

ZONING

490 Attachment 8

Township of Hellam

Woodland Restoration Requirements [Added 4-18-2019 by Ord. No. 2019-03]

- A. Purpose. To restore the woodland canopy and understory damaged or destroyed during land development. This plan recognizes that restoration of mature forest canopy is not possible without the passage of time. These requirements become effective only if more than 20% of the woodland canopy is removed from a property in the Continuous Canopy Restricted Development Overlay. These requirements would allow for the eventual return of the lot to an overall 80% canopy coverage to prevent erosion and control stormwater. These requirements are not to apply to agriculture and/or agricultural operations and practices.
- B. Goals.
- (1) To restore the woodland canopy and understory to the early successional forest stage as defined by the USDA/NRCS. This will be accomplished by planting specified trees and shrubs at a specified density.
 - (2) To salvage the existing forest floor litter and topsoil and retain on the property to be reused in the reforestation.
 - (3) To provide additional guidance on the written plan for permanent stabilization of the area proposed to be cleared or altered in excess of the allowed 20% as required per § 490-21F(3)(a) of the Hellam Township Zoning Ordinance.
- C. Woodland restoration plan requirements.
- (1) All woodland restoration plans must be completed by a registered professional. They should be submitted as a complete package, on an individual lot basis, and approved by the Township Engineer and Zoning Officer, prior to the release of any permits and/or earth disturbance.
 - (2) A site plan showing the following:
 - (a) All existing contiguous wooded areas on the site showing the extent of the contiguous canopy line prior to such alteration or clearing;
 - (b) The extent of proposed alteration or clearing, showing the extent of the contiguous canopy line after such alteration or clearing;
 - (3) A stormwater management plan which addresses any increase in runoff caused by the clearing;

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- (4) A plan for buffering or otherwise protecting streams and drainageways from adverse impact caused by the clearing; and
 - (5) An approved erosion and sedimentation control plan.
 - (6) A written plan for the permanent stabilization and reforestation of the area above 20% of the woodland canopy to be cleared or altered, should at a minimum, include:
 - (a) The planting schedule, which should list:
 - [1] Species which are recommended for use in the Hellam Township Native Species Plant list or other state guidelines;
 - [2] Number of plants, spacing or distribution of proposed planting;
 - [3] Size of plants; and,
 - [4] Specific planting techniques per vegetative species.
 - (b) Planting/landscape plan showing the area of restoration and vegetative species.
 - (c) Proposed time frame for planting after completion of construction. Plantings shall be finished within one or two growing seasons.
 - (7) Tree stumps and cut-down trees should not be pushed into the existing tree canopy area, as such stockpiles provide fuel for forest fires.
 - (8) A performance guarantee as specified in § 415-26 of the Hellam Township Stormwater Ordinance shall be required prior to issuing a stormwater management permit for the restoration plan. This fee is to insure the stabilization of the reforested area.
- D. Woodland restoration guidelines. Applicants who wish for guidance in restoring woodlands in the Continuous Canopy Restricted Development Overlay should consult the Township's Woodland Restoration Brochure or other state-published documents on how to restore a woodland area.