

TOWNSHIP OF OHIO  
ORDINANCE NO. 209

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OHIO PROVIDING FOR  
TIMBER HARVESTING WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.

The Board of Supervisors of the Township of Ohio hereby enacts as follows:

**SECTION 1.**

It is the purpose of this ordinance to preserve forests and the economic and environmental benefits they provide, and to encourage the owners of forest land to continue to use their land for forestry purposes, including the long-term production of timber, recreation, wildlife and amenity values. The timber harvesting regulations within this ordinance are intended to further this policy by (1) promoting good forest stewardship; (2) protecting the rights of adjoining property owners; (3) minimizing the potential for adverse environmental impact; and (4) avoiding unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions on the right to practice forestry.

**SECTION 2.**

This ordinance applies to all timber harvesting within the Township of Ohio when the value of the trees, logs, or other timber products removed exceeds \$1,000.00. It does not cover the cutting of trees for the personal use of the landowner or for pre-commercial timber stand improvement.

**SECTION 3.**

Landowners on whose land timber harvesting is to occur shall prepare a written logging plan specifying the land on which the

harvesting shall occur, the expected size of the harvest area, and, as applicable, the anticipated starting and completion date of the operation. No timber harvesting shall occur until the plan has been prepared and submitted to the Township. Both the landowner and the timber harvester shall be jointly and severally responsible for complying with the terms of the logging plan. The fee for processing the logging plan shall be \$50.00 for the original plan and \$25.00 for any amendment thereto. No logging plan or amendment shall be approved until all fees have been paid.

#### SECTION 4.

At a minimum, the logging plan shall include the following:

(1) Design, construction, maintenance and retirement of the access system, including haul roads, skid roads, skid trails and log landings;

(2) Design, construction, and maintenance of water control measures and structures such as culverts, broad-based dips, filter strips and water bars;

(3) Design, construction, and maintenance of stream and wetland crossings;

(4) The general location of the proposed operation in relation to municipal and state highways, including any accesses to those highways;

(5) A site map which includes site location and boundaries, significant topographic features related to potential environmental problems, location of all earth disturbance activity such as roads, landings, and water control measures and structures, location of all crossings of water, and the general location of the proposed

operation to municipal and state highways, including any access to those highways.

(6) The logging plan shall address and comply with the requirements of all applicable state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to erosion and sedimentation control regulations, stream crossing and wetland protection regulations, and stormwater management plans and regulations. Any permits required by state law and regulation shall be attached to and become part of the logging plan.

#### SECTION 5.

The following requirements shall apply to all timber harvesting operations within the Township:

(a) Felling or skidding on or across any public roadway is prohibited without the express written consent of the Township or the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, whichever is responsible for the maintenance of said roadway;

(b) No tops or slash shall be left within twenty-five (25) feet of any public roadway or private roadway providing access to adjoining residential property;

(c) All tops and slash between twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) feet from a public roadway or private roadway providing access to adjoining residential property or within fifty (50) feet of adjoining residential property shall be lopped to a maximum height of four (4) feet above the surface of the ground;

(d) No tops or slash shall be left on or across the boundary of any property adjoining the operation without the consent of the owner thereof; and

(e) Litter resulting from a timber harvesting operation shall be removed from the site before it is vacated by the operator;

(f) Timber harvesting and related activities shall be conducted during daylight hours as defined in the Township Noise Ordinance unless otherwise authorized by the Township.

**SECTION 6.**

The landowner and operator shall be responsible for repairing any damage to Township roads caused by traffic associated with the timber harvesting operation to the extent the damage is in excess of that caused by normal traffic. The Township may require the landowner or operator to furnish a bond to guarantee the repair of said damages.

**SECTION 7.**

The Township Code Enforcement Officer, as well as the Ohio Township Police Department shall be responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance. Any parties responsible for the enforcement of this ordinance may go upon the site of any timber harvesting operation before, during, or after active logging to review the logging plan or any other required documents and inspect the operation for compliance with the logging plan and other on-site requirements of the ordinance. If the timber harvesting operation is in violation of any provision of this ordinance or of the logging plan, the Township, may, in its discretion direct an immediate suspension of any operation or direct corrective action. Any landowner who violates any provision of this ordinance and refuses to allow the Township official access to the harvest site, or fails to comply with the notice of violation or suspension order

is guilty of a summary offense and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine not in excess of \$600.00, and/or incarceration for a period of thirty (30) days for each separate offense. Each day of continued violation of any provision of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

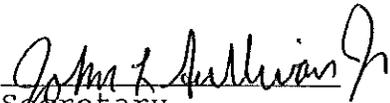
**SECTION 8.**

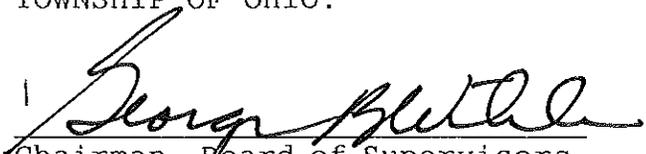
Forestry, including, but not limited to timber harvesting is a permitted use in all zoning districts within the Township.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Ohio, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at a regular meeting held on the 8th day of July, 1996.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF OHIO:

  
Secretary

  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors