



# Calvert County Environmental Commission

## Critical Area

### 1. What is the definition of a Critical Area?

The “Critical Area” encompasses 1) all land within 1,000 feet of the mean high water line of tidal waters or the landward edge of tidal wetlands, and 2) all waters of and lands under the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries including the Patuxent River. The Chesapeake Bay “Critical Area” was created to address the impacts of land development on habitat and aquatic resources under the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Protection Act (1984).

To learn more about the Critical Area, visit the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area section of the Calvert County webpage [Chesapeake Bay Critical Area \(CBCA\) | Calvert County, MD - Official Website \(calvertcountymd.gov\)](https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/Chesapeake-Bay-Critical-Area), or call the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning at 410-535- 2348.

### 2. How do I find out if I live or own property in a Critical Area?

Calvert County has an interactive map designed to help property owners determine if their property is in the Critical Area. Check this link to more information that appears on the Calvert County Critical Area webpage: [Chesapeake Bay Critical Area \(CBCA\) | Calvert County, MD - Official Website \(calvertcountymd.gov\)](https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/Chesapeake-Bay-Critical-Area).