

# Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Planting and Bonding Requirements Process for Calvert County



## Overview

- A permit is required for all vegetation removal in the Critical Area. An approved Planting Plan and /or Buffer Management Plan (inside the 100 foot or extended Buffer) and Bond are requirements of the permit.
- Vegetation that is removed must be replanted (mitigated) with the equivalent square footage of native trees and/or shrubs (see Table 1 — Planting Credits attached). Mitigation planting is required for dead, dying or diseased trees that are removed.
- A refundable bond is required to assure adequate survival of the required planting. From the time of the replanting, bonds will be held for approximately two (2) years. Planting seasons are March 15 - May 15 and September 15 - November 30.
- A planting plan must be submitted to the Department of Community Planning & Building (CPB) for approval. The plan must show the location of the trees/shrubs, the species and quantity to be planted.
- The *Calvert County Native Plant List* indicates the acceptable tree and shrub species that can be used to satisfy planting mitigation. This list is available from CPB. Refer to Table 1 attached for how to calculate the trees and shrubs that will be needed to achieve the required replanting square footage. The mitigation required for a dead, dying or diseased tree is 100 square feet.
- The Bond is required to be posted after the permit review is complete, and the permit is approved for issuance. The planting bond is calculated at a rate of \$0.50/square foot. Make checks payable to Calvert County Treasurer
- After the trees and shrubs are planted, call CPB Critical Area Reforestation Planner to schedule an initial inspection. Pictures documenting the planting can be mailed or emailed.
- Approximately two (2) years later, call again to schedule a final inspection of the plantings prior to or at the same time that the release of the Bond is requested.
- The bond will be returned after the final inspection confirms that a satisfactory survival rate has been achieved. Plantings that do not survive must be replaced the next planting season.
- CPB will send the property owner (and agent) a letter confirming the release of the planting bond. The Finance & Budget Office will mail a check to the owner for the bond amount. For more information on the Critical Area regulations and Bond process, refer to Article 8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance (Section 8-1.04.G.4.)

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**Table 1 - Planting Credits**

<b>Vegetation Type</b>	<b>Minimum Size Eligible for Credit</b>	<b>Credit Allowed (Square Feet)</b>	<b>Maximum Percent of Credit</b>
Canopy tree	2-inch caliper and 8 feet high	200	No maximum
Canopy tree	1-inch caliper and 6 feet high	100	No maximum
Understory tree	1-inch caliper and 6 feet high	75	No maximum
Large shrub	1-gallon and 4 feet high	50	30 %
Small shrub	1-gallon and 18 inches high	25	20 %
Herbaceous perennial *	1-quart	2	10 %
Planting cluster 1	1 Canopy tree; and 3 large shrubs or 6 small shrubs	300	Not applicable
Planting cluster 2	2 Understory trees; and 3 large shrubs or 6 small shrubs	350	Not applicable

Return Application and Bond Package to:

Office of Inspections and Permits  
County Services Plaza  
150 Main Street, Suite 201  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
Phone: 410-535-1600 ext. 2552

For Questions Regarding these Requirements:

Department of Community Planning and Building  
Phone: 410-535-2348