



## What is the Critical Area?

All land within 1,000 feet of the mean high tide line of tidal water or tidal wetland.

## Do You Live In the Critical Area? You Need to Know!

Find your property on the zoning map—it's available online! [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us)—Go to Planning & Zoning & then click on Zoning Maps. The red line marks the boundary of the Critical Area. Close to the line? Check with Planning & Zoning for the final word.



# CRITICAL AREA

Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning  
150 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 • (410) 535-2348

The purpose of the program is to mitigate the damaging impact of water pollution and loss of natural habitat while also accommodating the County's future growth.

### QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

If it is about vegetation or tree removal—Ask for **Robin**.

If it is about your construction project or shoreline erosion project—Ask for **John**!

If it is about an enforcement issue or a violation—Ask for **Libby**!

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## What Activities are Regulated?

- A permit is needed for construction projects.
- A permit is needed to grade, to add fill material and to control shore erosion.
- A permit is needed to cut or clear vegetation.
- A permit is needed to remove dead trees.
- Trees posing an immediate threat may be removed without a permit but still need prior Planning & Zoning approval.
- Branches on the lower one-third of the height of mature trees may be pruned without a permit.
- Invasive vines may be removed but need prior Planning & Zoning approval.
- Stiff penalties are imposed for unauthorized clearing in the buffer.
- Maintenance of existing lawns is allowed.