

Tredyffrin Township's New Woodland Conservation Ordinance

Summary of Key Provisions

In order to promote the public safety, health, and welfare of the residents of Tredyffrin Township, including the reduction of flooding and stormwater runoff, maintenance of better air quality and cooler summer temperatures, and protecting the viewsheds, wildlife habitat, and historic wooded settings important to the quality of life, the Township has adopted a Woodland Conservation Ordinance.

1. Tree Removal Permit Requirements

- a. A Tree Removal Permit is required to remove more than five (5) non-exempt trees measuring 6" or more in Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) during a rolling twelve (12) month period. . .
- b. The [Tree Removal Application](#) provides information about the trees proposed for removal to determine if a Permit is required. Dead, nonviable, or hazardous trees, as defined in the ordinance, are listed in the Application but are exempt from the Permit. If more than five nonexempt trees are proposed for removal, a full Permit and compensatory planting is required. .
- c. The Permit requires the identification and listing of trees of nonexempt trees proposed for removal and a listing of the compensatory trees to be planted, calculated at one 2½" caliper tree for each 12" DBH of trees proposed for removal. Additional replacement requirements apply to trees measuring 36" dbh and above.
- d. At least two-thirds of replacement trees must be canopy (shade) trees. At least 50% of the replacement trees specified should be native trees.
- e. When an applicant demonstrates to the Township that they cannot accommodate all required replacement trees on the property, payment shall be made to the Township's Tree Replacement Fund for each tree not planted on site.

2. Additional limitations

- a. No more than fifty percent (50%) of the total area covered by woodlands on slopes of less than 15% may be disturbed. Woodlands are defined as areas of largely overlapping tree canopies or areas or lots where there is an average tree density of at least one tree of 6" DBH and above for every 1,500 square feet of lot area (i.e., 29 trees per acre).
- b. Additional tree removal limitations apply to slopes over 15% and floodplains as per the Township's Steep Slope and Flood Hazard Regulations.

3. Implementation and Township Enforcement

- a. The Township Engineer, Zoning Officer, and their designees are authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of the Chapter.
- b. Residents as well as applicants for subdivisions, building, demolition, grading, and stormwater permits must determine in advance if a Tree Removal Permit is needed as part of their application, and if their plans comply with the township's woodland disturbance limitation, and should retain any necessary documentation.

4. Violations

Residents may report violations for follow-up with the property owner or direct questions about the ordinance to the Director of Planning and Enforcement Erin McPherson

emcpherson@tredyffrin.org). Violations may be remedied by compliance with the ordinance; or be subject to fines for every day the violation exists.