TOWNSHIP OF WEST VINCENT
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 229-2026

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND STREET TREE AND NATIVE PLANT SPECIES REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, from time to time, revisions to the Code of the Township of West Vincent are required so to aid the Township in its efforts to advance the overall public health, safety, and welfare of the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of West Vincent Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, hereby ordains and enacts as follows:

SECTION I

A. The Code of the Township of West Vincent, Chapter 390, Zoning, Attachment 3 - Appendix C, Native Plant Species, shall be deleted in its entirety, and replaced with that attached as Exhibit A hereto.

SECTION II

A. The Code of the Township of West Vincent, Chapter 315, Subdivision and Land Development, §315-43.J(7), shall be amended as follows:

(7) All street trees shall be native to Southeastern Pennsylvania. Suitable street tree species include, but are not limited to, the following:

Cornus alternifolia	Dogwood Pagoda
Cornus florida	Dogwood Florida
Ostrya virginiana	Ironwood
Chionanthus virginicus	Fringe Tree
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch Hazel
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Acer rubrum	Maple, Red
Acer saccharum	Maple, Sugar
Amelanchier laevis	Serviceberry, Allegheny
Amelanchier canadensis	Serviceberry Shadblow/Shadbush
Amelanchier arborea	Serviceberry, Downy
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry
Nissa sylvatica	Black Gum
Quercus phellos	Willow Oak
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak

Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum
Quercus bicolor	Swamp White Oak
Quercus macrocarpa	Burr Oak
Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
Prunus americana	American Plum
Quercus muehlenbergii	Oak, Chinkapin
Quercus prinoides	Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin
Quercus coccinea	Oak, Scarlet

SECTION III

A. In the event that any section, subsection or portion of this Ordinance shall be declared by any competent court to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not be deemed to affect the validity of any other section, subsection or portion of this Ordinance. The invalidity of section, clause, sentence, or provision of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Ordinance, which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Township that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such invalid section, clause, sentence, or provision not been included therein.

B. To the extent this Ordinance is inconsistent with the Code of the Township of West Vincent, the provisions of this Ordinance shall take precedence. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

C. The failure of the Township to enforce any provision of this ordinance shall not constitute a waiver by the Township of its rights of future enforcement hereunder.

D. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Supervisors of West Vincent Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania on this 21st day of September, 2026.

FOR WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP

By: _____
Dana Alan, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Sean Clark, Township Secretary

EXHIBIT A

ZONING

390 Attachment 3

Township of West Vincent

Appendix C

Native Plant Species

The following list includes common native plants found in West Vincent Township. In addition to these plants, acceptable species include any plant listed on the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program's Pennsylvania Vascular Plant List as native to Pennsylvania. No use of cultivars will be permitted in natural areas such as riparian buffers, woodlands, reforestation, parks, and wetlands.

For more information, including commercial availability and expected Climate Change adaptability, consult the Chester County Recommended Tree List at https://www.chescoplanning.org/environmental/woodlands/TreeList.cfm

Native Plant Materials

Large Trees

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Acer rubrum	red maple	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'–60', Spread: same Habit is pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Tolerant of most soils, but prefers slightly acid, moist conditions. Naturally occurs in wet area. Excellent fall color.	Buds, flowers, and leaves provide food for many birds and mammals. Chipmunks and squirrels eat seeds and some songbirds use twigs for nest building.
Acer saccharum	sugar maple	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'–70', Spread: 40'–50' Upright oval to rounded habit. Prefers moist, well drained soils. Tolerates some shade.	See red maple.
Betula nigra	river birch	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'–70', Spread: 40'–60' Pyramidal in youth and rounded with age. Often grown multistemmed. Best adapted to moist soils. Used in areas that are alternately wet and dry.	Catkins are used by redpolls and pine siskins. Foliage is used by browsers.
Betula lenta	sweet birch	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'–55'+, Spread: 35'–45' Pyramidal in youth, forming an irregular, rounded, sometimes wide-spreading crown at maturity. Best in deep, rich, moist, slightly acid soils, however, often found on rocky, drier sites. Flowers are catkins, 2"–3" long. Yellow leaves in fall are best among birches.	See river birch.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHCC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Carya ovata	shagbark hickory	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 60'-ao', Spread: 40'-60' Straight trunk with an oblong crown. Bark breaks up in thin plates. Difficult to transplant, start as seedling. Good for woodland border.	Leaves are used by browsers. Nut.s are also consumed by deer, turkey, foxes, wood ducks, and squirrels.
Ceitis ocddentoli□	common **hackbeny**	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 40'-60', Spread: same In youth weakly pyramidal; in old age the crown is a broad top of ascending-arching branches. Medium to fast growth. Prefers rich, moist soils, but grows in dry, heavy, or sandy, rocky soils; withstands acid . or alkaline conditions; moderately wet **or** very dry areas; tolerates wind; full sun. Fruit is fleshy, orange t.o dark purple, ripening in September to October. Leaves are yellow to yellow-green in fall Useful tree for adverse growing conditions.	Fruit is popular with winter birds, especially cedar waxwing, mockfogbird, and robin.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Gleditsia triacanthos	common honeylocust	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 30'–70', Spread: same Usually has short trunk with open, oval crown. Fast grower. Withstands a wide range of conditions but prefers rich, moist bottomlands.	Limited wildlife value.
Juglans nigra	black walnut	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'–75', Spread; same Well-formed trunk with an oval crown. Prefers rich, moist soils. Often found on bottomlands. Difficult to transplant; should be started as seedling. Produces toxins which are poisonous to many plants giving it an advantage in open field situations but creating problems for gardeners.	Nuts are eaten by woodpeckers, foxes, and squirrels.
Juniperus virginiana	eastern redcedar	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'–50', Spread: 8'–20' Densely pyramidal when young and slightly pendulous in old age. Medium rate of growth. Tolerant of adverse conditions. Prefers deep, moist soils. Will tolerate shade only in youth. Handsome reddish brown bark. Produces small cones. Useful for windbreaks, shelter belts, hedges.	Twigs and foliage eaten by browsers. Seeds are eaten most extensively by cedar waxwings. Evergreen foliage provides nesting and roosting cover for sparrows, robins, mockingbirds, juncos, and warblers.
Liquidambar styraciflua	American sweetgum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'–75'+, Spread: 40'–50' Pyramidal in youth, rounded crown at maturity. Likes deep, moist, acid soils. Occurs naturally on bottomlands.	Goldfinches and purple finches eat winged seeds.
Liriodendron tulipifera	tuliptree	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 70'–90', Spread: 30'–50' Long, straight trunk with a narrow canopy. Fast grower. Plant in full sun and a well drained loam. Wood somewhat weak.	Moderate wildlife importance. The purple finch and cardinal are principal users.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Nyssa sylvatica	black gum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 30'-50', Spread: 20'-30' Pyramidal in youth and irregularly crowned at maturity. Prefers moist, weU drained, acid soils. Full sun or semi-shade. Deep taproot.	fruit is relished by many songbirds. Users include wood ducks, robins, woodpeckers, thrashers, flickers, and mockingbirds.
Pinus strobus	eastern white pine	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 50'-80'+, Spread: 20'-40'+ Pyramidal in youth, crown at maturicy has several horizontal and ascending branches. Fast grower. Grows best on fertile, well drained soils but is very adaptable.	Provides valuable cover and nesting sites for songbirds and mammals. Needles are used as nesting material Seeds are eaten by quail, chickadees, grosbeaks, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.
Quercus alba	white oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 100', Spread: 50'-80' Pyramidal in youth, becoming broad and rounded with wide :spreading branches. Transplant as small tree. Prefers moist, well drained soils. Difficult to obtain from nurseries. Sometimes available as seedling.	Oaks, in general, are of major importance to wildlife. Acorns are at the top of the food preference list for wood ducks, pheasants, grackles, jays, nuthatches, thrushes, woodpeckers, rabbits, foxes, squirrels, and deer.
QuerCils palustris	pin oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-70', Spread: 25'-40' Strongly pyramidal with ascending branches. One of the faster growing oaks. FuU sun. Tolerates wet soils but is adaptable to many soil types.	See white oak.
Quercus rubra	red oak	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 60'-75'+, Spread: 40'-50' Habit is round-toppe<l and symmetrical Full sun. Prefers loamy, weU drained soils. Fast growing.	See white oak.
Tilia americana	American linden	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 60'-80', Spread: 35'-50' Pyramidal in youth, assuming a rounded shape with age. Full sun or part shade. Prefers deep, moist soils, but is tolerant of heavier soils.	Limited wildlife value.

SCIEN:rIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Tsuga canadensis	eastern hemlock	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 40'-70', Spread: 25'-35' Pyramidal in youth becoming more pendulous with age. Likes moist, well drained soils. Plant in sheltered area. Tolerates shade. Relatively fast growing. Excellent for screens, hedges.	Provides excellent cover for deer and songbirds. Nesting site for several warblers. Seeds are eaten by juncos, chickadees, and siskins.

Small Trees

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDUFE USERS
Cercis canadensis	eastern redbud	Piedmont	Height: 20'-30', Spread: 25'-35' Small tree with rounded crown. likes moist, well drained soils. Full sun to light shade.	Limited wildlife value.
Chionanthus virginicus	white fringetree	Coast.al Plain	Height 12'-20', Spread: same Open habit often wider than high. Prefers moist fertile soils and full sun.	Limited wildlife value.
Comus ftorida	flowering dogwood	P'iedmont Coastal Plain	Hefght 20', Spread: 15'-20' Smalt tree with fl.at-topped crown. Place in well drained soil Full sun to partial shade. Has character in aU four seasons.	Fruit is an important source for songbirds including evening grosbeak, cardinals, robins and cedar waXWlngs.
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington hawthorn	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 25'-30', Spread: 20'-25' Broadly rounded to oval, dense, thorny tree. Plant in well drained soil in full sun.	Dense thorns make e.xce!ient nestin9 sites for songbirds. Fruit is used by grouse, cedar waxwings, and sparrows.
Ilex opaca	American holly	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 15'-30', Spread: 18'-25' Dense, pyramidal in youth, opening up with age. Plant in moist, well drained soil Full sun or partial shade. Use one male for every three females.	Used extensively by many songbirds including thrushes, mockingbirds, catbirds, bluebirds, and thrashers. foliage provides cover for songbirds and mammals.

Shrubs

SCTENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Amelanchier canadensis	shadbush or shadblow servkebeny	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-20', Spread: 10' Erect stems, often clumped. Blends weU on the forest edge.	Important heny producer during the early summer months. Fruit eaten by crows. bluebirds, cardinals, and tanagers. Foliage used by browsers.
Aronia arbutifolia	red chokeberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: *6'-10',* Spread: 3'-5" Upright multi-stemmed shrub, somewhat open and rounded. Adaptable to many soil types. Full sun to half shade.	Fruit eaten by grouse, chickadees, and other songbird□
Aronia melanocarpa	black chokeberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	See red chokebeny.	See red chokeberry.
Clethra alnifolia	summersweet clethra	Coastal Plain	Height: 3'-8', Spread: 4'-6' Oval round.topped, erect, dense, Leafy shrub. Transplant into moist organic soils. Full sun or shade. Good plant for wet areas and heavy shade.	Limited wildlife value.
Comus racemosa	silky dogwood	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 10'-15', Spread: 10'-15' Erect, multi-stemmed shrub with short spreading branches. Suckers profusely and forms large colonies. Very adaptable, withstandi'.19 wet or dry soils, but prefers moist, wetl drained conditions. full sun or shade.	High wildlife value for fruit and browse. Used by a wide variety of mammals and songbirds, including cardinals, evening grosbeaks, robins, thrush, vireos, and cedar waxwings.
Hamametis virginiana	common witch hazel	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 20'-30', Spread: 20'-25' Small tree or multi•stemmed shrub. Prefers moist soils in full sun or partial shade.	limited wildlife value.
!lex glabra	inkberry	Coastal Plain	Height 6'-8', Spread 8'-10' Upright, multi-branched, rounded shrub. Prefers moist, acid soils.	Berries used by a wide variety of wildlife.

SCTENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILOUFE USERS
Rex vertidllata	winterberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'-10', Spread: same Oval, rounded, deciduous shrub holly. Tends to fonn multi-stemmed clumps. Does well in light and heavy soils. Prefers moist organic soils. Red fruit is beautiful in winter. A male plant is necessary for fertilization.	Used extensively by many songbirds, particularly thrushes, mockingbirds, robins, bluebirds, and thrashers.
Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 3'-5'. Spread: 6'-8' Erect shrub with clustered branches. Prefers moist, fertile soils. Full sun or shade. Suited for wet areas. Excellent rall color.	Fruit capsules are used by some songbirds.
KalmifJ latijolia	mountain laurel	Piedmont Coast.al Plain	Height 7'-15', Spread: same Large, robust shrub, becomes open with age. Requires moist, well drained soils in full sun or shade.	Mammals eat foliage and twigs. Utilized extensively by mammals and birds for winter shelter.
Magnolia -nrginiano	sweetbay magnolia	Coastal Plain	Height: 10'-20', Spread: same Multi-stemmed, open shrub. Likes wet ;icid soils. Tolerates shade.	Wildlife value is low. Seeds are eaten by some mammals and birds. Foliage is used by several birds for nest building.
Myrica pensylvanica	northern bayberry	Coastal Plain	Height: 5'-12', Spread: same Tends to sucker to form large colonies. Deciduous to semi-evergreen. Upright, rounded, dense shrub. Adaptable to many soil conditions:, including poor soils. Full sun to partial shade.	Fruit is eaten by a variety of birds in small quantities including tree swallows and myrtle warblers.
Rhododendron maximum	rosebay rhododendron	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 4'-10', Spread: same Rounded, evergreen shrub. Plant in moist, well drained soil Prefers partial shade.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and winter cover for songbirds.
Rhododendron periclymenoides	pinxter-fl.ower	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height 4'-6', Spread: 6'-8' Multi-stemmed, stoloniferous shrub. Adapted to dry, sandy, rocky soils. Useful for naturalizing.	Limited wildlife value except as browse for deer and grouse

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGION	DESCRIPTION	WILDLIFE USERS
Vaccinium corymbosum	highbush blueberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'–12', Spread: 8'–12' Upright, multi-stemmed shrub with spreading branches. Requires moist, well drained soils. Full sun or light shade.	Used heavily by grouse, scarlet tanager, bluebirds, thrushes, and other songbirds.
Viburnum dentatum	southern arrow-wood	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 6'–8', Spread: 6'–15' Multi-stemmed, dense, rounded shrub. Adaptable to most soil conditions, but prefers well drained. Suckers freely.	Used by grouse, brown thrasher, cedar waxwing, squirrels, and deer.
Viburnum lentago	nannyberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 15'–18', Spread: 6'–10' Shrub or small tree with open habit. Adapts to a wide range of soil conditions. Sun or partial shade.	See southern arrow-wood.
Viburnum prunifolium	blackhaw virburnum	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 12'–15', Spread: 8'–12' Round-headed tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Adaptable to many soil types. Sun or shade.	See southern arrow-wood.
Viburnum trilobum	American cranberry	Piedmont Coastal Plain	Height: 8'–12', Spread: same Multi-stemmed shrub, round-topped, fairly dense. Prefers well drained, moist soil. Full sun to partial shade.	See southern arrow-wood.

Meadow Wildflowers

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	UPLAND OR WET MEADOW PREFERENCE
Asclepios incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	Wet
Asclepios syriaca	Common Milkweed	Upland
Asclepios tuberosa	Butterfly-weed	Upland
Aster novae-angliae	New England Aster	Upland
Chelone glabra	Turtlehead	Wet
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	Upland
Eupatorium fistulosum	Joe-pye-weed	Wet
Eupatorium maculatum	Spotted Joe Pye-weed	Wet
Helianthus decapetalus	Thin-leaved Sunflower	Wet
Liatris spicata	Spiked Gayfeather	Upland
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal-flower	Wet
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Lobelia	Wet
Monarda didyma	Bee-balm	Wet
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	Upland
Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove Beardtongue	Upland
Rudbeckia fulgida	Eastern Coneflower	Wet
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	Upland
Rudbeckia laciniata	Green-headed Coneflower	Wet
Rudbeckia triloba	Thin-leaved Coneflower	Upland
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	Blue-eyed Grass	Wet
Solidago juncea	Early Goldenrod	Upland
Solidago nemoralis	Gray Goldenrod	Upland
Solidago speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	Wet
Solidago gigantea	Blue-stemmed Goldenrod	Wet
Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	Wet
Vernonia noveboracensis	New York Ironweed	Wet
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's-root	Wet
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	Wet

Meadow Grasses

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	UPLAND OR WET MEADOW PREFERENCE
Agrostis alba	Redtop	Upland
Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem	Upland, Wet
Andropogon virginica	Broom-sedge	Upland
Elymus virginicus	Virginia wild-rye	Wet
Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass	Upland
Schizachorium scoparium (Andropogon scoparius)	Little Bluestem	Upland
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian-grass	Upland
Tridens flavus	Purpletop	Upland