



## Calvert County Critical Area Reforestation Program Overview

The Calvert County Critical Area Program, implemented in December 1988, requires the County to maintain 100% of existing forest cover within the Critical Area (land within 1,000 feet of tidal waters). When maintenance or replacement of forest cover on site is not possible, a fee is collected to cover the cost of replacement on another tract within the Critical Area. These fees-in-lieu of replanting are held in the Critical Area Reforestation Fund and subsequently used to plant other appropriate sites in the Critical Area. The Critical Area Reforestation Evaluation (CARE) Committee reviews these applications for native tree and shrub planting using the Critical Area Reforestation Fund.

**\*\*NOTE: This planting program cannot be used to meet the clearing requirements for a permit or to mitigate a violation.**

The *Critical Area Reforestation Application* is for any Critical Area property owner (land within 1000' of tidal water) who has an area on their property where they would like to replant with native trees and shrubs. This will help the County maintain its 100% no-net-loss forest cover.

1. Trees will be supplied and planted, absolutely free, for all approved applications in the following cases:
  - (a) For all sites greater than one acre.
  - (b) For sites smaller than one acre which require more than 10 sapling-sized trees.
  - (c) For sites smaller than one acre which require less than 10 sapling-sized trees, the applicant will need to justify the request.
2. Priority will be given to reforestation sites within 100 feet of tidal water. Sites greater than one acre receive priority also.
3. The following sizes of trees will be available:
  - (a) Tree Seedlings - Seedlings are normally 18-24 inches tall, planted bare-root, and can be used for planting sites greater than one acre, planted on 10-foot centers (430 seedlings per acre).
  - (b) Tree Saplings - Saplings are normally 4-8 feet tall and typically used for planting sites smaller than one acre, planted on 14 to 20-foot centers.
  - (c) Shrubs - Shrubs are normally 18 inches tall and spaced 3-8 feet on center.
4. Native tree and shrub species from the approved *Calvert County Native Plants List* can be provided through this program. Species availability varies from year to year. Shrub species will be considered for up to 25% of total application request. Non-native and invasive species are not allowed. The CARE Committee must approve all applications.
5. If funds are available, proposals may also be accepted for the following types of reforestation projects:
  - (a) Projects that improve water quality or create, improve or restore fish, wildlife or plant habitat.
  - (b) Education or public information activities that create awareness and understanding of the County Critical Area Program.
  - (c) Urban forestry.
6. As every reforestation site is different, exceptions to these general requirements can be made if determined necessary by the CARE Committee.
7. Complete the *Critical Area Reforestation Application* and use additional sheets as required to explain your project.

## Critical Area Reforestation Process

1. The applicant (property owner or authorized agent) submits a *Critical Area Reforestation Application* to the Department of Planning & Zoning. **Specify the species (type) of trees and shrubs and the quantity for each species.**
2. All plants must be native to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. A link to these plants and the *Calvert County Native Plant List* can be found on the County Critical Area webpage at <http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1246>.
3. **Attach a planting plan showing the planting location for each tree and shrub requested.** The application deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> for a late Fall planting, typically in November.
4. The Critical Area Reforestation Evaluation (CARE) Committee will review the applications and planting plans at its annual June meeting.
5. After approval, the County Procurement Office will advertise the project, solicit bids and award the contract (a 4-month time frame). **Once the project is advertised, the quantity and species of plants cannot be changed by the applicant.**
6. The Contractor will notify each applicant with a planting date (ideally at least 2-3 days beforehand but subject to change).
7. **Prior to planting day:** Each applicant must *pick up pin flags* from the Planning & Zoning Office to label and use for marking the planting locations. The flags are approximately two feet in height and neon pink. The applicant will then *mark the planting locations* for each tree and shrub with the pin flags. If no locations are flagged, the Contractor will plant as per the planting plan submitted with the application.
8. Before installation, the Reforestation Planner will inspect all the plant material for the project. Each property will also be inspected after the planting has been completed.
9. The County provides free plant material and installation for this project (including mulch). The property owner is responsible for watering and maintaining the plants as instructed for at least 10 years.
10. If you have any questions, please contact the Critical Area Reforestation Planner at 410-535-1600, ext. 2502.

**CRITICAL AREA REFORESTATION APPLICATION**  
**\*\* Deadline for submission is May 1<sup>st</sup> for late Fall planting \*\***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PROPERTY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

TAX MAP # \_\_\_\_\_ PARCEL # \_\_\_\_\_ LOT # \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the approximate size of your reforestation site:  
(one acre is an area approximately 200' x 200' or 40,000 square feet):

Less than ½ acre                       Less than 1 acre  
 Between 1-5 acres                       Greater than 5 acres

Is your reforestation site within the Critical Area: (If not, your application will not qualify)

Within 100' of tidal water                       Within 1,000' of tidal water

Is your reforestation site: (check all that apply)

Abandoned pasture/field                       Homesite lawn area  
 Steeply sloping land                       Community open space

On a separate sheet of paper, please draw an approximate map of your property and indicate the **location** of where you wish to plant the trees/shrubs. Please indicate the **species** (type of tree or shrub) you want and **quantity** for each. **Each application is required to have a planting plan and cannot be considered without one.** Changes can be made to these plans prior to the project being advertised, but any changes must be submitted in writing and approved by the Critical Area Reforestation Planner.

**I agree to maintain all trees and shrubs received and planted through this program for 10 years.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

***Return Completed Application to:***

Critical Area Reforestation Planner  
Calvert County Government  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
150 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678