

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE TREE LAW

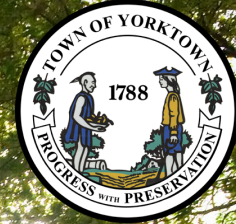
Yorktown's tree law took effect on February 12, 2011. The goal of the law is to accommodate reasonable development while preserving at least 70% of the Yorktown Forest. The law seeks to maintain the many benefits of healthy trees and woodlands while preserving the rights of property owners to enjoy their property. The following actions are permitted by right and do not require obtaining a permit:

- a. Removal of dead or hazardous trees.
- b. Removing non-protected trees (trees less than 8 inches in diameter at breast height).
- c. Removing tree species designated as invasive.
- d. Removing fewer protected trees than outlined within this brochure.

Mitigation may be required to receive a tree permit. On site mitigation is preferred. Off-site mitigation may be acceptable, as may payment to the Town's Tree Bank Fund in lieu of mitigation.



This brochure is meant to provide a brief summary of Yorktown's Tree Law. The full ordinance is available on the Town's website yorktownny.gov or at the Town Clerk's Office.



A RESIDENT'S GUIDE TO YORKTOWN'S TREE LAW



Yorktown Celebrates Arbor Day

Yorktown's Town Board proclaimed the last Friday of April as Arbor Day in the Town of Yorktown. A special event recognizing the important role of trees will be held each year on this date. Activities will include ceremonial tree plantings, a poster contest for school children, and distribution of educational materials. Visit yorktownny.gov for more information about Yorktown's annual Arbor Day Celebration.

Town of Yorktown
Tree Conservation Advisory Commission



NEED TO KNOW TERMS

ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT: Issues for tree removal that is limited in space. Most residential permits are administrative & issued by the Town Engineer.

NON-ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT: Issued for more extensive tree removal such as for subdivision or site plan approval. Issued by the approval authority for the project in question.

SPECIMEN TREE: A tree with a diameter of 24 inches or greater at breast height.

DBH: Diameter at breast height is 4½ feet from the ground as measured in the diagram on the left panel.

PROTECTED TREE: Any tree with a DBH of 8 inches or greater.

WOODLAND: A contiguous area of vegetation with trees as the dominant species with understory of shrubs and ground cover.

PROTECTED WOODLAND: A woodland that is 10,000 square feet or greater regardless of individual property boundaries.

REGULATED BUFFER ZONE: on lots of 1 acre or less, 5 feet from rear or side yards inside the property lines.

WETLAND BUFFER: Areas of adjacent, undisturbed vegetation that reduce adverse effects to wetland function and value from adjacent development and activities.



DO I NEED A PERMIT?

If you answer **YES** to **ANY** of the below questions, you **DO** need a permit.

Do you plan to remove more than 10 **protected trees** in a calendar year?

Do you plan to remove more than 2 **protected trees** in a regulated buffer zone in a calendar year?

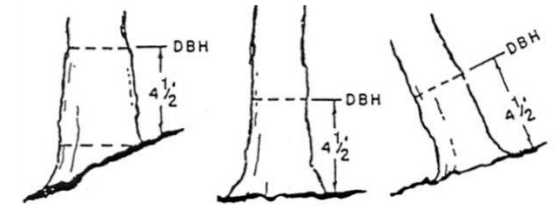
Are you removing more than 3 **protected trees** in a wetland or wetland buffer?

Do you plan to remove one or more **specimen trees**?

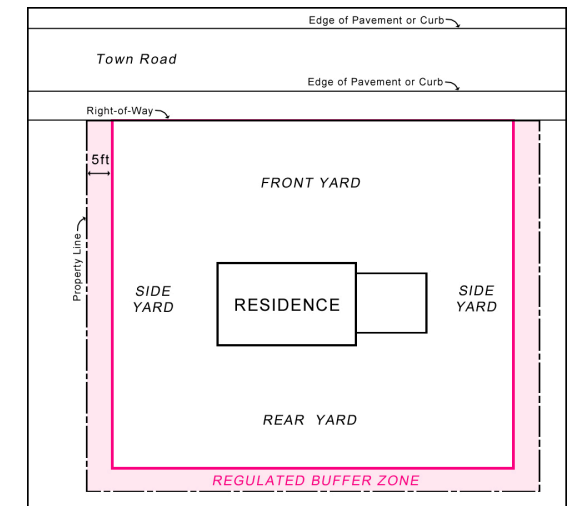
Do you plan to disturb more than 10,000 square feet in a **protected woodland**?

Do you plan to permanently alter 1,000 square feet or more in a protected woodland (defined as a land conversion in the ordinance) such that a woodland can no longer regenerate on the site?

Measuring DBH



Regulated Buffer Zone



Photos from Yorktown's Tree Nursery at Willow Park.

