



*Department of Inspections and Permits
Code Compliance Division / Forestry Section
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2013 NOTICE TO ARBOR CONTRACTORS

(This notice is in response to ratification of Anne Arundel County Legislative Bill 93-12)

Through enactment of Legislative Bill 93-12, the Anne Arundel County Critical Area law has been amended. **Effective April 16, 2013** all activities other than farming, gardening or yard maintenance involving the cutting, pruning, or outright removal of existing natural vegetation anywhere in the Critical Area (within 1,000' of tidal waters and tidal wetlands) will require submittal and written approval of Standard Vegetation / Buffer Management Plan(s) before those activities may be undertaken. This legislation contains certain mitigation (replacement) requirements for existing natural vegetation approved for removal and includes allowable clearing thresholds for affected properties located within the Critical Area.

In brief, and subject to the exceptions above, this requires *prior* submittal and written approval of Standard Vegetation / Buffer Management Plans for removal of any existing natural vegetation in the Critical Area; within buffers / expanded buffers, properties subject to Forest Conservation Easements (both in and out of the Critical Area), and on all properties containing bogs and bog buffers.

Please be advised activities involving earth disturbance, including grading, hardscaping / creation of new impervious surfaces, and other regulated construction and development activities cannot be approved under a Standard Vegetation / Buffer Management Plan and will be subject to approval of a separate Standard Grading Plan, grading permit and / or building permit.

These guidelines are for informational and educational purposes and supersede all prior notices. In accordance with State and County law, all responsible parties associated with violations, including property owners, contractors and any individuals performing work on-site, may be subject to fines, mitigation requirements and civil and/or criminal prosecution.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact a County Forestry Specialist at (410) 222-7441 with any questions.