

Forest Conservation and Agriculture in Montgomery County

Since 1992, the Montgomery County Council has made certain activities that encroach upon forests subject to the county's Forest Conservation Law. Property owners who want to perform activities that affect the health of a forest must obtain an approved forest conservation plan or an exemption from submitting a forest conservation plan. However, not all activities and properties are eligible for an exemption.



What is covered by the Forest Conservation Law?

- Subdividing agricultural land into lots
- Removing more than 5,000 square feet of forest
- Timber harvesting

What is not covered by the Forest Conservation Law?

- Commercial agriculture
- Cultivation of plants for food or fiber
- Ploughing
- Raising livestock
- Removing hedgerows of less than 50 feet in width
- Removing individual trees or forest stands less than 5,000 square feet in area.

A forest is defined as 10,000 square feet and at least 50 feet in width. The forest width is measured from canopy edge of the outer-most trees.

Learn more:

Find out whether your activity is subject to the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law at www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest

or call:

Montgomery County Planning Department, 301 495-4610
Montgomery County Soil Conservation District, 301 590-2855

Montgomery County Planning Department, M-NCPPC
www.montgomeryplanning.org