ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAKEWOOD, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO AMEND CHAPTER XVIII ENTITLED “UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF 2005” TO AMEND AND CREATE VARIOUS SECTIONS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lakewood, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter XVIII of the Township Code of the Township of Lakewood, entitled “Unified Development Ordinance of 2005,” is hereby amended so as to add Section 18-901 A. 44, which shall now read as follows:

§18-901. ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONING DISTRICTS AND ZONING MAP.

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44. RBC Riparian Buffer Conservation Overlay

SECTION 2. Chapter XVIII of the Township Code of the Township of Lakewood, entitled “Unified Development Ordinance of 2005,” is hereby amended so as to create Article 18-902 V, entitled “Riparian Buffer Conservation Overlay Zone,” which shall read as follows:

§18-902V. RIPARIAN BUFFER CONSERVATION OVERLAY ZONE

§18-902 V-1. INTENT AND PURPOSE

The governing body of the Township of Lakewood finds that riparian lands adjacent to streams, lakes, or other surface water bodies that are adequately vegetated provide an important environmental protection and water resource management benefit. It is necessary to protect and maintain the beneficial character of riparian areas by implementing specifications for the establishment, protection, and maintenance of vegetation along the surface water bodies within the jurisdiction of Township of Lakewood, consistent with the interest of landowners in making reasonable economic use of parcels of land that include such designated areas. The purpose of this Ordinance is to designate riparian zones, and to provide for land use regulation therein for those riparian zones in order to protect the streams, lakes, and other surface water bodies of the Township of Lakewood; to protect the water quality of watercourses, reservoirs, lakes, and other significant water resources within the Township of Lakewood; to protect the riparian and aquatic ecosystems of the Township of Lakewood; to provide for the environmentally sound use of the land resources of the
Township of Lakewood, and to complement existing state, regional, county, and municipal stream corridor protection and management regulations and initiatives.

The specific purposes and intent of this Ordinance are to:

A. Restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the water resources of the Township of Lakewood;

B. Prevent excessive nutrients, sediment, and organic matter, as well as biocides and other pollutants, from reaching surface waters by optimizing opportunities for filtration, deposition, absorption, adsorption, plant uptake, biodegradation, and de-nitrification, which occur when stormwater runoff is conveyed through vegetated buffers as stable, distributed flow prior to reaching receiving waters;

C. Provide for shading of the aquatic environment so as to moderate temperatures, retain more dissolved oxygen, and support a healthy assemblage of aquatic flora and fauna;

D. Provide for the availability of natural organic matter (leaves and twigs) and large woody debris (trees and limbs) that provide food and habitat for aquatic organisms (insects, amphibians, crustaceans, and small fish), which are essential to maintain the food chain;

E. Increase stream bank stability and maintain natural fluvial geomorphology of the stream system, thereby reducing stream bank erosion and sedimentation and protecting habitat for aquatic organisms;

F. Maintain base flows in streams and moisture in wetlands;

G. Control downstream flooding; and

H. Conserve the natural features important to land and water resources, e.g., headwater areas, ground water recharge zones, floodways, floodplains, springs, streams, wetlands, woodlands, and prime wildlife habitats.

§18-902 V-2. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The municipality of the Township of Lakewood is empowered to regulate land uses under the provisions of the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A 40:55D-1 et seq., which authorizes each municipality to plan and regulate land use to protect public health, safety and welfare by protecting and maintaining native vegetation in riparian areas. The Township of Lakewood is also empowered to adopt and implement this Ordinance under provisions provided by the following legislative authorities of the State of New Jersey:

A. Water Pollution Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq.
§18-902 V-3. DEFINITIONS

Acid producing soils means soils that contain geologic deposits of iron sulfide minerals (pyrite and marcasite) which, when exposed to oxygen from the air or from surface waters, oxidize to produce sulfuric acid. Acid producing soils, upon excavation, generally have a pH of 4.0 or lower. After exposure to oxygen, these soils generally have a pH of 3.0 or lower. Information regarding the location of acid producing soils in New Jersey can be obtained from local Soil Conservation District offices.

Administrative authority means the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment or Construction Office with all of the powers delegated, assigned, or assumed by them according to statute or ordinance.

Applicant means a person, corporation, government body or other legal entity applying to the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment or the Construction Office proposing to engage in an activity that is regulated by the provisions of this ordinance, and that would be located in whole or in part within a regulated Riparian Zone.

Category One waters or C1 waters shall have the meaning ascribed to this term by the Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B, for purposes of implementing the anti-degradation policies set forth in those standards, for protection from measurable changes in water quality characteristics because of their clarity, color, scenic setting, and other characteristics of aesthetic value, exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional water supply significance, or exceptional fisheries resources.

Category Two waters or C2 waters means those waters not designated as Outstanding Natural Resource waters or Category One waters in the Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B, for purposes of implementing the anti-degradation policies set forth in those standards.

Floodway shall have the meaning ascribed to this term by the Flood Hazard Area Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:16A-50 et seq., and regulations promulgated there under published at N.J.A.C. 7:13 et seq., and any supplementary or successor legislation and regulations from time to time enacted or promulgated.

Intermittent Stream means a surface water body with definite bed and banks in which there is not a permanent flow of water and shown on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System (GIS) hydrography coverages.

Lake, pond, or reservoir means any surface water body shown on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System (GIS)
hydrography coverages or, in the case of C1 waters as shown on the USGS quadrangle map or in the County Soil Surveys; that is an impoundment, whether naturally occurring or created in whole or in part by the building of structures for the retention of surface water. This excludes sedimentation control and stormwater retention/detention basins and ponds designed for treatment of wastewater.

**Perennial stream** means a surface water body that flows continuously throughout the year in most years and shown on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System (GIS) hydrography coverages or, in the case of C1 waters as shown on the USGS quadrangle map or in the County Soil Surveys.

**Riparian zone** means the land and vegetation within and directly adjacent to all surface water bodies including, but not limited to lakes, ponds, reservoirs, perennial and intermittent streams, up to and including their point of origin, such as seeps and springs, as shown on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s GIS hydrography coverages or, in the case of C1 waters as shown on the USGS quadrangle map or in the County Soil Surveys.

**Riparian Zone Management Plan** means a plan approved by the Engineer of the Township of Lakewood. The plan shall be prepared by a landscape architect, professional engineer or other qualified professional, and shall evaluate the effects of any proposed activity/uses on any riparian zone. The plan shall identify existing conditions, all proposed activities, and all proposed management techniques, including any measures necessary to offset disturbances to any affected riparian zone.

**Surface water body(ies)** means any perennial stream, intermittent stream, lake, pond, or reservoir, as defined herein. In addition, any regulated water under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:13-2.2, or State open waters identified in a Letter of Interpretation issued under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7A-3 by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Land Use Regulation shall also be considered surface water bodies.


**Trout maintenance water** means a section of water designated as trout maintenance in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B.

**Trout production water** means a section of water identified as trout production in
the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B.

§18-902 V-4. ESTABLISHMENT OF RIPARIAN ZONES

A. Riparian zones adjacent to all surface water bodies shall be protected from avoidable disturbance and shall be delineated as follows:

1. The riparian zone shall be 300 feet wide along both sides of any Category One water (C1 water), and all upstream tributaries situated within the same HUC 14 watershed.

2. The riparian zone shall be 150 feet wide along both sides of the following waters not designated as C1 waters:
   a. Any trout production water and all upstream waters (including tributaries);
   b. Any trout maintenance water and all upstream waters (including tributaries) within one linear mile as measured along the length of the surface water body; and,
   c. Any segment of a water flowing through an area that contains a threatened or endangered species, and/or present or documented habitat for those species, which is critically dependent on the regulated water for survival, and all upstream waters (including tributaries) within one mile of such habitat (measured along the length of the regulated water).

3. For all other regulated waters, a riparian zone of 50 feet wide shall be maintained along both sides of the water.

B. The portion of the riparian zone that lies outside of a surface water body is measured landward from the top of bank. If a discernible bank is not present along a regulated water, the portion of the riparian zone outside the regulated water is measured landward as follows:

1. Along a linear fluvial or tidal water, such as a stream or swale, the riparian zone is measured landward of the feature's centerline;

2. Along a non-linear fluvial water, such as a lake or pond, the riparian zone is measured landward of the normal water surface limit;

3. Along a non-linear tidal water, such as a bay or inlet, the riparian zone is measured landward of the mean high water line; and

4. Along an amorphously-shaped feature such as a wetland complex, through which water flows but which lacks a definable channel, the riparian zone is measured landward of the feature's centerline. Where
slopes (in excess of 15 percent) are located within the designated widths, the riparian zone shall be extended to include the entire distance of this sloped area to a maximum of 300 feet.

For areas, adjacent to surface water bodies for which the floodway has been delineated per the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:13-3 or the State's adopted floodway delineations, the riparian zone shall cover the entire floodway area, or the area described in Section 11.4 above, whichever area has the greatest extent. Requests for alterations to the adopted delineations can be provided to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for consideration if site specific information is available.

C. A riparian zone is an overlay to the existing zoning districts. The provisions of the underlying district shall remain in full force except where the provisions of the riparian zone differ from the provisions of the underlying district, in which case the provision that is more restrictive shall apply. These provisions apply to land disturbances resulting from or related to any activity or use requiring application for any of the following permits or approvals:

- Building permit
- Zoning variance
- Conditional use
- Subdivision/site plan/land development approval

D. A map of the riparian zones of the entire municipality of Lakewood Township that the town may be aware of, including all land and water areas within its boundaries, which designates surface water bodies, is included as part of this Ordinance, and is appended as Figure 1.0. Maps of the municipality on which these designations have been overlain shall be on file and maintained by the offices of the Clerk of the Township of Lakewood.

E. The applicant or designated representative shall be responsible for the initial determination of the presence of a riparian zone on a site, and for identifying the area on any plan submitted to the Township of Lakewood in conjunction with an application for a construction permit, subdivision, land development, or other improvement that requires plan submissions or permits. This initial determination shall be subject to review and approval by the municipal engineer and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

F. The municipal Master Plan provides the legal basis for zoning and land use regulation at the local level. The technical foundation for local riparian
zones in this municipality should be incorporated into the Master Plan. A technical report on the need for riparian zones in the Township of Lakewood may be adopted as part of the Master Plan, N.J.S.A 40:55D-28b(11). The technical report should include the following information: a statement setting forth the rationale and need to protect riparian zones; and reference to the methods used to designate and delineate riparian zones.

G. Exemptions
Instead of the riparian zone protection requirements above, the applicant must demonstrate compliance with one of the following:

1. The proposed disturbance in a riparian zone is for a linear development with no feasible alternative route. If the riparian zone is associated with Category One waters, the linear development must also meet the requirements for disturbance of a riparian zone under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules N.J.A.C. 7:13;

2. The proposed disturbance in a riparian zone is in accordance with a stream corridor restoration or stream bank stabilization plan or project approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection;

3. The proposed disturbance of a riparian zone is necessary to provide for public pedestrian access or water dependent recreation that meets the requirements of the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7A, the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13, or the Coastal Zone Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7;

4. The proposed disturbance of a riparian zone is required for the remediation of hazardous substances performed with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection or Federal oversight pursuant to the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11a et seq. or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. §§9601 et seq.;

5. The proposed disturbance is for redevelopment that does not exceed the limits of existing impervious surfaces;

6. The proposed disturbance would prevent extraordinary hardship on the property owner peculiar to the property; or prevent extraordinary hardship, provided the hardship was not created by the property owner, that would not permit a minimum economically viable use of the property based upon reasonable investment; and/or

7. Demonstrate through site plans depicting proposed development and topography that new disturbance is not located in areas with a 20
percent or greater slope, except as allowed under H.6. and H.7. above.

§18-902 V-5. USES PERMITTED IN RIPARIAN ZONES

For riparian zones in Category One waters (C1 waters), permitted uses are governed the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13, unless otherwise exempt.

A. Any other riparian zone area shall remain in a natural condition or, if in a disturbed condition, including agricultural activities, at the time of adoption of this ordinance may be restored to a natural condition. There shall be no clearing or cutting of trees and brush, except for removal of dead vegetation and pruning for reasons of public safety or for the replacement of invasive species with indigenous species. There shall be no altering of watercourses, dumping of trash, soil, dirt, fill, vegetative or other debris, regrading or construction. The following uses are permitted either by right or after review and approval by the municipality in riparian zones. No new construction, development, use, activity, encroachment, or structure shall take place in a riparian zone, except as specifically authorized in this Section. The following uses shall be permitted within a riparian zone:

1. Open space uses that are primarily passive in character shall be permitted by right to extend into a riparian zone, provided near stream vegetation is preserved. These uses do not require approval by the Zoning Enforcement Officer or compliance with an approved Riparian Zone Management Plan. Such uses include wildlife sanctuaries, nature preserves, forest preserves, fishing areas, game farms, fish hatcheries and fishing reserves, operated for the protection and propagation of wildlife, but excluding structures. Such uses also include passive recreation areas of public and private parklands, including unpaved hiking, bicycle and bridle trails, provided that said trail have been stabilized with pervious materials.

2. Fences, for which a permit has been issued by the Construction Code Office, to the extent required by applicable law, rule or regulation.

3. Crossings by farm vehicles and livestock, recreational trails, roads, railroads, storm water lines, sanitary sewer lines, water lines and public utility transmission lines, provided that the land disturbance is the minimum required to accomplish the permitted use, subject to approval by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, provided that any applicable State permits are acquired, and provided that any disturbance is offset by buffer improvements in compliance with an approved Riparian Zone Management Plan and that the area of the crossing is stabilized against significant erosion due to its use as a crossing.
4. Stream bank stabilization or riparian reforestation, which conform to the guidelines of an approved Riparian Zone Management Plan, or wetlands mitigation projects that have been approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, subject to approval by the Zoning Enforcement Officer and subject to compliance with an approved Riparian Zone Management Plan.

§18-902 V-6. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR RIPARIAN ZONES

A. All encroachments proposed into riparian zones in C1 waters shall comply with the requirements of the Stormwater Management rule at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5(h) and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13, and shall be subject to review and approval by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, unless exempt.

B. For all other riparian zones, the following conditions shall apply:

1. All new major and minor subdivisions and site plans shall be designed to provide sufficient areas outside of the riparian zone to accommodate primary structures, any normal accessory uses appurtenant thereto, as well as all planned lawn areas.

2. Portions of lots within the riparian zone must be permanently restricted by deed or conservation easement held by the Township of Lakewood, its agent, or another public or private land conservation organization which has the ability to provide adequate protection to prevent adverse impacts within the riparian zone. A complete copy of the recorded conservation restriction that clearly identifies the deed book and pages where it has been recorded in the office of the clerk of the applicable county or the registrar of deeds and mortgages of the applicable county must be submitted to the municipality. The applicant shall not commence with the project or activity prior to making this submittal and receiving actual approval of the plan modification and receipt of any applicable permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The recorded conservation restriction shall be in the form approved by the municipality and shall run with the land and be binding upon the property owner and the successors in interest in the property or in any part thereof. The conservation restriction may include language reserving the right to make de minimus changes to accommodate necessary regulatory approvals upon the written consent of the municipality, provided such changes are otherwise consistent with the purpose and intent of the conservation restriction. The recorded conservation restriction shall, at a minimum, include:
a. A written narrative of the authorized regulated activity, date of issuance, and date of expiration, and the conservation restriction that, in addition, includes all of the prohibitions set forth at N.J.S.A. 13:8B-2b (1) through (7);

b. Survey plans for the property as a whole and, where applicable, for any additional properties subject to the conservation restrictions. Such survey plans shall be submitted on the surveyor’s letterhead, signed and sealed by the surveyor, and shall include metes and bounds descriptions of the property, the site, and the areas subject to the conservation restriction in New Jersey State Plane Coordinates, North American Datum 1983, and shall depict the boundaries of the site and all areas subject to the conservation restriction as marked with flags or stakes onsite. All such survey plans shall be submitted on paper and in digital CAD or GIS file on a media and format defined by the municipality. The flags or stakes shall be numbered and identified on the survey plan; and

c. A copy or copies of deeds for the property as a whole that indicate the deed book and pages where it has been recorded in the office of the clerk of the applicable county or the registrar of deeds and mortgages of the applicable county.

3. Any lands proposed for development which include all or a portion of a riparian zone shall as a condition of any major subdivision or major site plan approval, provide for the vegetation or re-vegetation of any portions of the riparian zone which are not vegetated at the time of the application or which were disturbed by prior land uses, including for agricultural use. Said vegetation plan shall utilize native and non-invasive tree and plant species to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with an approved Riparian Zone Management Plan.

4. For building lots which exist as of the date of adoption of this ordinance, but for which a building permit or a preliminary site plan approval has not been obtained or is no longer valid, the required minimum front, side, and rear setbacks may extend into the riparian zone, provided that a deed restriction and/or conservation easement is applied which prohibits clearing or construction in the riparian zone.

5. All stormwater shall be discharged outside of but may flow through a riparian zone and shall comply with the Standard For Off-Site Stability in the “Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey”, established under the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, N.J.S.A. 4:24-39 et seq. (see N.J.A.C. 2:90-1.3.)
6. If stormwater discharged outside of and flowing through a riparian zone cannot comply with the Standard for Off-Site Stability, then the proposed stabilization measures must meet the requirements of the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules at N.J.A.C. 7:13-10.2 et seq., and have an approved flood hazard area permit.

§18-902 V-7. NONCONFORMING STRUCTURES AND USES IN RIPARIAN ZONES

Nonconforming structures and uses of land within the riparian zone are subject to the following requirements:

A. Legally existing but nonconforming structures or uses may be continued.

B. Any proposed enlargement or expansion of the building footprint within the riparian zone of a C1 water shall comply with the standards in the Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5(h) and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13.

C. For all other riparian zones:

1. Encroachment within the riparian zone shall only be allowed where previous development or disturbance has occurred and shall be in conformance with the Stormwater Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8, and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13.

2. Existing impervious cover shall not be increased within the riparian zone, as a result of encroachments where previous development or disturbances have occurred.

3. Discontinued nonconforming uses may be resumed any time within one year from such discontinuance but not thereafter when showing clear indications of abandonment. No change or resumption shall be permitted that is more detrimental to the riparian zone, as measured against the intent and purpose of the applicable regulations than the existing or former nonconforming use. This one-year time frame shall not apply to agricultural uses that are following prescribed Best Management Practices for crop rotation. However, resumption of agricultural uses must be strictly confined to the extent of disturbance existing at the time of adoption of this ordinance.

§18-902 V-8. USES PROHIBITED IN RIPARIAN ZONES

A. Any use within a riparian zone of a C1 water shall comply with the standards in the Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5(h) and the Flood

B. For other riparian zones, any use or activity not specifically authorized in Section §18-902 V-5 or Section §18-902 V-7 shall be prohibited within the riparian zone. By way of example, the following activities and facilities are prohibited:

1. Removal or clear-cutting of trees and other vegetation or soil disturbance such as grading, except for selective vegetation removal for the purpose of stream or riparian area stabilization or restoration projects that require vegetation removal or grading prior to implementation.

2. Storage of any hazardous or noxious materials.

3. Use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and/or other chemicals in excess of prescribed industry standards or the recommendations of the Soil Conservation District.

4. Roads or driveways, except where permitted in compliance with Section V and applicable FHA rules.

5. Motor or wheeled vehicle traffic in any area, except as permitted by this Ordinance.

6. Parking lots.

7. Any type of permanent structure, except structures needed for a use permitted by §18-902 V-5.

8. New subsurface sewage disposal system areas. The expansion and replacement of existing subsurface sewage disposal system areas for existing uses is permitted.

9. Residential grounds or lawns, except as otherwise permitted pursuant to this Ordinance.

§18-902 V-9. ENFORCEMENT

A prompt investigation shall be made by the appropriate personnel of the Township of Lakewood, of any person or entity believed to be in violation hereof. If, upon inspection, a condition which is in violation of this Ordinance is discovered, a civil action in the Special Part of the Superior Court, or in the Superior Court, if the primary relief sought is injunctive or if penalties may exceed the jurisdictional limit of the Special Civil Part, by the filing and serving of appropriate process. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to preclude the right of the Township of Lakewood,
pursuant to N.J.S.A 26:3A2-25, to initiate legal proceedings hereunder in Municipal Court. The violation of any section or subsection of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate and distinct offense independent of the violation of any other section or subsection, or of any order issued pursuant to this Ordinance. Each day a violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

Actions taken in the event of non-compliance shall be governed by the General Code of the Township of Lakewood.

SECTION 3. After introduction of this ordinance, the Township Clerk shall send a copy of this ordinance to the Township Planning Board for its review and comment. The Township shall send a copy of the ordinance to the Ocean County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by law and the filing of the adopted ordinance with the Ocean County Planning Board.

SECTION 5. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by law.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Lakewood, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, held on the 22nd of June, 2017, and will be considered for second reading and final passage at the regular meeting of said Governing Body to be held on the December 7, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter can be reached, at the meeting room of the Municipal Building located at 231 Third Street Lakewood, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning this ordinance.

Kathryn Hutchinson, RMC
Township Clerk