Forest Conservation Law

Chapter 22A-26(f)

The Planning Board must make all reports on the County forest conservation program to the General Assembly and State Department of Natural Resources that are required under State law or regulation.
Tracking Forest Conservation Plans

Exemptions

*Plan Status*
- Active
- Closed
- Exempt
- Under Review
2017-2018 Acres of On and Offsite Forest Change
Dowden’s Station

- 14 acres of cleared forest
- 8 acres of protected forest
Forest Mitigation Bank Transactions by Acre

Average Mitigation Bank Use - 43 acres per year
Permanently Protected Forest on Park Land and Private Land

Total Protected Forest: 12,223.6 acres
There is a County Forest Conservation Fund. Money deposited into the Fund must be used in accordance with the adopted County budget and this Section:

(a) In lieu fees. Money deposited in the Forest Conservation Fund must be spent on the reforestation and afforestation for which the money is deposited, including costs directly related to site identification, acquisition, design, preparation, or maintenance of existing forests, and achieving urban canopy goals, and must not revert to the General Fund. The permanent preservation of priority forests, including identification and acquisition of a site, may be substituted for reforestation and afforestation at a rate of 2 acres of forest preservation for each acre of planting required. Funds remaining after all reforestation and afforestation requirements are satisfied may be spent on any other tree conservation activity, including street tree planting.
FC Fund - Reforestation in Stream Valley Parks

Fee In Lieu Planting Acres on Parkland

- Oak Ridge: 7.0 acres
- Rachel Carson: 3.7 acres
- Watts Branch: 8.0 acres
- Rays Meadow: 1.0 acre
- Rock Creek: 4.9 acres
- Reddy Branch: 8.3 acres
Oak Ridge Conservation Park
Rock Creek Stream Valley Park
FC Funding of Volunteer Efforts in Reforestation Areas

- Maintain existing relationships
- Work toward training youth and crew chiefs in established methodologies and conservation practices
- “Adopt” one or two of the planting sites that currently have no volunteers
- Ensure mutual benefit
FC Funding of Volunteer Efforts in Reforestation Areas

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<th>Participants</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<td>121</td>
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<td>$507</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>$627</td>
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$40 off
MONTGOMERY COUNTY’S LEAVES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN COUPON

This coupon is worth $40 off the purchase of one qualifying tree with a retail purchase price of at least $75 for residents of Montgomery County. Complete all information below to validate coupon and present it to the participating nursery/garden center for reimbursement.

Name of purchaser:__________________________________________

Street address (where tree will be planted):__________________________

City/Town:_______________________ Zip code:_______________________

Type of tree:________________________

Size of tree (approximate height in feet):___________________________

Name of nursery/garden center tree purchased from:____________________

Retail value:_____________________ Date purchased:_______________

TERMS: This coupon is worth $40 off the purchase of one tree that qualifies under Montgomery County, Maryland’s Leaves for Neighborhood tree-planting campaign from a participating nursery or garden center retailer. The tree must have a pre-discount retail price of at least $75. The discount will be taken at the register at the time of sale and may not be mailed. One coupon must be filled out for each tree purchased. Partial or incomplete information on a coupon invalidates the offer. If you purchase more than one tree, download and print a coupon for each tree at www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest. Wholesale trees do not qualify. This offer is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Shades of Green
FREE TREE PROGRAM

YOUR PROPERTY QUALIFIES FOR FREE TREES!
We will purchase and plant FREE trees on your property. Contact Montgomery Planning to learn more.

SU PROPIEDAD CALIFICA PARA ÁRBOLES GRATIS!
Compraremos y plantaremos árboles GRATIS en su propiedad. Póngase en contacto con Montgomery Planning para obtener más información.

To increase the urban tree canopy, the Planning Department has launched Shades of Green, a program that provides free trees and planting for qualifying property owners in the following urban areas:
Trees are multi-taskers:
- beautify, lend biophilic presence
- provide cool shade
- retain soil/prevent erosion
- detain and retain storm water
- sequester CO2
- produce oxygen
- filter particulate pollution
- cool the air by evapo-transpiration
- provide bird/animal habitat
- produce flowers, fruit, fragrance
- offer tree climbing for children
- absorb sound
- reduce crime
- increase real estate values
- wood for construction, furniture…
- wood for fuel
- planting and maintenance jobs
- humanize over-scaled urban spaces
- soothe the psyche
- “soak up nuclear blasts”! (Poland)
Planned FC Fund Uses
Canopy Cover for Schools
Montgomery Blair High School
11.2% Canopy Cover
46% Impervious
Planned FC Fund Uses
Plant Unforested Easements
Forest Change Analysis
Largest forest decrease occurred in urban areas. Largest increase occurred in the agricultural reserve.
The primary forest loss occurred in southern city areas such as Silver Spring, Aspen Hill and White Oak.

The most reforestation occurred in the northern agricultural reserve areas such as Boyds, Damascus, and Germantown.
Forest Loss due to the FDA Campus Loop Road Project
Forest Loss due to the ICC Construction Project
Forest Reforestation in Hoyles Mill Village
Forest Regeneration in Black Hills Regional Park
Lessons Learned:

1. Easements do well on common open space.
2. Easements within stream valleys do better than upland easements when planted.
The STAR Community Rating System is the nation’s leading sustainability framework and certification program. Built by and for local governments, STAR provides a clear, data-driven approach to assessing social, economic, and environmental progress.

STAR is a catalyst for local action and is transforming the way that communities address and track sustainability progress.
STAR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Collect and report data across the framework of goals and objectives.
NATURAL SYSTEMS TOTAL SCORE
- 93,000-acre agricultural reserve with numerous forms of working lands protections
- 48.71 acres of natural resources exist per 1,000 residents
- 99.96% of the population lives within 1/3 mile of green infrastructure features
Staff Recommendation

- Transmit Data to Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR)