

HARMFUL IMPACTS OF CLEAR CUTTING

Clear cutting and removal of substantial portion of trees from any property radically changes the natural landscape and can cause damage to public health and safety, as well as adjacent properties, due to loss of tree canopy, increased stormwater flow, soil erosion, siltation of water courses, and exposure of adjacent trees to wind damage.

Steep slopes are especially vulnerable to damage when trees and their established root systems are removed.

Tree clearing from a construction site is subject to permits and expressed approval of Town planning and zoning authorities.

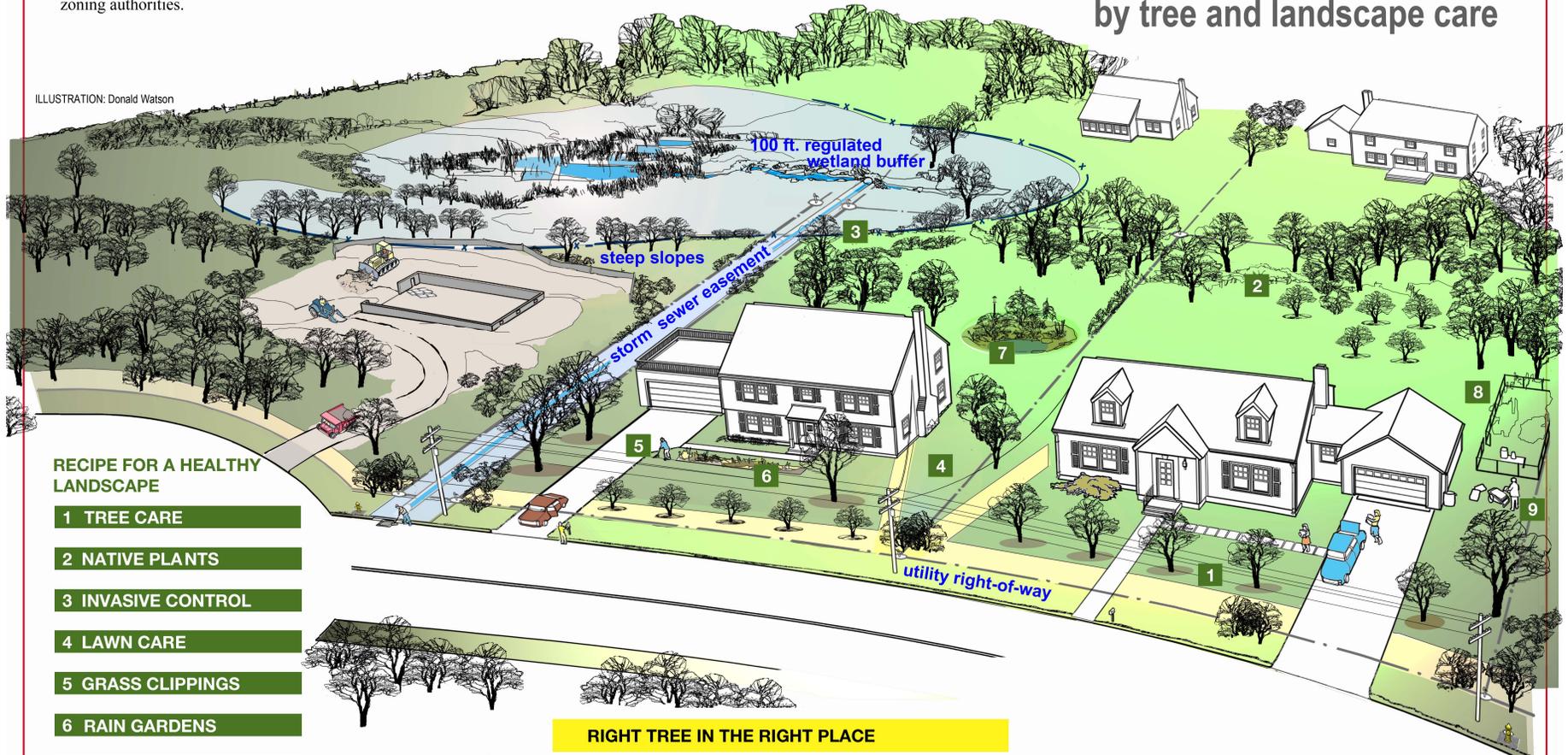
BENEFITS OF WETLAND AND STREAM BUFFERS

- Trees serve an especially critical role along streambanks and waterbodies as protection from stormwater pollution, erosion, and flooding, as well as providing shade and cool habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Land uses within 100 feet along wetland and streamside borders—including construction, removal of trees, soil, and substantial vegetation—are regulated and subject to approval of the Trumbull Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission.

TREES & Home Landscape

How to improve your home's beauty and property value by tree and landscape care

ILLUSTRATION: Donald Watson



RECIPE FOR A HEALTHY LANDSCAPE

- 1 TREE CARE
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RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

- Right Tree, Right Place guidelines (see "Resources") provide lists for tree and shrub maintenance under utility lines on public and private properties.
- Trees removed within public and utility rights-of-way must be approved by the town tree warden.

Tree and landscape preservation improves the beauty, health and safety of our community, while reducing costs of maintenance and energy.



PHOTO: Nichols Improvement Association

1 TREE CARE

- **Proper pruning** maintains the long-term health and viability of trees. Pruning of mature trees is best limited to removal of dead or hazard limbs. A certified arborist can determine the best approach to pruning to preserve tree beauty, health and safety.
- **Mulching.** Trees may be damaged by lawn equipment. The best approach is to create a mulched area around the perimeter of the drip line of a tree. This keeps grass from competing with the tree for vital nutrients and moisture, while reducing root damage.

2 NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants and wildflowers help to conserve water, reduce mowing costs, provide habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, protect the soil and save money on fertilizer and pesticides.

- Native plants are perfectly adapted to the local soil, moisture and weather conditions. They have natural defenses to better resist pest infestations so they seldom require harmful pesticides and fertilizers.
- Once established, native plants require little watering, other than natural rainfall.

3 INVASIVE CONTROL

An **invasive plant** is a non-native species that has been introduced intentionally or accidentally into a new habitat or has escaped cultivation. Without natural methods of control, some non-native species grow aggressively and out-compete native species. Learn to identify and remove harmful invasives from your property. Replace with native plants.

4 LAWN CARE

Conventional lawn chemicals can pollute our water, harm wildlife and have adverse health impacts on people and pets. CT State law prohibits lawn-care pesticides at daycare centers and K-8 schools. Healthy soil contains high organic content and is teeming with biological life.

A **phosphorous free fertilizer** should be used for routine lawn maintenance, with exceptions subject to soil test documentation. Connecticut law limits the use of phosphorous in lawn fertilizers. Phosphorous is the principle cause of declining water quality in our ponds and streams.

5 GRASS CLIPPINGS

These small steps help to facilitate the Town's leaf collection and sewer maintenance programs.

Grass clippings left to mulch in place hold moisture and provide shade, providing lawn benefits if you mow regularly and don't cut off too much of the grass at one time. Lawn clippings and leaves should not be dumped along streambanks or drainage swales.

Raked leaves may be used selectively for mulch under trees and other landscaped areas.

Clippings blown into the street gutter may wash into and clog municipal stormwater drains.

6 RAIN GARDENS

A **rain garden** is a depression that collects and filters stormwater runoff from a roof, driveway or yard and allows it to infiltrate into the ground. Rain gardens are typically planted with shrubs and perennials and can be colorful, landscaped areas in your yard.

7 WINTER BIRD SHELTER

Freezing rain, wind and deep snow can be fatal to birds.

- **Evergreen trees** and shrubs provide winter shelter. Many of these plants provide seeds, nuts or berries as a natural food source.
- **Brush piles and Roost boxes** also provide winter shelter to protect birds from cold winter and winter storms.

8 BUTTERFLY GARDENS

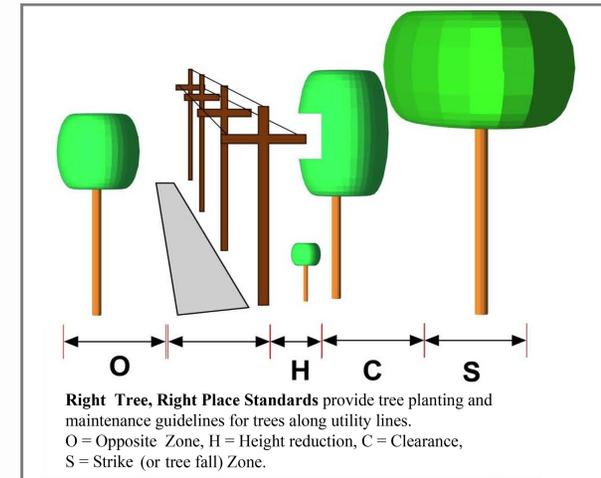
Butterfly gardens can be any size—a window box, part of your yard, or a wild untended area on your property. Most butterflies are sun-loving insects, so locate your butterfly garden in a sunny location. Do not use insecticides.



PHOTO: Gary Comins

9 COMPOSTING

Composting is a biological process by which micro-organisms, bacteria and insects break down organic materials such as leaves, grass clipping and certain kitchen scraps into *compost*, providing nutrient-rich supplements for gardens and landscaping.



CT DEEP State Vegetation Management Task Force

RESOURCES

CT Agricultural Experiment Station

Publications on soils, plants, insects, food gardens • www.ct.gov/caes

CT DEEP Butterfly Gardens. – CT.gov

Guidelines and plant list. • www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/wildlife/pdf

CT DEEP *Enhancing Your Backyard Habitat for Wildlife* Peter M. Picone

www.ctdeepstore.com/Enhancing-Your-Backyard-Habitat-for-Wildlife

CT DEEP Home Composting – CT.gov

home and garden composting • www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q

CT Invasive Plant Working Group

Information on invasive plants in CT • www.cipwg.uconn.edu

CT Urban Forest Council

Right Tree in the Right Place selection, grants • Cturbanforestcouncil.org/UI

CT DEEP State Vegetation Management Task Force Final Report 2012

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/forestry/.../final_report/svmtf_final_report.pdf

Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) *Standards for Organic*

Land Care 2011 www.organiclandcare.net

UConn Home and Garden Education Center Fact sheets, newsletter,

sustainable living • www.ladybug.uconn.edu

Trumbull Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission is a science-based advisory commission that oversees the protection and supervision of natural resources in Trumbull.

This information sheet is provided by the Trumbull Conservation Commission to assist property owners to maximize benefits in maintaining trees and landscape and to reduce potential tree damage and hazards.