

Critical Area Replanting & Bonding Requirements

- A permit is required for all vegetation removal in the Critical Area. An approved Planting Plan or Buffer Management Plan (inside the 100-ft or extended Buffer) and planting Bond are requirements of the permit.
- Vegetation removed must be replanted (mitigated) with an equivalent square footage of native trees and/or shrubs (see Table 1 below). Mitigation is required for dead, dying or diseased trees.
- A refundable planting bond is required to assure adequate survival of the required planting. From the time of the replanting, bonds will be held for approximately 2 years. Planting seasons are March 15-May 15 and September 15-November 30.
- A planting plan must be submitted to Planning & Zoning 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 the Planning & Zoning Office as well as from the County's website at <http://www.co.cal.md.us/government/departments/planning/criticalareas/>. Refer to Table 1 below to calculate how many trees and shrubs will be needed to achieve the required replanting square footage. The mitigation required for a dead, dying or diseased tree is 100 square feet.

Table 1 - Planting Credits

Vegetation Type	Minimum Size Eligible for Credit	Credit Allowed (Square Feet)	Maximum Percent of Credit
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

- The planting bond is calculated at a rate of \$.50/square foot. A check is made out to "Calvert County Treasurer" for the replanting bond and is payable after the permit has been approved.
- After the trees and shrubs are planted, call the Planning & Zoning Office to schedule an initial inspection with the Critical Area Reforestation Planner.
- Approximately 2 years later, call again to schedule a final inspection to release your bond. 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.
- The Department of Planning & Zoning will send the property owner/agent a letter confirming the release of the planting bond. The Finance & Budget Office will mail a check for the bond amount. More information can be found at http://www.co.cal.md.us/assets/Planning_Zoning/ZoningOrdinance/Article8-EnvironmentalReq.pdf in Article 8-1.04.G.4.