

A note to the residents of West Long Branch, from your Shade Tree Commission

Dear Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that we share with you some of the good news we have worked to accomplish to insure a continued quality of life. The Tree Preservation Code was written and approved establishing a defined set of rules for tree removal and replacement in the Borough. We want to share with you a summary of this ordinance. The complete Ordinance is available at www.WestLongBranch.org and you may contact us there, as well.

Interpretive Statement of
Chapter XXIII TREE PRESERVATION CODE

No tree replacement is required when:

- ❖ A tree is dead or irreversibly declining or in danger of falling
- ❖ A tree is too close to existing structures so as to endanger such structure
- ❖ A tree interferes with utility services
- ❖ A tree creates unsafe vision clearance, or constitutes a health or safety hazard

When a property is being developed an application before the Zoning or Planning Board is required. It must include a tree preservation plan. Two exemptions:

- Trees removed within the footprint of the structure do not have to be replaced
- One (1) healthy and non-dangerous tree per parcel may be removed every three (3) years without replacement

Each tree intentionally cut down, destroyed, damaged, or removed, without being replaced shall constitute a separate offense.

Trees enhance your environment and your quality of life! There are three reasons for you to want to protect our urban forestry: environmental, social and economic. Below is a brief list summarizing the benefits we get from our investment in trees.

- ✓ Filters air pollution chemicals and dangerous small dust particles
- ✓ Increases our property values
- ✓ Provide summer shade and protection from winter winds and blowing snow which not only make us more comfortable, but reduces heating and cooling costs by at least 20%
- ✓ Reduces traffic/street sounds by absorbing the noise
- ✓ Reduces water runoff, flooding, erosion, and storm water management costs
- ✓ Helps to recharge ground water and keep sediment and pollutants from our streams
- ✓ Provides shelter and food for birds, mammals and fish
- ✓ Blocks unsightly views
- ✓ Brings nature closer to where we live, commute, work and play
- ✓ A large shade tree in a year can produce enough oxygen for ten people