

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

Holland Conservation Commission

(413) 245-7108 ext. 114

Landowners must obtain prior approval from the Holland Conservation Commission (HCC) before work of any kind, including tree removal, takes place within our areas of jurisdiction. Site visits by HCC will need to be made prior to granting approval for tree cutting requests, so applicants are asked to mark or otherwise identify any trees to be cut down. When applicable, HCC may require mitigation for the planned work. Unless otherwise indicated, stumps and roots are to be left in place. Depending on the scope of the proposed tree cutting project and its possible impact on areas within our jurisdiction, HCC may require an additional permit (RDA or NOI) be obtained by the applicant before proceeding.

Please include photos of the trees to be removed with this application.

The preservation of the tree canopy and the planting of replacement trees is intended to enhance the quality of life and the environment of the Town of Holland. Preservation of the tree canopy serves many purposes:

- It reduces topsoil erosion and storm water runoff.
- It protects air quality.
- It reduces energy consumption.
- It baffles noise.
- It provides habitat for wildlife.
- It protects property values.
- It preserves the rural character of Holland by maintaining wooded and natural areas.
- According to the [American Power Association](#), effective landscaping can reduce a home cooling bill by up to 50 percent. All it takes? Planting trees that shade the house from sunlight during the hottest hours of the day.

This tree removal policy document was developed for the following purposes:

- To expedite the approval process for tree cutting requests.
- To provide consistent implementation of the Commission's policy under its wetland regulatory authority.
- To recognize the ecological value of natural wooded areas close to wetlands, streams, and waterways.
- To protect the ecological functions trees provide in jurisdictional areas.
- To allow landowners to maintain their property for safety and enjoyment.

The Holland Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over the following areas:

- Wetland Resource Areas, defined as 100-year flood zones, wetlands, streams, ponds, and marshes
- Riverfront Areas (land within 200 feet of a perennial stream)
- Buffer Zones - Land within 100 feet of a Wetland Resource Area

Date: _____

Project Address: _____

Property Owner(s): _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Contractor (if applicable): _____

Number of Trees to be removed: _____ Number of trees to be replaced: _____

Reason for tree removal:

Indicate the size, species and location of trees to be removed. *Attach plan to show tree location.*

TREE MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS:

The loss of trees cut in a jurisdictional area shall be mitigated, when judged applicable by the HCC. The following are examples of possible mitigation measures. HCC may require additional plantings and/or mitigation upon review of site conditions. **MITIGATION MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 2 YEARS OF PERMIT APPROVAL.**

1. All Stumps and root systems are to remain in place unless removal is approved by the Commission.
2. Large trees (>20" diameter at breast height (DBH)): The owner shall plant a minimum of one native tree sapling (or a minimum of 2 native shrubs) for each large tree cut.
3. Medium trees (6"-20" DBH): For every 3 (or subset of 3) medium trees proposed to be cut. The owner shall plant a minimum of one native tree sapling or a minimum of two native shrubs.
4. A list of native trees/shrubs can be obtained at the MA DEP webpage:
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/native-shrubs-for-plantings-as-wildlife-food>.

BELOW IS TO BE COMPLETED BY HOLLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Date site visit completed: _____ Completed by: _____

Required Mitigation:

HCC Comments:

		Approved	Denied
Signature _____	Date: _____	_____	_____
Signature _____	Date: _____	_____	_____

THE TREE REMOVAL AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS PERMIT IS VALID FOR ONE (1) CALENDAR YEAR FROM THE APPROVAL DATE.

Mar 21, 2018

By [Morgan Lynch](#)

Without forests, life on Earth as we know it would be unthinkable.

Regular readers of this blog know that [forests](#) are home to a wealth of biodiversity, that they provide water for billions of people and regulate the climate for everyone.

But did you know that they can [make you smarter](#)? Or that — [scientists think](#) — they can drive rainfall?

In honor of [International Day of Forests](#), Human Nature looks into some of the benefits of forests that you might not know about.

1. Trees increase property values.

Selling your house? [Consider planting some trees.](#)

In 2007, economists who analyzed home sales in Portland, Ore., found that homes with trees near the street sold for about **US\$ 7,000** on average more than homes without them — adding about 10 percent to a property's value, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

For its part, [Arborist News](#) found that the presence of larger trees in yards can add up to 15 percent to home values.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in a [recent report](#) on trees in California, called the effect of street trees on property values “the single largest benefit in California,” averaging more than US\$ 90 per tree.

2. Trees make students smarter.

Students with [trees outside school windows](#) have higher test scores and graduation rates, according to a 2014 study. Scientists compared the performance of elementary school students in Massachusetts with the amount of greenery in their surroundings using satellite imagery. They found that the students exposed to more greenery performed better in English and math when they ruled out socio-economic factors and language barriers.

The effects of greenery on health and productivity are well-documented: From patients who [recovered from surgery faster](#) in the presence of trees, to office workers [who performed better](#) in the presence of house plants, trees have undeniably positive effects on humans.

3. Trees cool you down.

The [net cooling effect](#) of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating for 20 hours a day.

According to the [American Power Association](#), effective landscaping can reduce a home cooling bill by up to 50 percent. All it takes? Planting trees that shade the house from sunlight during the

hottest hours of the day. In addition, trees planted along streets, sidewalks and parking lots can help to absorb light energy and evaporate water.

Morgan Lynch is a staff writer at Conservation International.