

Town of Rome



A Homeowner's Guide to Cutting Trees in the Shoreland Zone

1. Cutting within 100' (75' for streams) setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 250ft² in the canopy
- b. A “well distributed stand of trees” must be maintained:
 - i. At least 24 points (16 points in stream protection) within every 25' x 50' rectangular area.
 - a. 2–4-inch DBH tree = 1 point
 - b. 4–12-inch DBH tree = 2 points
 - c. 8–12-inch DBH tree = 4 points
 - d. Greater than 12 inches DBH = 8 points

Additionally, there must be 5 saplings less than 2'DBH within every 25'x50' area.

DBH = Diameter at Breast Height, or diameter measured at 4.5' above ground level

- c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten-year period.
- d. Pruning the bottom 1/3 of a tree's branches is allowed.
- e. Existing vegetation under 3' in height, including leaf litter and forest duff layer, cannot be cut, covered, or removed!
 - i. A cleared six-foot meandering path to access the water is allowed.

2. Cutting beyond the 100'setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 10,000ft² or 25% of the total lot located within the “shoreland zone”, whichever is greater.
 - i. Shoreland zone is 250' from high waterline (75' for streams)
- b. Cleared opening of 5,000ft² or greater must be separated by a 100' canopy buffer.
- c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten-year period.
- d. The total footprint area of all structures, parking lots, and other *non-vegetated* surface areas cannot exceed 20% of the total lot located within the “shoreland zone”.

3. Dead / Hazardous trees and replanting

- a. Unquestionably dead:
 - i. If a tree is unquestionably dead (no leaves, no bark, deep cracks, top broken off, etc.), take pictures, remove the tree properly, and replant as specified below.

- b. Alive, but hazardous
 - i. If a tree is not unquestionably dead, but still viewed as “hazardous”, have a licensed Maine forester or licensed arborist inspect the tree and submit a letter including:
 - 1. Why do they think the tree is hazardous.
 - 2. what it is a hazard to
 - 3. Their license numbers.
 - 4. a picture of the tree
- c. Tree replanting
 - i. If the removal of a dead or hazardous tree violates any of the provisions listed above under Sections (1) or (2), trees will need to be replanted, ideally in the quantity specified below:
 - 1. For each tree removed between 1-9” DBH, replant one (1) tree.
 - 2. For each tree removed between 10-19” DBH, replant two (2) trees.
 - 3. For each tree removed greater than 20” DBH, replant three (3) trees.
 - ii. Trees to be replanted must be.
 - 1. Of a native species
 - 2. A minimum of 54 inches tall
 - 3. Planted within 20’ of the stump of the removed tree.
 - 4. Planted no closer than 5’ to other living trees.
 - 5. Maintained for a minimum of 3 years (replanted if they die)
 - iii. Replanting plan
 - 1. A tree replanting plan must be submitted to the town office for approval before replanting takes place.
 - 2. The plan must include a map that accurately shows.
 - a. Location of removed tree(s)
 - b. Location of replacement tree(s)
 - c. Replacement tree species
 - d. Distance to the water body or resource.
 - iv. Other things to consider when replanting.
 - 1. Document the replanting by taking pictures of the newly planted trees (if applicable)
 - 2. For extensive replanting within 75’ of a water body, a D.E.P permit may be required. Check with your local office for details.

For a complete list of the cutting standards, please see section 15(P) of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, or contact your local code office.

******* HOMEOWNER must complete Tree Cutting/Hazardous Tree removal permit*******

**Rome Code Enforcement Office
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