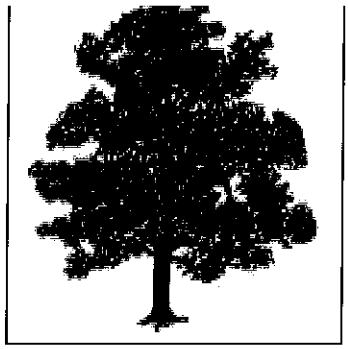

# Borough of Watchung
# Tree Removal Application/Permit

Homeowner/Contractor With No
Land Disturbance Application/Permit

Any person desiring to cut or remove any (live or dead) 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 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.

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.

See Borough of Watchung Ordinance Chapter 24 – Tree Preservation for complete details of ordinance and requirements.

## TREE REMOVAL PERMIT FORM

**APPLICANT:**_____DATE:_____
(Property Owner or Tree Company)

**ADDRESS:**_____PHONE:_____

**LOCATION OF TREE REMOVAL**

_____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** _____

Estimate of Total Tree Count on Property = _____

| QTY | SPECIES TO BE REMOVED, (If KNOWN) | SIZE (DIA.) | CONDITION (LIVE/DEAD/ DISEASED) | DISTANCE TO STRUCTURE | REPLACEMENT TREE (NO./ SPECIES/ SIZE) (75% Deciduous & 25% Evergreens) |
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Reason for tree removal:

_____

_____

_____Identify all trees requested to be removed on site with ribbon or colored plastic tape (paint spraying or other permanent marking, damaging or defacing of trees is prohibited).

## TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PLAN

_____Submit 3 copies of a tree removal/replacement plan (copy of existing survey or 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 removed with an X.

_____Specify tree replacement proposed including species and size with an O.

_____Identify name and address of owner on the plan.

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) fee 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

I certify that _____ trees to be removed are dead.

_____ _____

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.