

APPENDIX B: SAMPLE DEFINITIONS FOR ORDINANCES

Afforestation: The establishment of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants, at a density of at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 of the trees having the capability of growing to a diameter of 2 inches or more within 7 years, over an area that has not had forest cover for a long period of time.

Agricultural Use: The use of land for common farm site activities, including but not limited to: production, harvesting, storage, grading, packaging, processing, and the wholesale and retail marketing of crops, plants, animals and other related commodities and the use and application of techniques and methods of soil preparation and management, fertilization, weed, disease and pest control, disposal of farm waste, irrigation, drainage and water management and grazing.

Caliper: A measure of trunk diameter used for nursery stock. The caliper is measured at 6" above the ground for trees <4" in diameter and at 12" above grade for trees >4" in diameter.

Clearing: Any intentional or negligent act to cut down, remove all or a substantial part of, or damage a tree or other vegetation that will cause the tree or other vegetation to decline and/or die. Such acts shall include but not be limited to damage inflicted upon the root system of the vegetation by the application of toxic substances, by the operation of equipment and vehicles, by storage of materials, by the change of natural grade due to excavation or filling, or by the alteration of natural physical conditions.

Conservation Easement: A restriction on the use of land and/or the natural features of the land as described in the land records of any municipality and shown on a recorded plat.

Critical Root Zone: A region measured outward from a tree trunk representing the essential area of the roots that must be maintained or protected for the tree survival.

Crown: The above ground parts of a tree consisting of the branches, stems, buds, fruits, and leaves. May also be referred to as canopy.

DBH: Diameter-at-breast-height is tree trunk diameter measured at a height of 4.5 feet above the ground. If a tree splits into multiple trunks below 4.5 feet, the trunk is measured at its most narrow point beneath the split.

Dripline: A vertical line extending from the outermost edge of the tree canopy or shrub branch to the ground.

Forest (or Woodlands): A biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants covering a land area of 10,000 square feet or greater. Forest includes areas that have at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of those trees having a two-inch or greater diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground, and forest areas that have been cut but not cleared. An orchard is not a forest. A tree nursery is not a forest.

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Forest Management Plan: A plan establishing best conservation and management practices for a landowner and approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Parks and Forestry or prepared by an Approved Forester.

Hedgerow: A landscape feature typically found along property boundaries in rural areas. Hedgerows are characterized by a mix of native and non-native vegetation and successional plant material arranged in a linear fashion.

Land Disturbance Permit: A soil erosion/sedimentation control permit as required by the County Soil Conservation District.

Limit of Disturbance: A clearly designated area within which land disturbance is slated to occur, and outside of which no disturbance or clearing will take place.

Natural Regeneration: The natural establishment of trees and other vegetation with at least 400 woody, free-to-grow seedlings per acre, which are capable of reaching a height of at least 20 feet at maturity.

Reforestation: The creation of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants containing at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50 percent of those trees having a two inch or greater diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground, within 7 years. Reforestation includes landscaping of areas under an approved landscaping plan that establishes a forest that is at least 35 feet wide and covering 2,500 square feet of area.

Seedling: A woody plant, less than 24 inches in height and having a diameter of less than 1-inch caliper measured at 2 inches above the root collar.

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan: A scheme which indicates land treatment measures, including a schedule of the timing for their installation, to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation.

Specimen Tree: A tree that is particularly impressive or an unusual example of a species due to its size, shape, age, or any other trait that demonstrates the character of the species. Any tree having a diameter at breast height of 24" or greater.

Stream Buffer: A strip of natural vegetation contiguous with and parallel to the bank of a perennial or intermittent stream, the width of which shall be a minimum of 50' from each side of the stream bank. Stream buffers must include adjacent 100-year floodplain areas, wetlands and wetland transition buffers as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

Tree: A large, woody plant having one or several self-supporting stems or trunks and numerous branches that reach a height of at least 20 feet at maturity.

Whip: A woody plant greater than 24 inches in height and having a diameter of less than 1-inch caliper measured at 2 inches above the root collar.

Woodland Association: A distinct area of woodlands with similar characteristics growing in the same environment and forming a component of a larger woodland area, i.e. an oak woodland association living within a larger area of deciduous woodlands.