 **THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER**

100 COMMONS WAY

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. 08807

908/725-6300 – Ext. 5530

**MEMORANDUM**

To: James Ruggieri, Senior Planner, Somerset County

From: Scarlett Doyle, Bridgewater Township Planner

Date: March 11, 2013

Re: Second Response to Request for Action Plan Items for Plan Endorsement

Per our discussion today and in response to your email of March 8, 2013, attached is the latest Plan Endorsement Action Plan Excel spreadsheet from OPA for Bridgewater Twp. which includes the information that is needed demonstrating satisfaction with the Action Items.

**See Municipal Code and enter either of the two descriptors. The descriptor which includes the { } notations will access the specific ordinance provision and the descriptor that does not contain the { } notations will only identify the Section of the provision)**

I understand that the County has the following in its files pursuant to information previously received from the Township:

* Recycling statement,
* Storm water management plan,
* Ordinance adopting the storm water management plan.

Below are items that have been requested to date with information provided:

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| **Item No.** | **Subject** | **Issue** | **Action Item (Summary)** | **Deliverable** | **Local Deadline** | **State Deadline** |
| C1 | Community Facilities | Board of Education Five-Year Facilities Plan is a requirement for Plan Endorsement | The Bridgewater Township shall submit the Board of Education’s Five-Year Facilities Plan. | Board of Education Five-Year Facilities Plan | Within 1 year after signing MOU | Within 45 days of submission |

Response to C1

The Board of Education website can be easily accessed at http://www.brrsd.k12.nj.us/. Tabletop Internet explorations for the Five-Year Facilities Plan have not been successful. This plan is not available to the general public as has been confirmed by Barry Ableman. Mr. Stars, Board of Education Administrator, advises that the Bridgewater/Raritan Board of Education has a *Long Range Facility Plan* (LRFP) which is located on the state website. I have provided the link for the website below, however Administrator Stars advises that while there are two sites, both of these are *password protected*. The two links are:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/facilities> and

<http://lrfp.mksd.org>

The Municipality of Bridgewater Township does not have direct involvement or formal influence on the forecasting needs of the Board of Education. The above website http://www.brrsd.k12.nj.us gives budget information only for prior years and the current year.

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| **Item No.** | **Subject** | **Issue** | **Action Item (Summary)** | **Deliverable** | **Local Deadline** | **State Deadline** |
| D2 | Wastewater Quality Management | Adopt a suite of resource conservation ordinances related to the WQMP | • Stream Corridor/Riparian Protection  • Steep Slopes  • Water Conservation  • Wellhead Protection | -Municipal Committee and Planning Board | Within 1 year after signing MOU | Within 45 days of submission |

Response to D2:

**Stream Corridor and Riparian Protection**

This is already addressed in several locations in the current ordinance. I have cited the section and provided a brief account of what the section controls. Of course, the NJDEP has its rules for conservation distances.

([126-331) Drainage/conservation easements for streams and other bodies of water.](http://ecode360.com/8963276#8963276)

Drainage/conservation easements for streams and other bodies of water. See Municipal Code and enter either of the descriptors. The descriptor which includes the { } notations will access the specific ordinance provision and the descriptor in parenthesis will only identify the Section of the provision)

[126-285.13{4} (alternate entry is 126-285.13),](http://ecode360.com/14511030" \l "14511030)[[126-285.19{5} (alternate entry is 126-285.19), 126-285.2{38} (alternate entry is 126-285.2), WATERS OF THE STATE](http://ecode360.com/14511030" \l "14511030)](http://ecode360.com/14511057#14511057)

This provision notes the authority of the state: The ocean and its estuaries, all springs, streams and bodies of surface water or groundwater, whether natural or artificial, within the boundaries of the State of New Jersey or subject to its jurisdiction.

[132-4 Littering waters.](http://ecode360.com/8963982#8963982)

This provision protects against littering of waters. No person shall throw or deposit litter in any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay or any other body of water in a park or elsewhere within the Township

126-2{49} (alternate entry is 126-2) Critical Area

This provision defines and protects stream corridors during construction which would adversely affect the environment, including but not limited to stream corridors, flood hazard areas, slopes greater than 20%, highly acid or highly erodible soils, areas.

[126-290 Permitted uses in channels.](http://ecode360.com/8961992#8961992)

This provision clarifies activities and states that fill, excavation or other improvements or changes may be permitted only in connection with stream improvements or stabilization, which improvements or changes shall have the specific approval of the appropriate authority.

126-285.2{12} (alternate entry is 126-285.2)Environmentally Critical Areas

This provision defines areas or features which are of significant environmental value, including but not limited to stream corridors; natural heritage priority sites; habitat of endangered or threatened species.

[126-245 Conservation, erosion and sediment control.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961339)

This provision prohibits any person doing any act on or across a communal stream, watercourse or swale or upon the floodway or ... as nearly as possible in its present state the stream, watercourse, swale, floodway or right-of-way which will affect normal or flood flow in any communal stream or watercourse must have obtained approval by the appropriate authority.

[126-191 Landscaping.](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960764)

This provision notes that trees shall not be removed from an area within 25 feet of the edge of any stream, including seasonal or intermittent streams.

**Steep Slopes**

[126-267 Maximum impervious surfaces.](http://ecode360.com/8961517#8961517)

This provision establishes maximum impervious surface permitted on steep slopes

[126-285.2{12}(alternate entry is 126-285.2) Environmentally Critical Areas](http://ecode360.com/8961763#8961763)

This provision defines steep slopes as a critical area along with endangered or threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and wellhead protection and groundwater recharge areas.

[126-261 Purpose.](http://ecode360.com/8961467#8961467)

This provision describes prohibitions for improper construction, building and development on steep slope and hillside areas in the Township of Bridgewater.

[126-161 Buffering, landscaping and open space.](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960653)

This provision controls the preservation of a site's natural amenities. It notes that Ponds, rock outcroppings, wooded areas, vistas, steep slopes, ravines and stream beds are prime lands recommended for undeveloped open space.

[126-34 Form.](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960261)

This provision Discuses the application process and information requirements. Waivers of information are not permitted from this requirement if any slopes on-site exceed 15% or if the property is in floodplain area.

**Water conservation**

[126-245 Conservation, erosion and sediment control.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961339)

This provision establishes the topics noted in the header. Conservation, erosion, sediment and velocity of surface water runoff are controlled. When feasible, the rate of surface water runoff will be mechanically controlled and sediment in the runoff water shall be trapped by the use

[175-30 Discharge of water into sewers.](http://ecode360.com/9054319#9054319)

This provision discusses the discharge of water into sewers. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer

[126-118 Form and elements.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960482)

This provision discusses information needed for development, including topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, floodplain and future general location of water supply and distribution of discharges on sites for recreation. A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation and utilization of natural and appropriate, open space, water, forests, soil, marshes,

[126-2{44} (alternate entry is 126-2)Conservation Easement](http://ecode360.com/8959976#8959976)

This provision establishes the definition of Conservation Easement, which is an interest in land that restricts use of the designated area to that of conservation in perpetuity, the purpose being to retain the area in its natural state.

[126-278.2{3} (alternate entry is 126-278.2)Conservation Easement](http://ecode360.com/8961606#8961606)

This provision defines the conservation easement which is applied to protect water resources. It defines a conservation easement as a portion of land dedicated for designated conservation purposes and designated as such on any recorded deed, plot plan and/or as otherwise identified and delineated in any site plan.

[126-2{209}(alternate entry is 126-2)Standards](http://ecode360.com/8960139#8960139)

This provision sets standards as being the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey as promulgated by the State Soil Conservation Commission

[126-197 Environmental Considerations.](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960937)

This provision establishes discussion for Environmental Requirements for development projects. Conservation, erosion and sediment and velocity of surface water runoff. Whenever feasible, the rate of surface water runoff will be mechanically sediment in the runoff water shall be trapped by the use ... Protection, Division of Water Resources.

[212-1 Purpose.](http://ecode360.com/9054826#9054826)

This provision establishes the regulations for new wells in the Township, and indicating that residents are to test their water annually for certain toxic of all new potable water wells. The regulations include health of consumers of well water in the Township of to assure that all new potable water wells meet certain construction and water quality standards.

[126-2{7} (alternate entry is 126-2)Alteration of Freshwater Wetlands](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959934)

This provision discusses the definition of the term above, which is then used in the ordinance. The definition includes draining or disturbance of the water level or water table. Dumping, discharging or filling with any ... whether or not they interfere with the flow of water. The destruction of plant life, including the

[114-34{3}(alternate entry is 114-34) Industrial Waste](http://ecode360.com/8959829#8959829)

This provision defines Industrial Waste, which includes Nondomestic waste, including, but not limited to, those pollutants regulated under Section 307(a), (b) or (c) of the Federal Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. § 1317(a), (b) or (c)].

[175-32 Prohibited discharges.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054321)

This provision identifies prohibited discharges, including waters or wastes to any public watercourse and discharges of water having a temperature higher than 150º F. Control also is included for any water or waste which may contain chemicals or biologicals of the sewage works. Any waters or wastes having a pH lower ... of the sewage works are prohibited. Any waters or wastes containing a toxic and any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment are prohibited.

[126-281 Runoff control details.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961705)

This provision establishes runoff controls for development proposals. It includes regulations that erosion for any land area to be developed shall be through on-site water detention and/or ground absorption systems, which include but are not limited to any other form of grading which serves to temporarily impound and store water.

**Wellhead Protection**

[126-285.2{12} (alternate entry is 126-285.2)Environmentally Critical Areas](http://ecode360.com/8961763#8961763)

This provision defines what a critical area is so that all ordinance controls over environmentally critical areas are applicable to threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and wellhead protection and groundwater recharge areas.

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| **Item No.** | **Subject** | **Issue** | **Action Item (Summary)** | **Deliverable** | **Local Deadline** | **State Deadline** |
| C2 | Hazard Planning | Emergency Planning is a requirement for Plan Endorsement | The petition shall include formal evidence that the Town has an Emergency Operating Plan approved by the New Jersey State Police. An approval letter from the State Police may be submitted in lieu of the full Plan. | Approval letter from State Police for an Emergency Operating Plan | Within 1 year after signing MOU | Within 45 days of submission |

Response to C2

I have contacted Robert Szkodny who is the OEM Coordinator for Bridgewater and Douglas Vornlocker, OEM Coordinator for Somerset County. The Emergency Operating Plan is to be approved each 4 years. The Bridgewater plan was approved in or around 2009 and the new plan is scheduled to be submitted for approval in the first quarter of 2013. These two gentlemen are searching for the approval letter that is requested above. Below is an email from OEM Coordinator Szkodny who is working diligently to secure this letter. Upon receipt, it will be forwarded to the County.

*Scarlet,*

*The State Trooper I have been speaking with has requested from the State Office of Emergency Management a short letter stating our Emergency Plan in current. Since they are busy with post Hurricane activities, they replied that the letter will have to wait till Monday, November 26th. Hopefully, we will get the letter soon.*

*RSzkodny*

#### [§ 126-331. Drainage/conservation easements for streams and other bodies of water.](http://ecode360.com/8963276#8963276#8963276)

**[Amended 9-18-1978 by Ord. No. 78-22; 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8963276#8963277#8963277) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Part 12, no development shall be permitted within 50 feet of the flood hazard area, except in conformance with Article XXXVII, Stormwater Control, and Article XXXVIII, Site Plan and Permit Requirements in Floodplain Areas. In addition, a drainage/conservation easement for the flood hazard area, plus not less than 50 feet along each side or edge of the flood hazard area shall be provided. Where the Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Protection permit fall within the flood fringe, the easement shall be measured from the revised flood hazard area and shall be for drainage only and extend only 15 feet from the flood hazard area. [See § [**126-296B(1)**](http://ecode360.com/8962030#8962030).] No development shall be permitted within the drainage/conservation easement except with Planning Board approval.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8963276#8963278#8963278) Conservation easements for wetlands. A conservation easement shall be provided to contain all wetland areas and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection required buffer around the wetland area.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8963276#8963279#8963279) Conservation easements for ridgelines. A conservation easement may be required by the Board to ensure compliance with § [**126-265A(7)**](http://ecode360.com/8961506#8961506) in perpetuity

126-285.13 {4} also 126-285

**WATERS OF THE STATE**

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126-285.19{5} also 126-285

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126-285.2{38} also 126-285.2

**WATERS OF THE STATE**

The ocean and its estuaries, all springs, streams, wetlands and bodies of surface or ground water, whether natural or artificial, within the boundaries of the State of New Jersey or subject to its jurisdiction.

#### [§ 132-4. Littering waters.](http://ecode360.com/8963982#8963982#8963982)

No person shall throw or deposit litter in any fountain, pond, lake, stream, bay or any other body of water in a park or elsewhere within the Township

126-2{49} also 126-2

**CRITICAL AREA**

Any area which is environmentally sensitive or which, if disturbed during construction, would adversely affect the environment, including but not limited to stream corridors, flood hazard areas, slopes greater than 20%, highly acid or highly erodible soils, areas of high-water table and mature stands of native vegetation.

#### [§ 126-290. Permitted uses in channels.](http://ecode360.com/8961992#8961992#8961992)

Within any channel, structures may be erected, enlarged, expanded or externally altered and fill, excavation or other improvements or changes may be permitted only in connection with stream improvements or stabilization, which improvements or changes shall have the specific approval of the State Department of Environmental Protection, the Somerset County Planning Board and the Township Planning Board.

126-285.2{12} also 126-285.2

**ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS**

An area or feature which is of significant environmental value, including but not limited to stream corridors; natural heritage priority sites; habitat of endangered or threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and wellhead protection and groundwater recharge areas. Habitats of endangered or threatened species are identified, using the Department's Landscape Project as approved by the Department's Endangered and Nongame Species Program

#### [§ 126-245. Conservation, erosion and sediment control.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961339#8961339)

Measures used to control erosion and reduce sediment shall as a minimum meet the standards, specifications and recommendations of the Somerset County Soil Conservation District and the Township of Bridgewater. The following measures shall be included, where applicable, in the soil erosion and sedimentation control plan:

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961340#8961340) Stripping of vegetation, regrading or other development shall be done in such a way as to minimize erosion.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961341#8961341) Development shall preserve salient natural features, keeping cut-fill operations to a minimum, and ensure conformity with topography so as to create the least erosion potential and adequately handle the volume and velocity of surface water runoff.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961342#8961342) When feasible, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected and supplemented.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961343#8961343) The disturbed area and the duration of exposure shall be kept to a practical minimum.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961344#8961344) Disturbed soils shall be stabilized as soon as practical.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961345#8961345) Temporary vegetation or mulching shall be used to protect exposed critical areas during development.

[G.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961346#8961346) The permanent (final) vegetation and mechanical erosion control measures shall be installed as soon as practical in the development.

[H.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961347#8961347) Provisions shall be made to effectively accommodate the increased runoff caused by changed soil and surface conditions during and after development. Where necessary, the rate of surface water runoff will be mechanically retarded.

[I.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961348#8961348) Until the disturbed area is stabilized, sediment in the runoff water shall be trapped by the use of debris basins, sediment basins, silt traps or other acceptable methods.

[J.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961349#8961349) Whenever sedimentation is caused by stripping vegetation, regrading or other development, it shall be the responsibility of the developer causing such sedimentation to remove it from all adjoining surfaces, drainage systems and watercourses and to repair any damage at his expense as quickly as possible.

[K.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961350#8961350) Maintenance of all drainage facilities and watercourses within any major subdivision is the responsibility of the developer until they are accepted by the Township of Bridgewater or other approving agency.

[L.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961351#8961351) It is the responsibility of any person doing any act on or across a communal stream, watercourse or swale or upon the floodway or right-of-way thereof to maintain as nearly as possible in its present state the stream, watercourse, swale, floodway or right-of-way during the duration of such activity and to return it to its original or equal condition after such activity is completed.

[M.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961352#8961352) Maintenance of drainage facilities or watercourses originating and completely on private property is the responsibility of the owner to the point of open discharge at the property line or at a communal watercourse within the property.

[N.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961353#8961353) No person shall block, divert, disturb, impede the flow of, alter or construct any structure or deposit any material or thing or commit any act which will affect normal or flood flow in any communal stream or watercourse without having obtained prior approval from the Township of Bridgewater and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Resources.

[O.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961354#8961354) Rights-of-way or easements having a minimum width of 20 feet shall be provided for all drainage facilities and watercourses which are proposed for acceptance by the Township of Bridgewater or other official agency.

[P.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961355#8961355) Each person who makes any surface changes shall be required to:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961356#8961356) Collect on-site surface runoff and dispose of it into the common natural watercourse of the drainage area.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961357#8961357) Handle existing off-site runoff through his development by designing the stormwater system to adequately handle storm runoff from a fully developed area upstream.

[**§ 126-191. Landscaping.**](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960764#8960764)

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960765#8960765) Landscaping plan.

**[Amended 4-4-2005 by Ord. No. 05-10]**

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960766#8960766) A landscaping plan shall be submitted with each site plan or subdivision application. The plan shall identify existing and proposed trees, shrubs, bushes, plant material, groundcover and natural features such as boulders and rock outcroppings. It should show where they all are or will be located and the planting details. When existing natural growth is proposed to remain, the applicant shall include, in the plans, proposed methods to protect the existing trees and growth during and after construction. These shall include fences, berms, curbing, tree walls and similar devices.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960767#8960767) The landscaping plan shall be incorporated into a site map showing the following:

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960768#8960768) Scale and North arrow.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960769#8960769) Location of all existing and proposed buildings and improvements.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960770#8960770) Proposed grading changes.

[(d)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960771#8960771) Location of all existing mature trees on the site, and the size and species of each. The site map must also show mature trees on adjacent lots, if those trees are within 10 feet of the property line between the two lots.

[(e)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960772#8960772) Which trees will be removed; where replacement trees will be planted and the size and species of each.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960773#8960773) The following principles should be followed:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960774#8960774) Locate landscaping to provide for climate control; for example, shade trees on the south to shield the hot summer sun and evergreens on the north for wind breaks.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960775#8960775) Use landscaping to accent and complement buildings; for example, groupings of tall trees to break up long, low buildings and lower plantings for taller buildings.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960776#8960776) Landscaping should be provided in public areas, recreation sites and adjacent to buildings.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960777#8960777) Vines and climbing plants should be considered for large expanses of walls.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960778#8960778) Consider massing trees at critical points rather than in a straight line at predetermined intervals along streets. Vary types by neighborhood.

[(6)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960779#8960779) Use smaller trees on narrow streets.

[(7)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960780#8960780) Ground cover should be used extensively to prevent erosion.

[(8)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960781#8960781) Provide for a variety and mixture of landscaping. The variety should consider susceptibility to disease, colors, season, textures, shapes, blossoms and foliage.

[(9)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960782#8960782) Local soil conditions and water availability should be considered in the choice of landscaping.

[(10)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960783#8960783) Consider the impact of any proposed landscaping plan at various time intervals. Shrubs may grow and eventually block sight distances. Foundation plants may block out buildings.

[(11)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960784#8960784) It is preferable to have fewer large specimens than more numerous smaller ones.

[(12)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960785#8960785) Deciduous trees shall have a minimum caliper of 2 1/2 inches to three inches. Ornamental and evergreen trees shall be six to eight feet in height. Shrubs shall be at least two to three feet in height. All landscape plants shall be typical full specimens which conform to the American Association of Nurserymen Standards and Specifications for quality and installation.

**[Amended 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[(13)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960786#8960786) Street trees shall be provided for all streets and shall be planted in accordance with the standards set forth below:

**[Amended 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960787#8960787) The use of more than one variety of street tree along a roadway shall be provided in order to avoid problems associated with monoculture.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960788#8960788) Use trees of similar form, height and character along a roadway to promote uniformity and to allow for a smooth visual transition between species.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960789#8960789) Spacing between trees shall be determined based upon species and the proposed street location. In general, trees should be between 30 to 50 feet on center.

[(d)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960790#8960790) Street trees should have a minimum caliper of 2 1/2 inches to three inches. Within sight easements, a single tree may be permitted only with site-specific approval of the Township Engineer. Such trees, including those at driveways, shall be of such a size as to enable them to be immediately pruned up to seven feet branching height upon planting.

[(e)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960791#8960791) Species selection shall be in accordance with this chapter.

**[Added 4-4-2005 by Ord. No. 05-10]**

[(14)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960792#8960792) Entrances to sites deserve special landscaping treatment.

[(15)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960793#8960793) Existing large trees should be saved by not varying the grade around the trees by more than six inches to 12 inches, construction of tree wells and by erecting protective fences. Maximum effort should be made to save clumps of trees rather than individual ones.

[(16)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960794#8960794) (Reserved) *Editor’s Note: Former Subsection B(16) through (19), regarding landscaping in parking areas and selection of trees, were repealed 4-4-2005 by Ord. No. 05-10.*

[(17)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960795#8960795) (Reserved)

[(18)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960796#8960796) (Reserved)

[(19)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960797#8960797) (Reserved)

[(20)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960798#8960798) Landscape maintenance.

**[Added 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960799#8960799) Debris and weed control. This task shall include the removal of all undesirable litter, debris and weeds. The objective of this subsection's task is to provide a neat, orderly, well-maintained appearance. Any objects or plants which create a health or safety hazard or an unnatural visual nuisance shall be removed immediately.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960800#8960800) Mulching. All planting beds with existing or specified organic mulch shall be maintained with a minimum two-inch depth of shredded bark mulch or an equivalent. To maintain this level, new mulch shall be applied each spring as needed. Areas with decorative stone or other materials shall be maintained with a neat appearance and at such a level that no weeds, bare ground or soil are exposed.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960801#8960801) Plantings. Landscape maintenance shall include the reseeding or replanting of landscape areas which are damaged, destroyed or failing due to insects, disease, weather or physical damage. All landscaped areas which are damaged, destroyed or are failing, as described above, shall be replaced during the next planting season.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960802#8960802) Landscaping requirements for all zones.

**[Added 4-4-2005 by Ord. No. 05-12]**

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960803#8960803) Preservation of trees.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960804#8960804) With the exception of the building footprint for the principal structure(s) and a twenty-foot margin around the principal structure(s), all reasonable and practicable efforts shall be made to preserve existing mature trees on the site. Planned driveways, walkways, garage and all other accessory structures should be located so as to allow for the preservation of the greatest number of existing mature trees on the site, with the greatest priority given to preserving very large, unique or "specimen" trees.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960805#8960805) Grading shall be avoided within the drip line of any tree that is to be preserved, including trees on adjacent property if the drip line of those trees extends into the applicant's property. If a tree is of a species or type that will eventually perish due to root disturbance or change in drainage, the tree may be removed, but must be replaced in accordance with this chapter. In the event that tree removal is requested and the Board believes some may be preserved, the applicant shall provide expert opinion from a licensed landscape architect who will address the viability of maintaining such trees.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960806#8960806) Trees shall not be removed from an area within 25 feet of the edge of any stream, including seasonal or intermittent streams.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960807#8960807) Landscaping trees. Landscaping trees within the property shall be planted at a rate of three trees per 5,000 square feet of disturbed lot area. At least 50% of all the species shall be selected from the deciduous shade trees list (contained in the Township Land Use Ordinance) and the balance may be selected from the landscaping trees list (contained in the Township Land Use Ordinance). *Editor's Note: See §*[***126-191.1***](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960837#8960837)*, Landscaping: categories of trees and plantings.*

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960808#8960808) Shrubbery. In addition to the above, shrubbery shall be planted at a ratio of 10 shrubs per 5,000 square feet of impervious area. Shrubbery shall be taken from the evergreen species list-medium sized. Variety is required to prevent the future die-out of large numbers of evergreens, in case a disease kills off a particular tree species.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960809#8960809) Buffer planting. Evergreen species shall be planted in double rows in a zigzag fashion along the buffer line to provide a dense screen upon three years of growth. When evergreens are placed along distances of greater than 100 feet of a buffer line, two or more species or cultivars of evergreens shall be provided in staggered rows. When evergreens are being placed distances of less than 100 feet along a buffer line, one or two species or cultivars of evergreens shall be provided in staggered rows. Buffer planting shall be in addition to other required landscaping. See appropriate sections for species selection.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960810#8960810) Foundation planting. In addition, foundation landscaping (located within five feet of the foundation) shall be provided at a rate of 10 shrubs per 20 linear feet of foundation. Species shall be selected from the foundation planting list.

[(6)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960811#8960811) Provisions for parking lots.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960812#8960812) One shade tree measuring a minimum caliper of 2 1/2 inches shall be provided for every 10 parking spaces in the vicinity of the parking lot. The preservation or relocation of existing trees is encouraged to meet this requirement. This planting is in addition to trees required for landscape, buffers or street tree planting.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960813#8960813) A curbed planting island of at least four feet in width shall be placed at the end of each row of parking spaces along an internal traffic aisle.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960814#8960814) A maximum of 20 parking spaces shall be permitted in a row without a curbed planting island.

[(d)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960815#8960815) Landscaping shall be selected so that the mature height will not cause concerns of obstructing vision.

[(7)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960816#8960816) Standards and requirements for tree protection during construction, demolition, grading or soil removal.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960817#8960817) Before clearing, demolition or construction work of any kind is begun on a site, temporary fencing, a minimum of four feet in height, shall be installed around all trees or clusters of trees that are to be preserved according to the approved tree planting, including street trees in the public right-of-way and trees on adjacent property that are within 10 feet of the common property line, or if the drip line of those trees extends into the applicant's property. The required temporary fencing shall be installed at the drip line or at a ten-foot radius from the trunk, whichever is greater.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960818#8960818) No soil or other materials shall be stored within the protected area. No equipment shall be operated or cleaned within the protected area. No chemicals, fuel, oil or other foreign materials may be deposited onto the ground protected area.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960819#8960819) If the Township Engineer agrees that constraints in a particular area(s) of a site make it necessary to operate equipment within the drip line of a tree that is to be protected, the trunk of the tree must be protected with metal sheathing and the ground area within the drip line must be covered with metal plates before equipment is operated there.

[(d)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960820#8960820) No signs or other materials shall be affixed to trees in any manner. No nails, screws or other intrusive fasteners shall be used on a tree.

[(8)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960821#8960821) Trees damaged after approval. Any tree designated on the tree site plan as a tree to be preserved that is determined by the Engineer to have been damaged in any manner during demolition, construction, grading or landscaping activities, including trees likely to die because of root disturbances or changes in drainage, shall be replaced by the builder and planted at locations agreed upon by the Township Engineer, according to the formula contained in § [**126-278**](http://ecode360.com/8961593#8961593).10 (Violations and penalties; restitution).

[(9)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960822#8960822) Tree species, selection and planting criteria.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960823#8960823) Trees must be straight, balled and burlapped, nursery-grown, free of all wounds or other damage and meeting ANLA (American Nursery and Landscape Association) standards.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960824#8960824) Trees shall not be planted under power lines or near other obstructions such as overhangs, telephone poles, utility pipes and fire hydrants.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960825#8960825) Street trees shall be installed three feet inside the property line so that the trees will not interfere with overhead utility lines and sidewalks. Shade tree easements shall be provided for installation and maintenance purposes.

[(10)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960826#8960826) Tree replacement for residential subdivision and single- or two-family use. Any development plan that is submitted to the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment for application related to a subdivision or other application for development for a single-family or two-family use shall be required to replace trees that are greater than eight inches dbh if nondeciduous, 12 inches dbh if deciduous or four-inch dogwoods. Replacement trees will be selected from the deciduous and nondeciduous listing for trees as found in the Township Land Use Ordinance. The caliper of such replacement trees shall be 2 1/2 inch caliper for deciduous trees and 1 1/2 caliper for nondeciduous trees. In the event that the developer and the Township Planner or Environmental Officer concur that not all the trees will fit properly on the site, the developer shall be required to plant the remaining required trees on municipally owned property. The specific site and location shall be in accordance with written instructions from the Township. This replanting is in addition to street trees that may be required along the right-of-way of the development.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960827#8960827) Landscaping in buffers.

**[Added 4-4-2005 by Ord. No. 05-12]**

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960828#8960828) Front yard buffers along Route 202, 202/206 North, Route 22 and Route 28.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960829#8960829) Landscaped front yard buffer areas separating the parking and/or building from the traveled way shall be provided for all nonresidential uses. Front yard landscaping shall be shown on the landscape plan and planted with grasses, deciduous trees and evergreens or constructed of berms, boulders, mounds or combinations which will enhance the appearance of the site and as approved by the Planning Board. In addition to required landscaping, front yard landscaping along these corridors shall require a minimum of eight shrubs for every 30 feet of frontage. If a landscaped berm is provided, the berm shall be at least three feet higher than the finish elevation of the parking lot and planting requirements may be reduced to five shrubs for every 30 feet of frontage. A minimum of three rows of plantings shall be provided in this area. Front yard landscaping may be waived by the Board where existing natural growth is found to be sufficient to meet the objectives of this section and where year-round leaf display is achieved. No buildings, structures, accessory structures, parking, driveways, loading areas or storage of materials shall be permitted in the landscaped front yard. Access driveways, utilities, fences and security structures may be permitted by the Board. Species selection shall be in accordance with this chapter.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960830#8960830) Front yard landscaping shall not interfere with any required traffic site distances as established by the Township Engineering Department and shall not preclude a driver's view of approved sign locations on a commercial site where such view, as determined by the Planning Board, is either necessary to the legitimate economic functions of the site or where traffic safety factors are involved.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960831#8960831) Landscaping in all transition buffers (non-residential zone abutting a residential zone district).

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960832#8960832) Design of transition buffers. Arrangement of plantings in buffer areas shall provide maximum protection to adjacent residential properties. Planting arrangements include planting in parallel, serpentine or broken rows. If planted berms are proposed, the minimum top width shall be four feet and the maximum size slope shall be 2:1.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960833#8960833) Transition buffer planting specifications. At least three plants shall be provided for every 10 feet of length along the residential line. All plantings shall be installed according to accepted horticultural standards. The buffers shall be planted with evergreens and deciduous trees as follows, subject to approval or modification of the Board:

[[1]](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960834#8960834) The transition buffer shall be planted with masses and groupings of shade trees, ornamental trees, evergreen trees and shrubs. No less than 75% of the plants shall be evergreen trees with a minimum installed height of six feet. A fence or wall may also be required within the transition buffer if a solid screening would not be achieved in three years of plant growth. Said fence shall not exceed a six-foot height in the side or rear yard and not exceed a four-foot height in the front yard. The fencing shall be an attractive fence which is compatible with the neighborhood. Stockade fencing shall not be used.

[[2]](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960835#8960835) More than one type of evergreen species shall be used.

[[3]](http://ecode360.com/8960764#8960836#8960836) Where a fence is required, plantings shall be placed along the outside perimeter of the fence (facing the residential side) but not closer than five feet to the fence. A solid fence should not be used as the sole treatment mechanism in transition buffer areas.

[**§ 126-267. Maximum impervious surfaces.**](http://ecode360.com/8961517#8961517#8961517)

The maximum impervious surface permitted on steep slopes shall be based on the percentage of slope as follows:

| **Slopes**  **(percent)** | **Maximum Impervious Surface** |
| --- | --- |
| 0-10 | As permitted in the Zoning Ordinance *Editor's Note: See Part 12, Zoning.* |
| 11-19 | 50% of that permitted in zone |
| 20-29 | 20% of that permitted in zone |
| 30 | No development permitted |

126-285.2{12} also 126-285.2

**ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS**

An area or feature which is of significant environmental value, including but not limited to stream corridors; natural heritage priority sites; habitat of endangered or threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and wellhead protection and groundwater recharge areas. Habitats of endangered or threatened species are identified, using the Department's Landscape Project as approved by the Department's Endangered and Nongame Species Program

Hillside Development Ordinance."

#### [§ 126-261. Purpose.](http://ecode360.com/8961467#8961467#8961467)

It is the purpose of this Article XXXIV to protect the health, safety and welfare of people and property within the Township of Bridgewater from improper construction, building and development on steep slope and hillside areas in the Township of Bridgewater, and more particularly, but without limitation, to reduce the peculiar hazards which exist in hillside areas by reason of erosion, siltation, flooding, soil slippage, surface water runoff, pollution of potable water supplies from nonpoint sources, destruction of unique and predominant views, and it is a further purpose of this Article XXXIV to encourage appropriate planning, design and development sites within hillside areas which preserve and maximize the best use of the natural terrain and maintain ridgelines and skylines intact.

#### [§ 126-161. Buffering, landscaping and open space.](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960653#8960653)

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960654#8960654) Buffering.

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960655#8960655) Buffering shall be located around the perimeter of the site to minimize headlights of vehicles, noise, light from structures, the movement of people and vehicles and to shield activities from adjacent properties when necessary. Buffering may consist of fencing, evergreens, shrubs, berms, rocks, boulders, mounds, bushes, deciduous trees or combinations thereof to achieve the stated objectives.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960656#8960656) As stated in the Master Plan's land use plan element, extensive buffering will be required where intensive land uses abut less intensive uses and where transition in land use types is not feasible. Existing natural vegetation, if appropriate for the above-stated purposes, can be retained as suitable buffering.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960657#8960657) Landscaping.

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960658#8960658) Landscaping shall be provided as part of the overall site plan design and integrated into building arrangements, topography, parking and buffering requirements. Landscaping shall include trees, bushes, shrubs, ground cover, perennials, annuals, plants, sculpture, art and the use of building and paving materials in an imaginative manner.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960659#8960659) As stated in the Master Plan's land use plan element, the existing sense and appearance of the semirural, natural scenic qualities of the Township will be retained in site development. Such techniques as clustering, ample setbacks from main roads, retention of existing vegetation and narrow minor road widths will be employed.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960660#8960660) Open space.

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960661#8960661) Open space shall be provided as part of any planned development or cluster development. The open space should be classified as developed (recreational) or undeveloped (natural) space.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960662#8960662) Open space can serve as a buffer or help integrate buildings and uses. A reception facility or park can be used to integrate a project with the surrounding neighborhood.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960663#8960663) Developed open space should average between 500 to 1,000 square feet per dwelling unit. Developments designed for families with children should have more formal recreation facilities than those for single householders or couples.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960664#8960664) Developed open space used for active recreational use should not be less than 2,000 square feet in area nor less than 60 feet in its smallest dimension. It should be distributed in relation to the dwelling units it is intended to serve. Developed open space should not be isolated in one corner of a project, and all developed open space should be linked to all other open spaces by walkway systems.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960653#8960665#8960665) Undeveloped open spaces should have as a prime objective the preservation of a site's natural amenities. Ponds, rock outcroppings, wooded areas, vistas, steep slopes, ravines and stream beds are prime lands recommended for undeveloped open space

#### [§ 126-34. Form.](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960261#8960261)

**[Amended 10-7-1985 by Ord. No. 85-32]**

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960262#8960262) Whenever an application for development to the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment is permitted or required by this chapter, it shall be in such form and accompanied by such maps, documents and materials as are prescribed by this chapter and shall be submitted to the administrative officer in such numbers as is prescribed by rule of the Board.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960263#8960263) The administrative officer shall prepare and furnish to applicants standard application forms, which shall require the following information:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960264#8960264) The applicant's name, address and telephone number.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960265#8960265) The owner's name, address and telephone number.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960266#8960266) The interest of the applicant in the property.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960267#8960267) The ownership of the applicant.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960268#8960268) The name, address and telephone number of the applicant's attorney, if represented.

[(6)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960269#8960269) The street address of the property.

[(7)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960270#8960270) The tax lot and block number of the property.

[(8)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960271#8960271) The zone district in which the property is situated.

[(9)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960272#8960272) The description of the property.

[(10)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960273#8960273) The description of the proposed development.

[(11)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960274#8960274) The type of application.

[(12)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960275#8960275) The specific relief requested.

[(13)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960276#8960276) Sufficient information to facilitate review of the proposed development in light of the criteria and standards applicable to the application for development.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960277#8960277) Administrative appeal, variance and/or design waiver application. All plats shall be based on accurate information at a scale of not less than one inch equal 50 feet with a North arrow and graphic scale; the size of the map shall be 24 inches by 36 inches, or 36 inches by 48 inches and shall meet the following requirements and show or include the following information (except that the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment or its Planner may waive any requirement or request additional information where it is clearly appropriate to the particular application):

**[Added 7-7-2005 by Ord. No. 05-41]**

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960278#8960278) Copies of submissions and fees.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960279#8960279) Twenty-four copies of the application form, checklists, fee schedule with calculations, property deed, plat plans prepared by a New Jersey licensed surveyor or architect and all other documentation requested herein shall be submitted. All documents submitted must be collated into 24 sets.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960280#8960280) In the alternative, the applicant may choose to submit three full sets of documents for completeness review only. When the documents submitted comply with this admission requirement, the Township will notify the applicant to submit the other 21 sets in order to be deemed complete. This option is made available to applicants in an effort to save resources expended on numerous plans that may need to be revised and submitted.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960281#8960281) All fees (both application and escrow) must be paid.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960282#8960282) Survey. There shall be submitted a legible original survey signed and sealed by a New Jersey licensed surveyor, plus 24 copies.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960283#8960283) Lots.

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960284#8960284) All variance types sought must be listed; all designed waivers sought must be listed; a specific articulation of the appeal from the administrative officer must be stated; the special question must be specifically articulated.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960285#8960285) Improved lot coverage information, where necessary, must reflect the ordinance requirement, existing and proposed lot area, lot width, side yard (one), side yard (total of both), front yard, rear yard and, with respect to accessory structures, the side yard and rear yard.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960286#8960286) Lot lines shall be shown with dimensions and bearings and the lot area shown in total square feet. The lot area must not include areas within an existing or proposed right-of-way.

[(d)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960287#8960287) Letters and other supporting documentation must be submitted demonstrating that the applicant has attempted to purchase adjacent land to make the lot conforming. Proof must be submitted that the variance will not be detrimental to the neighborhood and adjacent residences.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960288#8960288) Applicant identification. The applicant's name, address, phone number, fax number, lot(s), block(s), current zoning district, total square feet of all structures and the date of the application.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960289#8960289) Neighboring property identification. The tax block and lot numbers and names and addresses with respect to all properties abutting the property as well as all properties across the street. This shall include the locations of all structures on all adjoining properties, including the dimensions to property lines.

[(6)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960290#8960290) Easements and rights-of-way. Copies of all present deeds relevant to the property, including deeds of easement and rights-of-way, shall be submitted.

[(7)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960291#8960291) Streams and drainage ditches. All existing physical features on the site and within 200 feet thereof, including streams, watercourses and drainage ditches within 200 feet. If there are none, this must be noted on the plans.

[(8)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960292#8960292) Structures and woodlands. The location of all buildings and structures, trees, hedges and fences with dimensions to the property lines. All proposed structures or structural alterations with dimensions from the property line shall be shown.

[(9)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960293#8960293) Parking areas. The location and arrangement of parking areas and driveways within 100 feet of the property.

[(10)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960294#8960294) Key map. A key map of the site with reference to surrounding areas, zoning district(s) and existing street locations within 200 feet of the site. The scale shall not exceed one inch equal 800 feet.

[(11)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960295#8960295) Architectural plans. Architectural plans, including proposed elevations, dimensions, floor layout, square footage, number of stories and facade signs.

[(12)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960296#8960296) Fees. All fees, both application and escrow, must be paid in full. A fee schedule with calculations shall be submitted, including a signed W-9.

[(13)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960297#8960297) Zone chart. A zone chart showing zone requirements for all setbacks, impervious coverage, FAR, building coverage, building height and parking. The chart is to show what is provided for. Graphic representations for setbacks are required.

[(14)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960298#8960298) Signature block. There shall be a signature block for the Board Engineer, Board Chairman and Board Secretary to sign.

[(15)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960299#8960299) Tax certification. There shall be submitted a certification from the Tax Collector that all taxes have been paid to date on the property pursuant to § [**126-226B**](http://ecode360.com/8961114#8961114) of the Township Municipal Code.

[(16)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960300#8960300) Ownership. If the property owner is a corporation or partnership, there shall be a list of all owners who own 10% or more of the stock or 10% or more of a partnership interest.

[(17)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960301#8960301) Referral of application to adjoining municipalities. If the application involves a request for a subdivision or site plan approval, a copy of the full application packet must be submitted to the Borough of Somerville and the Borough of Raritan, along with proof of submission mailing.

[(18)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960302#8960302) Documents required. If the application involves a request for a subdivision or site plan approval, the following documents must be submitted:

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960303#8960303) An environmental impact statement as required under § [**126-270**](http://ecode360.com/8961527#8961527) of the Township Code. Waivers are not permitted from this requirement if any slopes on-site exceed 15% or if the property is in floodplain area.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960304#8960304) A stormwater control plan in accordance with Part 2, Article XXXVII of Chapter [**126**](http://ecode360.com/8959907#8959907) (Land Use) of the Township Municipal Code.

[(c)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960305#8960305) Hillside development calculations in accordance with Part 11, Article XXXIV of Chapter [**126**](http://ecode360.com/8959907#8959907) (Land Use) of the Township Municipal Code.

[(19)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960306#8960306) Checklist form. All the requirements set forth hereinabove are contained in Form #3E entitled "Appeal or Variance Application Only" or Form #4 entitled "Variance and Design Waiver Report," which is set forth, in its entirety, in § [**126-34.1**](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960308#8960308) entitled "Application/checklist: appeal, variance and/or design waiver" of Article VI (Application and Appeals to Planning Board and Board of Adjustment), of Part 4 (Administration and Procedure in general) of Chapter [**126**](http://ecode360.com/8959907#8959907) (Land Use) of the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater.

[(20)](http://ecode360.com/8960261#8960307#8960307) Waiver. The applicant may request that one or more of the submission requirements be waived; however, the request must be in writing and state the reason for the waiver request. If the submission waiver is honored during completeness review, the Board still has the right to request the same information during the hearing process, in addition to any other information they deemed necessary for proper review of the application.

#### [§ 126-245. Conservation, erosion and sediment control.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961339#8961339)

Measures used to control erosion and reduce sediment shall as a minimum meet the standards, specifications and recommendations of the Somerset County Soil Conservation District and the Township of Bridgewater. The following measures shall be included, where applicable, in the soil erosion and sedimentation control plan:

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961340#8961340) Stripping of vegetation, regrading or other development shall be done in such a way as to minimize erosion.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961341#8961341) Development shall preserve salient natural features, keeping cut-fill operations to a minimum, and ensure conformity with topography so as to create the least erosion potential and adequately handle the volume and velocity of surface water runoff.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961342#8961342) When feasible, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected and supplemented.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961343#8961343) The disturbed area and the duration of exposure shall be kept to a practical minimum.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961344#8961344) Disturbed soils shall be stabilized as soon as practical.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961345#8961345) Temporary vegetation or mulching shall be used to protect exposed critical areas during development.

[G.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961346#8961346) The permanent (final) vegetation and mechanical erosion control measures shall be installed as soon as practical in the development.

[H.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961347#8961347) Provisions shall be made to effectively accommodate the increased runoff caused by changed soil and surface conditions during and after development. Where necessary, the rate of surface water runoff will be mechanically retarded.

[I.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961348#8961348) Until the disturbed area is stabilized, sediment in the runoff water shall be trapped by the use of debris basins, sediment basins, silt traps or other acceptable methods.

[J.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961349#8961349) Whenever sedimentation is caused by stripping vegetation, regrading or other development, it shall be the responsibility of the developer causing such sedimentation to remove it from all adjoining surfaces, drainage systems and watercourses and to repair any damage at his expense as quickly as possible.

[K.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961350#8961350) Maintenance of all drainage facilities and watercourses within any major subdivision is the responsibility of the developer until they are accepted by the Township of Bridgewater or other approving agency.

[L.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961351#8961351) It is the responsibility of any person doing any act on or across a communal stream, watercourse or swale or upon the floodway or right-of-way thereof to maintain as nearly as possible in its present state the stream, watercourse, swale, floodway or right-of-way during the duration of such activity and to return it to its original or equal condition after such activity is completed.

[M.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961352#8961352) Maintenance of drainage facilities or watercourses originating and completely on private property is the responsibility of the owner to the point of open discharge at the property line or at a communal watercourse within the property.

[N.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961353#8961353) No person shall block, divert, disturb, impede the flow of, alter or construct any structure or deposit any material or thing or commit any act which will affect normal or flood flow in any communal stream or watercourse without having obtained prior approval from the Township of Bridgewater and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Resources.

[O.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961354#8961354) Rights-of-way or easements having a minimum width of 20 feet shall be provided for all drainage facilities and watercourses which are proposed for acceptance by the Township of Bridgewater or other official agency.

[P.](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961355#8961355) Each person who makes any surface changes shall be required to:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961356#8961356) Collect on-site surface runoff and dispose of it into the common natural watercourse of the drainage area.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8961339#8961357#8961357) Handle existing off-site runoff through his development by designing the stormwater system to adequately handle storm runoff from a fully developed area upstream

#### [§ 175-30. Discharge of water into sewers.](http://ecode360.com/9054319#9054319#9054319)

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any stormwater, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, subsurface drainage, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer.

#### [§ 126-118. Form and elements.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960482#8960482)

The Master Plan shall generally comprise a report or statement and land use and development proposals, with maps, diagrams and text, presenting where appropriate the following elements:

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960483#8960483) A statement of objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical, economic and social development of the municipality are based.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960484#8960484) A land use plan element:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960485#8960485) Taking into account the other Master Plan elements and natural conditions, including but not necessarily limited to topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, floodplain areas, marshes and woodlands.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960486#8960486) Showing the existing and proposed location, extent and intensity of development of land to be used in the future for varying types of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, educational and other public and private purposes or combination of purposes.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960487#8960487) Including a statement of the standards of population density and development intensity recommended for the municipality.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960488#8960488) A housing plan element, including but not limited to residential standards and proposals for the construction and improvement of housing.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960489#8960489) A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about and through the municipality.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960490#8960490) A utility service plan element analyzing the need for and showing the future general location of water supply and distribution facilities, drainage and flood control facilities, sewerage and waste treatment, solid waste disposal and provision for other related utilities.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960491#8960491) All community facilities plan element showing the location and type of educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, firehouses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas.

[G.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960492#8960492) A recreation plan element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation.

[H.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960493#8960493) A conservation plan element providing for the preservation, conservation and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, open space, water, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, wildlife and other natural resources.

[I.](http://ecode360.com/8960482#8960494#8960494) Appendixes or separate reports containing the technical foundation for the Master Plan and its constituent elements

126-2{44} also 126-2

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

An interest in land that restricts use of the designated area to that of conservation in perpetuity, the purpose being to retain the area in its natural state.

**[Added 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33**

126-278.2{3} also 126-228

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT**

A portion of land dedicated for designated conservation purposes and designated as such on any recorded deed, plot plan and/or as otherwise identified and delineated in any site plan.

126-2{209} also 126-2

**STANDARDS**

The Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey as promulgated by the State Soil Conservation Commission.

**STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE**

Standards adopted by this chapter regulating noise levels, glare, earthborne or sonic vibrations, heat, electronic or atomic radiation, noxious odors, toxic matters, explosive and flammable matters, smoke and airborne particles, waste discharge, screening of unsightly objects or conditions and such other similar matters as may be reasonably required by the Township, or standards required by applicable federal or state laws or municipal ordinances.

[**§ 126-197. Environmental Considerations.**](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960937#8960937)

The site plan shall be designed in accordance with applicable Township regulations designed to protect the environment. These include but are not limited to Stormwater Management and Floodplain Ordinance, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance and Hillside Development Ordinance. *Editor's Note: See Part 11, Special Environmental Requirements.*

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960938#8960938) Conservation, erosion and sediment control. The following measures shall be included where applicable as part of any site plan review and approval:

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960939#8960939) Stripping of vegetation, regrading or other development shall be done in such a way as to minimize erosion.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960940#8960940) Development shall preserve salient natural features, keep cut-fill operations to a minimum and ensure conformity with topography so as to create the least erosion potential and adequately handle the volume and velocity of surface water runoff.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960941#8960941) Whenever feasible, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected and supplemented.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960942#8960942) The disturbed area and the duration of exposure shall be kept to a practical minimum.

[(5)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960943#8960943) Disturbed soils shall be stabilized as quickly as practicable.

[(6)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960944#8960944) Temporary vegetation or mulching shall be used to protect exposed critical areas during development.

[(7)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960945#8960945) The permanent (final) vegetation and mechanical erosion control measures shall be installed as soon as practical on the site.

[(8)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960946#8960946) Provisions shall be made to effectively accommodate the increased runoff caused by changed soil and surface conditions during and after development. Where necessary, the rate of surface water runoff will be mechanically retarded.

[(9)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960947#8960947) Until the disturbed area is stabilized, sediment in the runoff water shall be trapped by the use of debris basins, sediment basins, silt traps or other acceptable methods.

[(10)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960948#8960948) Whenever sedimentation is caused by stripping vegetation, regrading or other development, it shall be the responsibility of the developer causing such sedimentation to remove it from all adjoining surfaces, drainage systems and watercourses and to repair any damage at his expense as quickly as possible.

[(11)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960949#8960949) Maintenance of all drainage facilities and watercourses within any project shall remain the responsibility of the developer unless they are accepted by the Township of Bridgewater or some other governmental agency.

[(12)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960950#8960950) It is the responsibility of any person doing any act on or across a communal stream, watercourse or swale or upon the floodway or right-of-way thereof to maintain as nearly as possible in its present state the stream, watercourse, swale, floodway or right-of-way during the duration of such activity and to return it to its original or equal condition after such activity is completed.

[(13)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960951#8960951) Maintenance of drainage facilities or watercourses originating and completely on private property is the responsibility of the owner to the point of open discharge at the property line or at a communal watercourse within the property.

[(14)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960952#8960952) No person shall block, divert, disturb, impede the flow of, alter or construct any structure or deposit any material or thing or commit any act which will affect normal or flood flow in an communal stream or watercourse without having obtained prior approval from the Township of Bridgewater and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Resources.

[(15)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960953#8960953) Each person who makes any surface changes shall be required to:

[(a)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960954#8960954) Collect on-site surface runoff and dispose of it into the common natural watercourse of the drainage area.

[(b)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960955#8960955) Handle existing off-site runoff through his development by designing the stormwater system to adequately handle storm runoff from a fully developed area upstream.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960956#8960956) Site conditions.

[(1)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960957#8960957) During construction. During construction, the site shall be maintained and left each day in a safe and sanitary manner, and any condition which could lead to personal injury or property damage shall be immediately corrected by the subdivider upon an order by the Building Inspector or other authorized personnel. Developer shall make provision for disposal of oil and grease from equipment. Site area should be regularly sprayed to eliminate dirt from construction activity.

[(2)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960958#8960958) Disposal of dead trees, litter, building materials. Developed areas shall be cleared of all stumps, litter, rubbish, brush, weeds, dead and dying trees, roots and debris, and excess or scrap building materials shall be removed or destroyed immediately upon the request of and to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector prior to issuing an occupancy permit.

[(3)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960959#8960959) Changes in elevation. No change shall be made in the elevation or contour of any lot or site by the removal of earth to another lot or site other than as shown on an approved site plan. Minimal changes in elevations or contours necessitated by field conditions may be made only after approval by the Township Engineer. All said changes necessitated by field conditions shall be shown on the final plat and indicated as a change from the preliminary, or if final approval has been granted, said changed shall be shown on the as-built plans.

[(4)](http://ecode360.com/8960937#8960960#8960960) Temporary improvements. Prior to or during construction, the Township Engineer may require the installation or construction of improvements to prevent or correct temporary conditions on the site which could cause personal injury, damage to property or constitute a health hazard. These conditions may result from erosion and landslide, flooding, heavy construction traffic, creation of steep grades and pollution. Improvements may include berms, mulching, sediment traps, detention and retention basins, grading, plantings, retaining walls, culverts, pipes, guardrails, temporary roads and others appropriate to the specific condition. All temporary improvements shall remain in place and in operation until otherwise directed by the Township Engineer.

#### [§ 212-1. Purpose.](http://ecode360.com/9054826#9054826#9054826)

This chapter requires all owners of nonresidential potable and nonpotable wells within the Township to test their water annually for certain toxic chemicals and report the laboratory test results to the Township Division of Health, and also regulates the construction and certification of all new potable water wells. The regulations provided in this chapter are intended to protect the health of consumers of well water in the Township of Bridgewater, provide information to enable the community to monitor groundwater quality and assure that all new potable water wells meet certain construction and water quality standards.

126-2{7} also 126-2

**ALTERATION OF FRESHWATER WETLANDS**

The following activities shall constitute "alteration of freshwater wetlands":

**[Added 9-19-1985 by Ord. No. 85-27]**

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959935#8959935) The removal, excavation or dredging of soil, sand or gravel or aggregate material of any kind.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959936#8959936) The draining or disturbance of the water level or water table.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959937#8959937) Dumping, discharging or filling with any materials.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959938#8959938) The driving of pilings, or the erection of buildings or structures of any kind.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959939#8959939) The placing of obstructions, whether or not they interfere with the flow of water.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/8959934#8959940#8959940) The destruction of plant life, including the cutting of trees, which could result in harm to freshwater wetlands.

114-34{3} also 114-34

**INDUSTRIAL WASTE**

Nondomestic waste, including, but not limited to, those pollutants regulated under Section 307(a), (b) or (c) of the Federal Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. § 1317(a), (b) or (c)].

#### [§ 175-32. Prohibited discharges.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054321#9054321)

Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any of the following described waters or wastes to any public sewer:

[A.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054322#9054322) Any liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 150º F.

[B.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054323#9054323) Any water or waste which may contain more than 100 parts per million, by weight, of fat, oil or grease.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054324#9054324) Any gasoline, benzene, naphtha, fuel oil or other flammable or explosive liquid, solid or gas.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054325#9054325) Any garbage that has not been properly shredded.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054326#9054326) Any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, feathers, tar, plastics, wood, paunch manure or any other solid or viscous substance capable of causing obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with the proper operation of the sewage works.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054327#9054327) Any waters or wastes having a pH lower than 5.5 or higher than 9.0 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment and personnel of the sewage works.

[G.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054328#9054328) Any waters or wastes containing a toxic or poisonous substance in sufficient quantity to injure or interfere with any sewage treatment process, constitute a hazard to humans or animals or create any hazard in the receiving waters of the sewage treatment plant.

[H.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054329#9054329) Any waters or wastes containing suspended solids of such character and quantity that unusual attention or expense is required to handle such materials at the sewage treatment plant.

[I.](http://ecode360.com/9054321#9054330#9054330) Any noxious or malodorous gas or substance capable of creating a public nuisance.

[**§ 126-281. Runoff control details.**](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961705#8961705)

In order to duplicate as nearly as possible natural drainage conditions, the regulation and control of stormwater runoff and erosion for any land area to be developed shall be through on-site water detention and/or ground absorption systems, which include but are not limited to the following;

[A.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961706#8961706) Detention areas, which may be excavated basins, basins created through use of curbs, stabilized earth berms or dikes or any other form of grading which serves to temporarily impound and store water.

**[Amended 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[B.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961707#8961707) Rooftop storage through temporary impoundment and storage of stormwater on flat or slightly pitched building rooftops by use of drain outlets which restrict the stormwater runoff from the roof surface.

[C.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961708#8961708) Dry wells or leaching basins which control stormwater runoff through ground absorption and temporary storage.

[D.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961709#8961709) Porous asphaltic pavement, which preserves the natural ground absorption capacity of a site and provides a subsurface reservoir for temporary storage of stormwater.

[E.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961710#8961710) Any system of porous media, such as gravel trenches drained by porous wall or perforated pipe, which temporarily stores and dissipates stormwater through ground absorption.

[F.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961711#8961711) Any combination of the abovementioned techniques which serves to limit stormwater runoff from a given site to conform to the requirements of § [**126-280**](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961700#8961700), Runoff standards.

**[Amended 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

[G.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961712#8961712) Preservation of natural vegetation.

[H.](http://ecode360.com/8961705#8961713#8961713) Plantings and trees shall not be used in detention basins.

**[Added 11-18-1991 by Ord. No. 91-33]**

126-285.2{12} also 126-285

**ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS**

An area or feature which is of significant environmental value, including but not limited to stream corridors; natural heritage priority sites; habitat of endangered or threatened species; large areas of contiguous open space or upland forest; steep slopes; and wellhead protection and groundwater recharge areas. Habitats of endangered or threatened species are identified, using the Department's Landscape Project as approved by the Department's Endangered and Nongame Species Program