Guidance for Tree Removal in or near Wetlands

- Hire a licensed arborist. [www.ctpa.org](http://www.ctpa.org)
- Know your property by having it staked by a licensed surveyor prior to any tree removal.
- Refer to Section 6.4 of the Planning and Zoning Regulations found online at [www.newcanaan.info](http://www.newcanaan.info) Call for additional information. (203-594-3042)
- Contact Tree Warden if the tree is on Town Property for further guidance. [Treewarden@newcanaanct.gov](mailto:Treewarden@newcanaanct.gov)

Can I remove a tree if it falls in my wetland?

If a tree falls in a wetland its removal is not required unless it is causing blockage in a watercourse or river. Leaving fallen trees creates additional wildlife habitat. If you decide to remove it, it must be hauled out by hand, as heavy equipment will damage the wetland. The stump must be left in place. The stump should be pushed back in place and cut flush with the top of the ground. If you decide to chip the tree or branches, you can use the resulting mulch for landscaping in your yard in areas that are greater than 50’ to wetlands. No tree debris is permitted to be wood chipped and blown into any portion of wetlands or within 50’ to wetlands, as it would be considered “fill”, which is not allowed.

Can I cut down trees from my wetlands?

Vegetation that is dead, dying or diseased may be removed after review by the Inland Wetlands staff. Requests are reviewed on a case by case basis and depend on many factors such as: does the subject area have a conservation easement and what does it say, how many trees will be removed, how will access be made to the area? It is recommended that you first hire a licensed arborist to evaluate the health of trees that you wish to remove. The land should be clearly marked by a licensed surveyor prior to any tree removal.

Once the trees have been identified, contact the Inland Wetlands office and site specific guidance will be provided.

Call (203) 594-3036 or email: [kathleen.holland@newcanaanct.gov](mailto:kathleen.holland@newcanaanct.gov)

What to anticipate: Once permission is obtained and because most wetlands are not easily accessible to machinery, the contractor would most likely be required to do the removal by hand. The removal would require the contractor to climb, limb down, log down and cut the tree flush with the top of the ground. All tree debris shall be removed from the wetlands and disposed of in a suitable area greater than 50’ away from the wetlands. No tree debris shall be wood chipped and blown into any portion of the wetlands and or within 50’ to wetlands. Hand raking of the existing ground is required to restore any ruts that may occur during the tree removal process.

Clearcutting of wetlands is not permitted.