



TOWN OF MEDWAY GENERAL BYLAWS

ARTICLE 31 TREE PRESERVATION

Frequently Asked Questions

♣ When did the new Tree Preservation Bylaw become effective?

It was enacted by the voters of Medway at the November 13, 2023 Town Meeting to help preserve Medway's bucolic nature and enhance quality of life for all residents. It was approved by the state Attorney General's office on April 18, 2024, and is now in effect.

♣ Why do we need a Tree Preservation Bylaw?

Trees produce oxygen, capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, provide air purification, prevent soil erosion, control flooding, assist in water purification, contribute to the quality of life by providing cooling shade, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce noise levels, and aesthetically enhance the landscape. The Tree Preservation Bylaw helps preserve healthy, mature trees that provide these benefits by minimizing and mitigating clear-cutting of large swaths of trees by developers, and helping to maintain natural, tree-laden buffers between properties.

♣ What kinds of things does the Bylaw regulate?

The Bylaw only applies to construction or demolition projects, or to clear-cutting of 75% or more of a currently undeveloped lot. It regulates the cutting of healthy, mature trees that are at least 6 inches in diameter at 4 feet off the ground, known as Protected Trees. Also, it only applies in the front, side, and rear zoning setbacks of a lot. This means that, if a developer is building a house on a lot that is currently in a natural, wooded state, they can't cut down Protected Trees that are in the zoning setbacks. If they do want to cut down those types of trees, they will need to get a Tree Removal Permit and take steps to mitigate the impact of taking down the Protected Trees.

♣ Does this mean I can't cut down any trees on my property without getting a Tree Removal Permit?

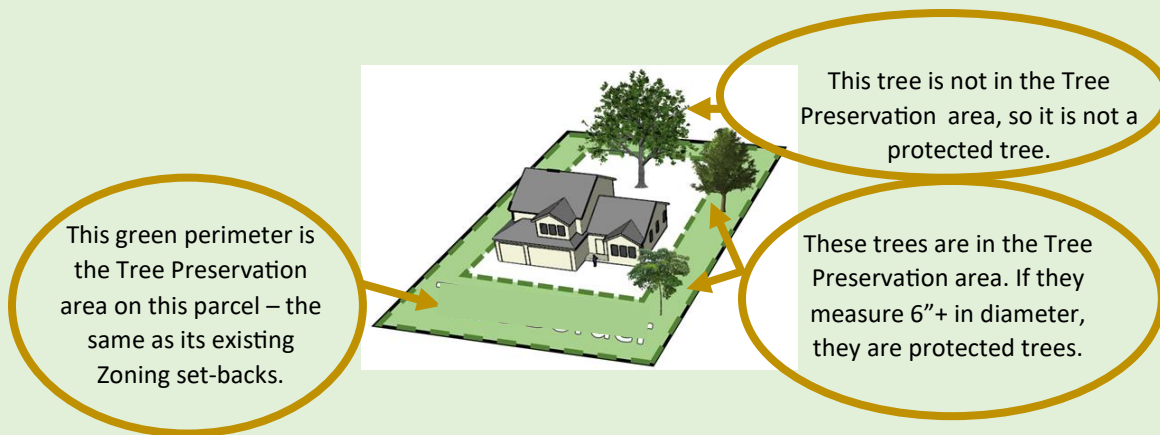
No, it is important to remember that the Bylaw does not mean you can never cut down any trees on your property. It only applies to Protected Trees that are located within the zoning bylaw setbacks on your property, and only as part of construction on your property. Since construction in the zoning setbacks is usually not allowed anyway, most homeowners will not be affected. There are also exemptions for driveways, emergencies, trees that are damaged and diseased, and similar situations. One of the main purposes of the Bylaw is to prevent developers from just clear



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cutting large areas of land in preparation for construction. Instead, the Bylaw encourages them to preserve existing trees that provide natural buffers to neighboring properties and a more pleasant neighborhood environment.



♣ If I am constructing an addition to my house, and I want to cut down Protected Trees, what would I have to do?

Before acquiring the building permit for your addition, you would fill out an application to the Conservation Agent, or, if you need to file for a notice of intent with the Conservation Commission for the construction work, you would file with the Commission. The Conservation Agent (or Commission) will review the application materials and provide a response within 30 days. For the Protected Trees that you want to remove, you will need to compensate by planting new trees according to the provisions of the Bylaw, or providing funds to Commission to be used to plant trees elsewhere in Town.

♣ Where can I get more information?

You can visit the Town website, www.townofmedway.org . The Tree Preservation Bylaw, the application form, and other information is posted on the Conservation Commission's webpage: **insert link** You can also contact the Conservation Agent by email at: bgraziano@townofmedway.org or at (508) 321-4992, or come by our office at Town Hall.

If you have any questions, contact us! We are here to answer your questions and assist you.