

A PROPERTY OWNERS GUIDE TO:

FOREST CONSERVATION IN CECIL COUNTY



FORESTED AREAS IN CECIL COUNTY



Cecil County is comprised of 225,277 acres of beautiful countryside, 93,267 of which is in forest cover.

Forest Conservation

What is it?

Forest Conservation is “the retention of existing forest or the creation of new forest

What is the Purpose?

Forest Conservation Areas are set-aside in an effort to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Cecil County both current and future. These regulations seek to protect those forested areas of the County that exhibit functions and features necessary for the health and welfare of those living in Cecil County by retaining a healthy and ecologically diverse environment.

How are Conservation Areas selected?

All forest is important, however, the primary areas of concern are those forest buffering streams and wetlands, forest on steep slopes, and forest that are connected to other large areas of forest. By protecting these areas we will benefit from cleaner water, protect from erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Are there different types of Forest Conservation Areas?

Yes.

- *Retention* - the deliberate holding and protecting of existing trees, shrubs or plants on a site.
- *Reforestation* - creation of a biological community dominated by trees and other woody plants containing at least 100 live trees per acre planted on areas recently cleared, cut, or graded.
- *Afforestation* - Establishment of a forest on an area from which forest cover has been absent for a long period of time; or the planting of open areas which are not presently in forest cover.

What regulates Forest Conservation?

The Cecil County Forest Conservation Regulations and the Cecil County Forest Conservation Technical Manual.

Dos and Don'ts in Forest Conservation Areas

Do:

- Passive recreation such as trails for walking or horses,
- Wildlife management under the guidance of a qualified manager,
- Removal of trees for firewood
- Removal of trees to reduce the threat of wildfire damage to structures located on your property,
- Removal of dead or diseased trees or shrubs **only** if they present a health hazard to the health of the forest,
- Removal of noxious or invasive species of plants or weeds such as honeysuckle or multiflora rose,
- Timber harvest conducted under an approved Forest Management Plan,
- Please contact the Department prior to the removal of any tree or underbrush.

Don't:

Forest Conservation Areas should never be used for:

- Storage of materials,
- Dumping and/or burying of fill or other material,
- Other uses inconsistent with good forest management practices,
- Mowing is not permitted within the Forest Conservation Areas,
- Nor is the use of ATV's or other motorized devices.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a Forest Conservation Area be used as pasture land?

No. Grazing activities would be harmful to the health of the forest and therefore are not consistent with the intent of Forest Conservation. However, horseback riding trails are a permitted use within Conservation Areas

Can a shed, or other such building, be placed in a Forest Conservation Area?

No. Buildings are not permitted in Conservation Areas. The weight of the structure compacts the soil thus harming the roots. Compaction can kill the crown of the tree up to 10 years after the structure has been built.

Is hunting permitted within a Conservation Areas

Yes. Hunting and other passive recreation are suitable uses. Permanent tree stands, however, are not permitted. Also no structures or signage can be attached to trees in Conservation Areas.

Can fences be erected in Conservation Areas?

Yes. The Forest Conservation Area on your property can be fenced in accordance with applicable Zoning and Building Regulations. However, no trees may be removed in order to construct or maintain the fence.

This pamphlet is intended to be used as a guideline only.

All questions should be directed to the Cecil County Forest Conservation Administrator.



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