



Township of River Vale
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey

ORDINANCE #479-2026

Date of 1 st Reading: July 13, 2026	Motion to Adopt: Councilman Tolomeo
Date of Public Hearing: August 10, 2026	Motion Second: Councilwoman Sieg

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 142 OF THE CODE ENTITLED "LAND USE" PART 5 "SHADE TREES" TO REMOVE ARTICLE XXVI SECTIONS 142-134 THROUGH 142 "SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE" IN ITS ENTIRETY

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that Chapter 142 of the Township Code is hereby amended as follows:

Article XXVI Shade Tree Advisory Committee

~~§ 142-134 Establishment; membership; terms; appointment.~~

~~There is hereby established the Advisory Shade Tree Committee of the Township of River Vale. The Committee shall consist of seven members, three of whom shall be the Property Maintenance Officer and the Superintendent of Public Works and the Land Use Administrator. Their terms of office shall commence upon the day of their appointment. The terms of office of the additional five members shall commence upon the day of their appointment and be for the respective periods of one, two, three, four and five years, beginning on January 1 next succeeding such appointment. The terms of each appointee shall be designated in his or her appointment. All subsequent appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for the full term of five years, to take effect on January 1. The members shall be residents of the Township, appointed by the Mayor and shall serve without compensation except as hereinafter provided.~~

~~§ 142-135 Organization.~~

~~The Committee shall organize within 30 days after the appointment of its total membership for the remainder of the then calendar year, and thereafter annually by the election of one of its members as Chairperson and the appointment of a Secretary, who need not be a member.~~

~~§ 142-136~~**Definitions.**

As used in this Part 5, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

PERSON Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or other entity.

PUBLIC PLACE Includes any public street or highway, including the right-of-way, and any park, playground or other property or place owned by or under the control of the Township of River Vale.

TREE Trees of all types having a diameter of two inches or greater measured at a point 4 1/2 feet above the ground (diameter breast height) and any and all shrubs or hedges over three feet in height.

~~§ 142-137~~**Powers and duties.**

A.

~~The Advisory Shade Tree Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all trees and shrubs within the right-of-way lines of public streets in the Township and is authorized to plant, remove, maintain and protect trees and shrubs within the right-of-way lines of public streets and highways and zoned Conservation Districts in the Township.~~

B.

~~To regulate and control the use of the ground surrounding the same so far as may be necessary for their proper growth, care and protection.~~

C.

~~Move or require the removal of any tree or part thereof dangerous to public safety. The Committee shall give reasonable notice of its intention to remove, or cause the removal of, a tree or part of a tree dangerous to public safety, unless public safety requires immediate removal, in which case no notice shall be necessary.~~

D.

~~To recommend to the Township the creation of amendments to or repeal of ordinances adopted by the governing body necessary or proper for carrying out the provisions hereof.~~

E.

~~To order treatment and/or removal of any tree situated upon private property which is believed to harbor a disease or insects readily communicable to neighboring healthy trees in the care of the municipality and to enter upon private property for that purpose with the consent of the owner thereof, provided that the suspected condition is first confirmed by a certificate issued by or on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.~~

F.

~~To study and recommend methods of funding, outside of municipal taxation, by grants and aid, both state and federal.~~

~~G.~~

~~To develop a program of tree planting and overall beautification in areas along the public right-of-way and upon public property and to develop a master plan for the care and control of existing shade trees and ornamental trees and the planting of new trees throughout the Township. Said survey and master plan shall be submitted to Township Council for its review and approval annually, but in no event later than March 31 of the next succeeding year.~~

~~H.~~

~~To give advice relative to shade tree issues to the Township Joint Planning Board.~~

~~I.~~

~~To provide a procedure for removing or trimming existing trees where necessary because the tree is either dead, diseased or injured by storm or similar consequences.~~

§ 142-138Cost of planting.

~~The cost and expense of planting trees and for caring for trees which may have been planted or for which care has been provided by the Committee may be paid for by the Shade Tree Committee out of such money as may be appropriated from time to time by the Township Council.~~

§ 142-139Permit required for certain activities.

~~No person, except Township employees acting under instruction for the Township Council, shall do or cause to be done any of the following acts within the Township of River Vale street rights-of-way or the zoned Conservation District without a written permit issued by the Department of Public Works, on recommendation of the Property Maintenance Officer:~~

~~A.~~

~~Cut or trim any limb two inches or more in diameter, break, climb with spikes, disturb the roots of or otherwise injure or spray with any chemical or remove any living tree or shrub or injure, misuse or remove any structure or device placed to support or protect such tree or shrub.~~

~~B.~~

~~Plant any tree or shrub.~~

~~C.~~

~~Fasten any rope, wire, electrical attachment, sign or other device to a tree or shrub or to any guard about such tree or shrub, except support ropes or wire.~~

~~D.~~

~~Close or obstruct any open space provided about the base of a tree or shrub which will prevent access of air, water or fertilizer to the roots of such tree or shrub.~~

~~E.~~

~~Pile any building material or make any mortar or cement within six feet of a tree or shrub.~~

~~F.~~

~~Allow any herbicidal gaseous, liquid or solid substance to make contact with the stem or roots of any trees or shrub within the Township right-of-way.~~

~~G.~~

~~Top any tree, "topping" being defined as the severe cutting back on limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the canopy and/or disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where normal pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the discretion of the Shade Tree Committee.~~

~~§ 142-140~~**Trees to be reduced to surface.**

~~Any person who has received written permission to remove any tree or shrub must reduce it to the surface of the ground.~~

~~§ 142-141~~**Interference with Advisory Shade Tree Committee.**

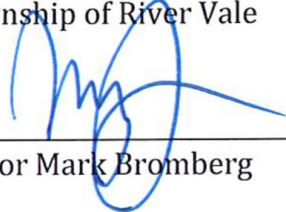
~~No person shall delay or interfere with any lawful work undertaken by the Advisory Shade Tree Committee or its authorized agent.~~

~~§ 142-142~~**Violations and penalties.**

~~Any person who shall violate any provision of this Part 5 shall be liable to a fine for the violation of each rule or regulation in the amount not exceeding \$300 for each violation and/or a replacement of tree illegally removed. Summons for violation of this Part 5 are to be issued by the Property Maintenance Officer.~~

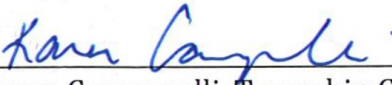
~~This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.~~

Township of River Vale



Mayor Mark Bromberg

ATTESTED:



Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

Date Adopted: 8/10/2024

Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B	Council Member	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B
BEN-YISHAY	☒	☐	☐	☐	SIEG	☒	☐	☐	☐
CRISCUOLO	☒	☐	☐	☐	TOLOMEO	☒	☐	☐	☐
					ZICCARELLI	☐	☐	☐	☒

X - Indicates Vote A.B. - Absent N.V - Not Voting (Abstained or Excused)