

Critical Area Replanting & Bonding Requirements

- A permit is required for all tree and vegetation removal in the Critical Area, including dead trees.
- An approved Planting Plan or Buffer Management Plan (inside the 100-foot or extended Buffer) and planting bond are requirements of the permit.
- Trees, shrubs or any vegetation removed must be replanted (mitigated) with an equivalent square footage (sq ft) of native trees and shrubs (see Table 1 below).
- A refundable planting bond is required to assure adequate survival of the required planting. From the time of the replanting, bonds are held for at least 2 years. Planting seasons are March 15-May 15 and September 15-November 30.
- Refer to Table 1 below to calculate how many trees and shrubs are needed to achieve the required replanting sq ft.
- The mitigation required for a dying or diseased tree is 100 square feet (sq ft).
- Removal of a completely dead tree does not require mitigation or bonding. The affected area is required to be stabilized with native vegetation as necessary.

Table 1 - Planting Credits¹

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	N/A
Canopy tree	3/4-inch caliper and 6 feet high	100	N/A
Understory tree	3/4-inch caliper and 6 feet high	75	N/A
Large shrub	1-gallon and 3 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	
Planting Cluster 2	2 understory trees; and 3 large shrubs or 6 small shrubs	350	

- 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 Department of Planning & Zoning (P&Z) and also on County’s Critical Area webpage at <http://www.co.cal.md.us/index.aspx?NID=1246>
- The planting bond is calculated at a rate of \$ 1.25/sq ft outside the 100-ft buffer/expanded buffer and inside the buffer the bond is \$2.50/sq ft. The planting bond is paid **after** the permit has been approved at permit issuance.
- After the trees and shrubs are planted, notify the Planning & Zoning Office (410 535 2348) to schedule an initial bond inspection.
- After the initial bond inspection has been approved, a final bond inspection will be tentatively scheduled for 2 years later. At that time, notify the Planning & Zoning Office to schedule a final inspection to release your bond.
- The planting bond will be returned after the final inspection confirms that a satisfactory survival rate has been achieved.

¹Cluster 1&2 options are available only for Buffer establishment and Buffer mitigation of less than 1 acre