

**BOROUGH OF WEST WILDWOOD
COUNTY OF CAPE MAY
NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE 627(2024)

**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A CHAPTER IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST
WILDWOOD, CAPE MAY COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ENTITLED
“STORMWATER QUALITY” ARTICLE ENTITLED TREE REMOVAL AND
REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Commissioners of the Borough of West Wildwood, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, wishes to adopt an Ordinance to establish a chapter in the code entitled “Stormwater Quality” Article entitled Tree Removal and Replacement and

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Wildwood has a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit from the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of West Wildwood is subject to the Community -wide Ordinance requirements of the Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit; and

WHEREAS, the Community-Wide Ordinance requirements of the Borough of West Wildwood Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit necessitate the adoption of the ordinance herein on or before May 1, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Commissioners deem it in the best interests of the Borough of West Wildwood to adopt Ordinance 627(2024);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough of West Wildwood, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey that Ordinance 627(2024) is hereby adopted and Chapter of the code of the Borough of West Wildwood entitled “Stormwater Quality” Article entitled Tree Removal and Replacement is adopted as follows:

Chapter – Stormwater Quality

Article – Tree Removal and Replacement

§ . Scope and Purpose.

An ordinance to establish requirements for tree removal and replacement in the Township of Holland to reduce soil erosion and pollutant runoff, promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil, and protect the environment, public health, safety, and welfare.

§ . Definitions.

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this ordinance clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When consistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The use of the word "shall" means the requirement is always mandatory and not merely directory.

APPLICANT

Means any "person", as defined below, who applies for approval to remove trees regulated under this ordinance.

CRITICAL ROOT RADIUS (CRR)

Means the zone around the base of a tree where the majority of the root system is found. This zone is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) of the tree by 1.5 feet. For example: a tree with a 6" DBH would have a CRR = 6"x1.5' = 9'.

DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)

Means the diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree. For species of trees where the main trunk divides below the 4 ½ foot height, the DBH shall be measured at the highest point before any division.

HAZARD TREE

Means a tree or limbs thereof that meet one or more of the criteria below. Trees that do not meet any of the criteria below and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.

- A. Has an infectious disease or insect infestation;
- B. Is dead or dying;
- C. Obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles, where pruning attempts have not been effective;
- D. Is causing obvious damage to structures (such as building foundations, sidewalks, etc.);
or
- E. Is determined to be a threat to public health, safety, and/or welfare by a certified arborist or Licensed Tree Expert (LTE).

PERSON

Means any individual, resident, corporation, utility, company, partnership, firm, or association.

PLANTING STRIP

Means the part of a street right-of-way between the public right-of-way and the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic or between the abutting property line and the curb or traveled portion of the street, exclusive of any sidewalk.

RESIDENT

Means an individual who resides on the residential property or contractor hired by the individual who resides on the residential property where a tree(s) regulated by this ordinance is removed or proposed to be removed.

STREET TREE

Means a tree planted in the sidewalk, planting strip, and/or in the public right-of-way adjacent to (or specified distance from) the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic. This also includes trees planted in planting strips within the roadway right-of-way, i.e., islands, medians, pedestrian refuges.

TREE

Means a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

TREE CALIPER

Means the diameter of the trunk of a young tree, measured six (6) inches from the soil line. For young trees whose caliper exceeds four (4) inches, the measurement is taken twelve (12) inches above the soil line.

TREE REMOVAL

Means to kill or to cause irreparable damage that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive pruning, application of substances that are toxic to the tree, over-mulching or improper mulching, and improper grading and/or soil compaction within the critical root radius around the base of the tree that leads to the decline and/or death of a tree. Removal does not include responsible pruning and maintenance of a tree, or the application of treatments intended to manage invasive species.

§ Regulated Activities.

A. Application Process:

1. Any person planning to remove a street tree, as defined as Tree removal, with DBH of 2.5" or more or any non-street tree with DBH of 6" or more on their property shall submit a Tree Removal Application to the Borough of West Wildwood Zoning Officer. No tree shall be removed until municipal officials have reviewed and approved the removal.
2. Applicants will be subject to an application fee per tree to be removed in accordance with the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.

B. Tree Replacement Requirements

1. Any person who removes one or more street tree(s) with a DBH of 2.5" or more, unless exempt under Section 145-53, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table below.
2. Any person who removes one or more tree(s), as defined as Tree removal, with a DBH of 6" or more per acre, unless otherwise detailed under Section 145-53, shall be subject to the requirements of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table.

The species type and diversity of replacement trees shall be in accordance with Appendix A.

Replacement tree(s) shall:

- a. Be replaced in kind with a tree that has an equal or greater DBH than tree removed or meet the Tree Replacement Criteria in the table below;
- b. Be planted within twelve (12) months of the date of removal of the original tree(s) or at an alternative date specified by the municipality;
- c. Be monitored by the applicant for a period of two (2) years to ensure their survival and shall be replaced as needed within twelve (12) months; and
- d. Shall not be planted in temporary containers or pots, as these do not count towards tree replacement requirements.

Tree Replacement Requirements Table:

Category	Tree Removed (DBH)	Tree Replacement Criteria (See Appendix A)	Application Fee
1	DBH of 2.5" (for street trees) or 6" (for non-street trees) to 12.99"	Replant 1 tree with a minimum tree caliper of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$10.00/ Tree
2	DBH of 13" to 22.99"	Replant 2 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$20.00/ Tree
3	DBH of 23" to 32.99"	Replant 3 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$40.00/ Tree
4	DBH of 33" or greater	Replant 4 trees with minimum tree calipers of 1.5" for each tree removed	\$50.00/ Tree

C. Replacement Alternatives:

1. If the municipality determines that some or all required replacement trees cannot be planted on the property where the tree removal activity occurred, then the applicant shall do one of the following:
 - a. Plant replacement trees in a separate area(s) approved by the municipality.
 - b. Pay a fee of \$250.00 per tree removed. This fee shall be placed into a fund dedicated to tree planting and continued maintenance of the trees.

§ Exemptions.

All persons shall comply with the tree replacement standard outlined above, except in the cases detailed below. Proper justification shall be provided, in writing, to the municipality by all persons claiming an exemption. Exemptions shall be granted at the discretion of the Borough of West Wildwood Zoning Officer upon review of applications for tree removal.

- A. Residents who remove less than four (4) trees per acre that fall into category 1, 2, or 3 of the Tree Replacement Requirements Table within a five-year period.
- B. Tree farms in active operation, nurseries, fruit orchards, and garden centers;
- C. Properties used for the practice of silviculture under an approved forest stewardship or woodland management plan that is active and on file with the municipality;
- D. Any trees removed as part of a municipal or state decommissioning plan. This exemption only includes trees planted as part of the construction and predetermined to be removed in the decommissioning plan.
- E. Any trees removed pursuant to a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved environmental clean-up, or NJDEP approved habitat enhancement plan;
- F. Approved game management practices, as recommended by the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife;
- G. Hazard trees may be removed with no fee or replacement requirement.

§ . Enforcement.

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Borough of West Wildwood Zoning Officer during the course of ordinary enforcement duties.

§ . Violations and Penalties.

Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine not to be less than the amount required under Section 145-52C.1.b. above.

Appendix A

Approved list of Replacement tree Species and Planting Standards for Borough of West
Wildwood:

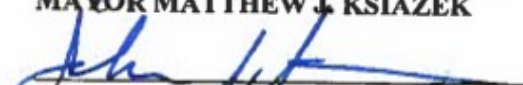
Part Two – Severability


If any section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to such section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, or provision and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Part Three - This ordinance shall take effect upon posting, publication and final passage in the manner prescribed by law.

COMMISSIONERS:


MAYOR MATTHEW J. KSIAZEK

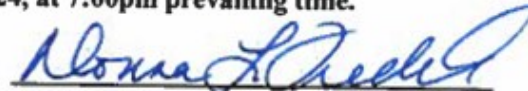

COMMISSIONER JOHN J. BANNING


COMMISSIONER JOSEPH D. SEGREST

First Reading/Introduction: 2023 05-03
Publication: 2023 05-08


	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Matthew J. Ksiazek			X			
Commissioner John J. Banning	X		X			
Commissioner Joseph D. Segrest		X	X			

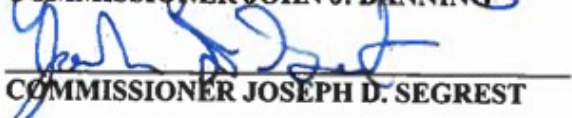
I, Donna L. Frederick, RMC, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of West Wildwood, Cape May County, do hereby certify the forgoing to be a true and correct copy of an ordinance introduced and passed on the first reading at the May 3, 2024, Regular Meeting and will be considered for final passage after a public hearing to be held on June 7, 2024, at 7:00pm prevailing time.


Donna L. Frederick, RMC
Municipal Clerk

COMMISSIONERS:


MAYOR MATTHEW J. KSIAZEK


COMMISSIONER JOHN J. BANNING


COMMISSIONER JOSEPH D. SEGREST

Second Reading/Public Hearing: 2023 06-07
Publication: 2023 06-12

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Matthew J. Ksiazek			X			
Commissioner John J. Banning	X		X			
Commissioner Joseph D. Segrest		X	X			

I, Donna L. Frederick, RMC, Municipal Clerk for the Borough of West Wildwood in the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of an Ordinance finally adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Wildwood, New Jersey after a public hearing held at a Regular Meeting held on June 7, 2024.


Donna L. Frederick, RMC
Municipal Clerk