



Township of Hillsborough

COUNTY OF SOMERSET
THE PETER J. BIONDI BUILDING
379 SOUTH BRANCH ROAD
HILLSBOROUGH, NJ 08844
(908) 369-4313
www.hillsboroughnj.gov

TREE PERMIT APPLICATION FAQs

1. Is approval to remove trees required?

*Yes. Hillsborough Township adopted **Ordinance 2024-16** in December 2024 to regulate tree cutting/removal as required by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for all municipalities in New Jersey. This ordinance details tree mitigation standards and requires property owners to apply to the Township prior to any tree removal.*

2. Do I need a permit?

*Yes. **Before removing any trees from your property**, a permit is required from the Engineering Department. There is a \$25 fee. You should familiarize yourself with the provisions of Township Ordinance Chapter 188, Article IX “Tree Preservation” consisting of Chapters 188-160 to 188-166. The ordinance can be found in its entirety on the Township website: <https://ecode360.com/HI0602/laws/LF2228826.pdf>*

3. Do I need to mitigate / plant new trees?

Requests to remove trees may be approved with a mitigation requirement. Mitigation can take the form of planting of new trees per the schedule in 188-164 or as a flat fee, per tree, to be used by the Township to plant trees on public land.

4. What is DBH?

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH): The diameter of the trunk of a mature tree generally measured at a point four and a half feet above ground level from the uphill side of the tree.

5. What is considered a “hazard tree”?

*A tree that has an infection disease or insect infestation; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians/vehicles; causing obvious damage to structures; or determined by a certified arborist or Licensed Tree Expert to be a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. **Trees that do not meet any of these criteria and are proposed to be removed solely for development purposes are not hazard trees.***

5. What is a street tree?

A tree planted in the sidewalk, planting strip, and/or in the public right-of-way adjacent to (or specified distance from) the portion of the street reserved for vehicular traffic.

For more information, visit the Township’s Engineering page at hillsboroughnj.gov/departments/engineering