

An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees. A narrow path or stream is visible winding through the lower part of the forest. The overall tone is green and natural.

Tree Preservation in Residential Areas

Reading Climate Advisory Committee

The background image shows a vast, lush green valley. In the foreground, there are rolling hills covered in dense, vibrant green trees. In the middle ground, a small town or village is visible, nestled in a valley. The buildings are small and densely packed. In the background, more hills rise, also covered in green vegetation. The overall scene is a beautiful, natural landscape. The text is overlaid on this scene, centered horizontally and vertically.

What we are proposing

**Preservation of the tree canopy through planting of
replacement trees on, and around, residential
construction sites**

Purpose - Preservation



Environmental Benefits

- Limit topsoil erosion
- Provide natural flood control
- Food & shelter for wildlife



Residential Benefits

- Preserves character of the town, neighborhood
- Reduce heat, glare, and noise
- Improve air quality



How do we achieve this?

A bylaw which

- 1) Incentivises developers to replace trees**
- 2) Enabling the town to collect fund for tree replacement**

Bylaw applicability

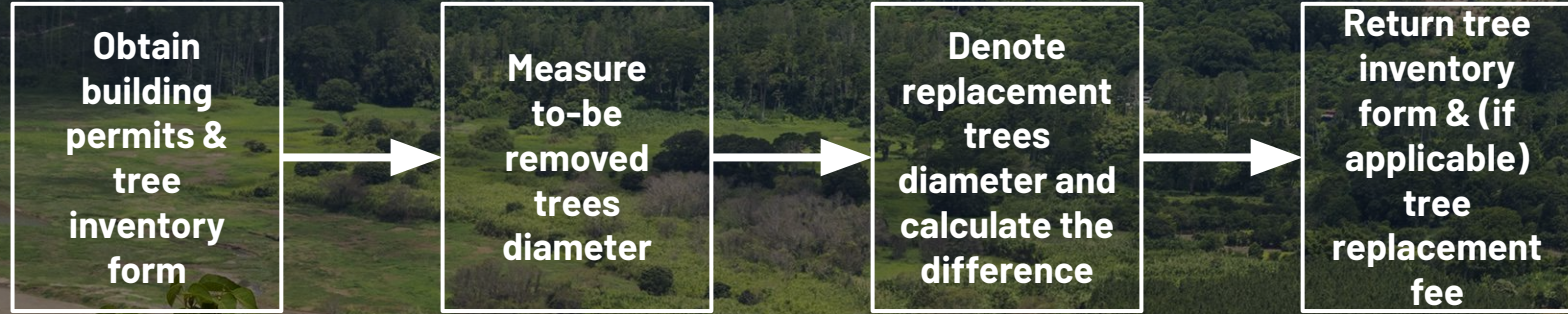
Applicable to tree removal on residential lots during

- **Construction of new residential units**
 - E.g., Clearing of a wooded lot
- **Expansion of existing units**
 - E.g., Large (40% sq.ft.) house addition

NOT Applicable to tree removal on residential lots during

- **Dead or dangerous trees**
 - E.g., Trees that pose danger of falling down
- **Tree maintenance**
 - E.g., Trimming, removal of branches

Procedures and Requirements for the Preservation of Trees



Work approved upon return of the tree replacement plan

Enforcement and Fines

- **Audit of construction site is performed by designated bodies on volunteer basis**
 - Department of Public - Tree warden
 - Conservation Commission
 - Tree Preservation Committee/Commission (Future option)
- **Select Board sets the fee for replacement trees which are not replaced**
 - Leverage feedback from the Tree Warden to determine the right cost
- **CPDC can provide a waiver**
 - Must follow the standard public good evaluation

Bylaw roll out

If Town Meeting members approve the Bylaw:

- 6 months for state approval
- 6 months for Town roll out (forms and processes)

Example timeline



Past Q & A's

Do I need to do this for all tree removal?

- No, only with new construction or large addition

Do I have to replace a 4-ft diameter tree with a 4-ft diameter tree?

- No, but the diameter total has to add up. (Exp: Four 1-ft diameter trees)

What type of trees can developer plant?

- Any type they want, but only native species count as replacement trees

Can replacement trees be planted anywhere in Reading

- Ideally the replacement trees will be planted around the removal site, same neighborhood - coordination with the Tree Warden & DPW

Tree Replacement in Residential Neighborhoods Overview

What:

- Bylaw to replace removed trees in residential areas

Not applicable to:

- Tree pruning
- Removal of dangerous trees
- Remove of trees to improve quality of life

How are trees replaced:

- Developer submits tree replacement plan
- Opt1: Developer plants native trees to compensate for removed trees
- Opt2: Developer adds funding to the Tree Replacement fund
- Town uses the Tree Replacement fund for tree related work in residential areas



A scenic landscape featuring a small house on a grassy hill in the foreground, a town nestled in a valley in the middle ground, and lush green mountains in the background. The word "BLANK" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font. The image is framed by a white border with rounded corners.

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