated at a reasonable cost.
 5. *Evergreen*: trees that maintain their leaves throughout the year.
 6. *International Society of Arboriculture Tree Appraisal*: an appraisal based on standards set forth in the 9th edition or later of the Guide for Plant Appraisal ("ISA method") published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers.
 7. *New Jersey Certified Tree Expert*: an individual who earned and currently maintains the certification Certified Tree Expert (CTE) from the New Jersey Society of Tree Experts.

8. *Private Tree*: any tree located on lands not owned by the Township of Plainsboro or any other governmental entity.
9. *Significant Tree*: deciduous trees at a mature height greater than 50 feet, evergreen trees at a mature height greater than 30 feet and not considered ornamental.
10. *Substantial Harm*: includes girdling; excessive pruning or thinning not in conformance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards and application of any substance toxic to the tree.
11. *Tree*: any woody plant with a main stem or multiple stems having branches protruding above the root flare that is categorized as a deciduous or evergreen.
12. *Tree Removal*: the process of removing a tree, which includes the complete removal of the trunk, hauling away and properly disposing of all logs, branches and leaves associated with the removed tree and grinding of the stump six one-half (6 ½) inches below grade.

§ 36.3 Tree Removal Permit Exceptions.

- A. The following types of tree removal are exempt from the permit process however; the township should be consulted to verify the exemption:
 1. Removal or remedial work on a tree not categorized as significant.
 2. Removal of limbs that poses a threat or risk to the general health.
 3. Pruning and trimming to enhance the growth of a tree in conformance with industry standards.
 4. Approved forestry activities covered under the guidance of a New Jersey approved Consulting Forester and adhering to State Approved Woodland Management or Forest Stewardship Plan.

§ 36.4 Application for Permit.

- A. Any person desiring to remove a significant tree shall be prepared to complete the checklist below. The Township will either approve the tree(s) for removal, or indicate the tree should be preserved and list the reasons why.
 - ☐ Pay permit fee of \$15.00 (multiple trees must be shown on the survey).
 - ☐ Name and address of applicant.
 - ☐ Property address, block/lot, survey marked on Tax Map to show significant tree(s) location.
 - ☐ Reason for tree to be removed is because it is dead or dying.
 - ☐ Reason for tree to be removed is because it is diseased.

- ☐ Reason for tree to be removed is because it is causing a hazard to the house, outbuilding, sidewalk, or driveway.
 - ☐ Reason tree to be removed is so other beneficial trees can flourish or be planted.
- B. The completed Tree Removal Permit/Application shall be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Zoning.
- C. The Township shall have thirty (30) business days to conduct a review of the complete application. However, the Township reserves the right to request an additional fourteen (14) business days to review all new and additional information.

§ 36.5 Appeals.

All applicants are hereby granted the right to appeal a denial to the Township Administrator within ten (10) business days of the Township's designated officials report. The Township Administrator shall have thirty (30) days to hear the matter after the filing of the appeal. The Township Administrator may affirm, reverse or modify the original decision and thus constitute the final administrative determination of the application.

§36.6 Violations and Penalties.

- A. Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the general provision of the Township Code.
- B. Each violation is considered a separate offense.
- C. Any person found guilty of removing a tree(s) or implementing actions that cause substantial harm will be fined \$500.00 or three times the cost of a replacement tree of the same species at 2.5 inches DBH, whichever is greater.

SECTION III

In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of the Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.