

## WESTFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION TREE REPLACEMENT POLICY

Trees in Jurisdictional Areas perform ecological functions by providing habitat for wildlife, reducing flood elevations, stabilizing soil, assisting nutrient uptake that improves water quality, and providing shade that contributes to healthy vegetation and cool water. Even dead trees provide habitat for cavity-nesters and organic nutrients for soil.

Unpermitted tree cutting will require a robust replanting/ restoration plan and will be handled with an Enforcement Order.

Existing trees shall be protected with fencing or other measures to provide a maximized area of undisturbed root zone during construction. If site work results in the death or significant decline of a tree that was intended to remain, the below tree replacement requirements shall apply.

When tree cutting is necessary and is requested with a permit, the loss of any tree greater than 2” DBH\* in a Buffer Zone shall be mitigated as follows:

<u>For each tree removed:</u>	<u>Mitigation shall consist of:</u>
Less than 6” DBH*	1 replacement tree or 5 shrubs
6” - 10” DBH*	2 replacement trees or 1 replacement tree and 5 shrubs
More than 10” DBH*	4 replacement trees or 3 replacement trees and 5 shrubs or 2 replacement trees and 10 shrubs or if site constraints warrant, total replacement tree caliper equivalent to at least 50% of the DBH of tree(s) removed, plus 3 shrubs per tree removed

\*DBH: Trunk Diameter at Breast height (4’ above ground); for multi-trunk trees, DBH shall be calculated as 75% of the sum of the diameters.

### Replacement Tree/Shrub Requirements:

A replacement tree/shrub shall:

1. Be planted toward the resource area or near the removed tree to the extent feasible;
2. Be of a native species;
3. Meet the current “American Standard for Nursery Stock” (ANSI Z60.1) and be a minimum size of 1-inch caliper for trees and 2-gallon container for shrubs or such size that is acceptable to the Commission;
4. Optimize species diversity and wildlife habitat value to the maximum extent practicable;

5. Include a description of maintenance measures the plantings for at least 24 months after the date that it is planted. Plantings which die or fail to thrive within such period shall be replaced, with such guarantee period restarting.

**If space is limited or there exists other unique site constraints, the Commission will have discretion over the tree or shrub replacement requirements or permit off-site mitigation, as appropriate. For example, if tree or shrub replacement is not viable at particular site, a native seed mix may be approved by the Commission.**

SUGGESTED NATIVE PLANTS- Note this list is not all inclusive.

For a complete listing, please refer to Native Plant Trust's native plant listing at: [www.nativeplanttrust.org](http://www.nativeplanttrust.org)

### **Trees for Moist Soils**

*Acer rubrum* - Red Maple  
*Betula nigra* - River Birch  
*Cercis canadensis* - Eastern Redbud  
*Liriodendron tulipifera* - Tulip Tree  
*Quercus rubra* - Red Oak  
*Quercus palustris* - Pin Oak

### **Shrubs for Moist Soils**

*Amelanchier canadensis* – Serviceberry  
*Alnus spp.* –Alder  
*Acer negundo*- Box-elder maple  
*Clethra alnifolia* - Sweet Pepperbush  
*Cornus alternifolia* - Pagoda Dogwood  
*Hamamelis virginiana* - Common Witchhazel  
*Ilex verticillata* - Winterberry  
*Kalmia latifolia* - Mountain Laurel  
*Rhododendron vaseyi* - Pink-shell Azalea  
*Sambucus canadensis* - Elderberry  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* – Highbush Blueberry  
*Viburnum dentatum* - Arrowwood  
*Viburnum nudum* - Witherod Viburnum

### **Trees for Wet Soils**

*Platanus occidentalis* - American Sycamore  
*Quercus palustris* - Pin Oak  
*Acer rubrum* - Red Maple  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* - Green Ash

### **Shrubs for wet soils:**

*Aronia arbutifolia* - Red Chokeberry  
*Ilex glabra* - Inkberry Holly

*Ilex verticillata* – Winterberry  
*Lindera benzoin* - Spicebush  
*Rhododendron viscosum* - Swamp Azalea  
*Vaccinium corymbosum* – Highbush Blueberry

### **Trees for Dry Soils**

*Sassafras albidum* – Sassafras  
*Quercus alba* – White Oak  
*Quercus rubra* – Northern Red Oak  
*Pinus strobus* – Eastern White Pine

### **Shrubs for Dry Soils**

*Amelanchier spp.* - Serviceberry  
*Cornus racemosa* - Gray Dogwood  
*Ilex glabra* - Inkberry Holly  
*Kalmia angustifolia* - Sheep Laurel  
*Myrica pensylvanica* - Bayberry  
*Rhododendron vaseyi* - Pink-shell Azalea  
*Rosa virginiana* - Virginia Rose  
*Spiraea alba var. latifolia* - Meadowsweet  
*Vaccinium angustifolium* – Lowbush Blueberry  
*Vaccinium pallidum* - Hillside Blueberry  
*Comptonia peregrina*-Sweet fern