

A photograph of a forest path. The path is a narrow, dirt trail that winds through a lush green forest. On the left, there are several large, dark tree trunks. The ground is covered in vibrant green ferns and other forest floor vegetation. The background is filled with more trees, and a light mist or fog hangs in the air, creating a serene and slightly ethereal atmosphere.

Forest Retention

A guide for Cecil County
Property Owners

What is Forest Retention?

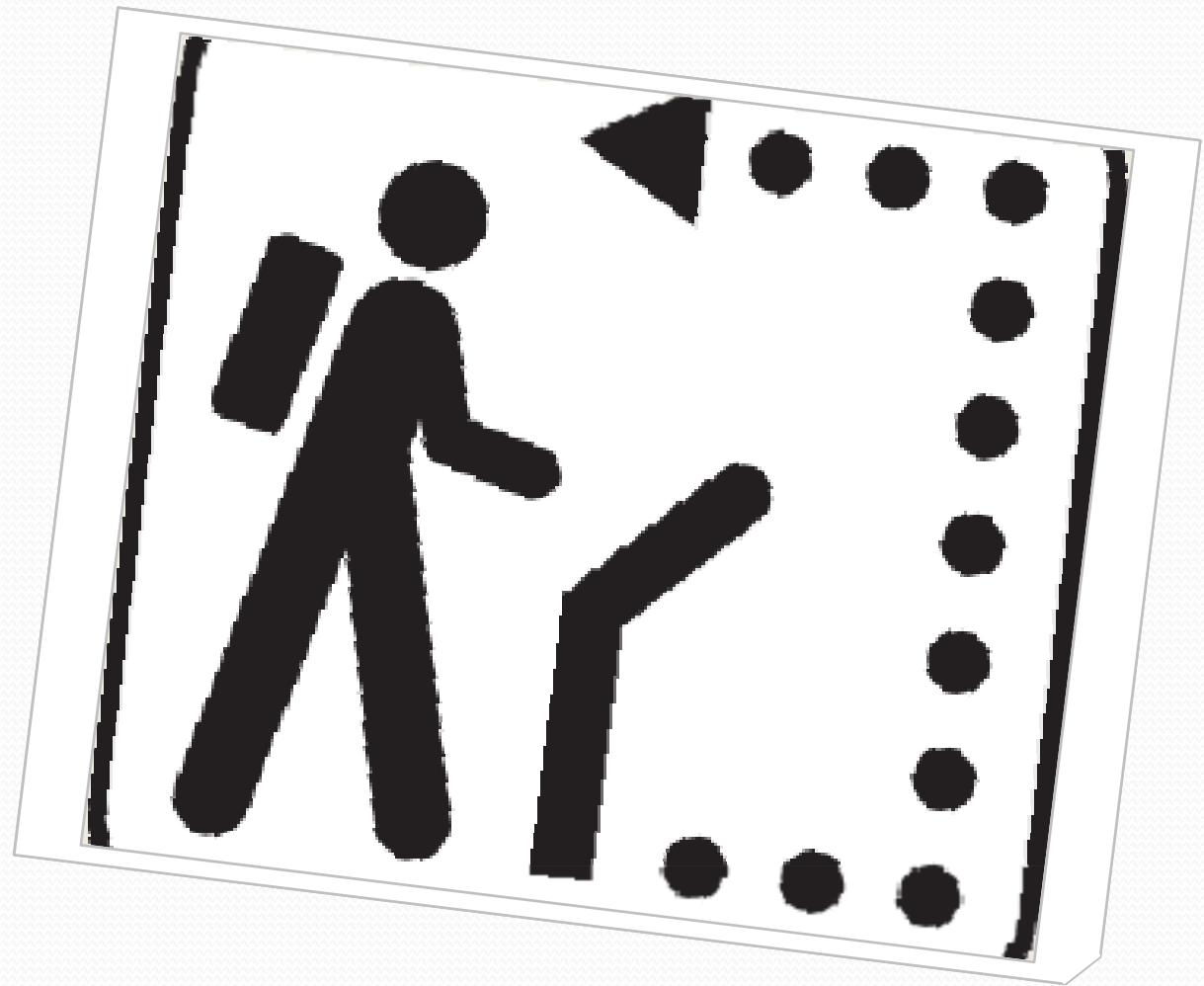
Forest Retention is “the deliberate holding and protecting of existing trees, shrubs, or plants on the site according to established standards as provided in the Cecil County Forest Conservation Technical Manual.”

What Can I do in a Forest Retention Area?



You can use your forest retention for passive recreation!

Walking trails and horse trails are permitted in forest retention areas! Just be certain not to remove trees or put down impervious area in the path!



Firewood

The removal of trees for the use of firewood is permitted on a limited basis.

You may be asked to install seedlings to make up for the trees lost for firewood purposes.

Please contact the Planning and Zoning Office before removing any trees!



A photograph of a male deer with large, light-colored antlers standing in a field of dry, brown grass. The deer is facing left and looking slightly back over its shoulder. The background is a blurred field of similar vegetation.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management is permitted under the guidance of a qualified manager

Tree Removal

Sometimes tree removal is permitted within forest retention areas.

Trees may be removed if it reduces the threat of wildfire to the property.

Trees may also be removed if they are dead, dying, or diseased and pose a potential health hazard to the forest.

Timber harvesting, with an approved plan is also permitted.

Please contact Planning and Zoning for details before removing any trees!



A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a thick canopy of green leaves. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a dappled light effect. The text "Commonly Asked Questions" is overlaid in the center in a bright yellow font.

Commonly Asked Questions

Can I install a fence in my Forest Retention Area?

Yes, You may!

Just be certain that no trees are removed during the process!

Please call the Zoning Office with any questions regarding fencing specifics!



Can I put a shed in my Forest Retention Area?

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



Can I use my Forest Retention for pasture land?

No. Grazing activities would be harmful to the health of the forest and therefore, are not consistent with the intent of Forest Retention.



Can I hunt in my Forest Retention Area?



Yes! Hunting and other passive recreation are suitable uses. Permanent tree stands, however, are not permitted. No structure or signage can be attached to the trees within a Forest Retention Area.

Who should I contact with questions?

You can contact the Office of Planning and Zoning with any questions you may have.

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