

TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN TREE REMOVAL INFO SHEET



Settled in 1664
"Proud of Our Rich Heritage"

In compliance with the State of New Jersey regulations, a **Tree Removal Application** must be submitted to the Zoning Department for review and approval prior to commencement of any tree removal. Upon review, tree replacement may be required.

- All Tree Removal Requests require a copy of the existing property survey, with the location of the trees sketched (if not already shown on survey). Colorized photographs are encouraged but not required, however trees must be marked in the field with colored ribbon or tape.
- Tree removal is prohibited in environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, conservation easements, wetlands buffers/transition areas, sand dunes, beaches, etc. **Please contact the NJDEP for approval or exemption letter prior to making application.**
- **Regulated Trees** are considered healthy Street Trees over 3" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), Shade Trees over 24" DBH and any evergreen tree over 10' in height. Replacement will be required for any Regulated Tree to be removed.

TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Tree Type	Tree Size to be Removed Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria	Tree Replacement Fee (per tree) In Lieu of Replanting
Street Tree (generally within 10' of ROW)	DBH of 2.5" To 23.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 3" for each tree removed	\$900
Street Tree	DBH of 24" or greater *	Replant 1 tree with minimum tree caliper of 3" for each tree removed	\$3600
Shade Tree	DBH of 24" to 32.99"	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree caliper of 3" for each tree removed	\$2700
Shade Tree	DBH of 33" or greater *	Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 2.5" for each tree removed	\$3600
Evergreen Species	10' in height or greater	Replant 1 Evergreen Tree with minimum 6' in height for each tree removed	\$750

* *Subject to Arborist review and approval*

- **Exempt Trees** Exemptions from Replacement Requirements may be granted under certain circumstances and must include proper justification including, but not limited to, **color photographs, certification on company letterhead from a Licensed Tree Expert or Certified Tree Arborist, and/or State agency documentation confirming that the tree meets one or more of the following criteria:**
 - Street Trees under 2.5" diameter at breast height; Shade Trees under 24" diameter; or, Evergreen trees less than 10'.**
 - Any tree to be cut for personal use as firewood by the owner of such property. Not more than three trees shall be cut in any one year under this exemption.**

- Any property that is 10,000 square feet or less in size with an existing residential use shall be exempt from the shade tree replacement requirements but still must submit a Tree Removal Application for review and verification of environmentally sensitive areas, and/or other restrictive covenants. Note that property is still subject to replacement requirements for Street Tree(s) removed.
- Hazard Trees** may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement with proper written justification to determine tree is a hazard tree. "Hazard Tree" means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below:
 - Infectious disease or insect infestation
 - Dead or dying trees
 - Trees obstructing the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective
 - The tree is causing obvious damage to structures (such as building foundations, public recreational facilities, sidewalks, etc.);
 - The tree is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a Licensed Landscape Architect, Certified Arborist or Licensed Tree Expert (LTE); or
 - Species confirmed to be *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven).
- Trees removed in the course of an emergency declared by the federal, state, or Township government. Please document with photographs and make application within 48 hours of emergency.
- Commercial nurseries, garden centers, fruit orchards and tree farms in active operation.
- Trees removed during the replacement or repair of a residential individual subsurface sewage disposal systems and/or the replacement or repair of a domestic water supply.
- Properties devoted to forest management and the active practice of silviculture for which farmland assessment has been approved and on file with the Township.
- The removal of any trees that are part of an approved woodland management program pursuant to the provisions of the New Jersey Farmland Assessment Act of 1964, provided such plan and documentation is filed with the Tax Assessor.
- Trees removed pursuant to a NJDEP or US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan.
- Approved game management practices, as recommended by the NJDEP Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife.

**To view the full Tree Removal Ordinance
or to download copies of the application please visit
www.middletownnj.org/treeremoval**

**To submit your Tree Removal Application online,
please Download the SDL Portal App to your phone
or visit **SDLPORTAL.COM/LOGIN** on a desktop computer.**