

Critical Area Buffer Management Plan

The policies of the Dorchester County Critical Area Protection Program and Maryland Critical Area Law provide that forested vegetation will be maintained and increased, forests and developed woodlands will be conserved, and tree removal associated with development activities will be mitigated. Impacts to the tidewater and expanded Buffers must be mitigated by the planting and maintenance of native vegetation according to COMAR 27.01.09.01-2. Depending on the amount and type of impact or establishment, this form may constitute a Simplified, Minor, or Major Buffer Management Plan.

This form is used for establishment of the Buffer, Buffer mitigation, and disturbances associated with providing access to a private pier or shoreline, manually removing invasive or noxious vegetation, filling to maintain an existing lawn, removing a tree which is likely to cause damage to structures, obstruct a stream, or accelerate shoreline erosion, or removing a diseased or dying tree.

Property Owner: _____

Property Address: _____

Owner's Address (if different): _____

Phone Number(s): Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Tax Map# ___ Block ___ Parcel ___ Lot ___ Size of Property _____ (sq. ft/acres)

Critical Area Overlay: RCA ___ LDA ___ IDA ___ BEA ___

Type of Project	BMP Category	Mitigation
<input type="checkbox"/> Single 3' point of access to a pier/shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Removal of invasive or noxious vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Filling to maintain existing lawn <input type="checkbox"/> Removal of diseased, dying and hazardous trees <input type="checkbox"/> Repairing or replacing septic system on lot created before local program adopted, when no clearing is needed.	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Simplified BMP</div>	2:1 mitigation Stabilize disturbed area until replanted with native species or regeneration. None required One 3/4" caliper tree for each tree removed None required
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffer establishment less than 5,000 sq. ft <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation planting less than 5,000 sq. ft	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Minor BMP</div>	Landscape schedule (see Other Requirements)
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffer establishment of 5,000 sq. ft or more <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation planting of 5,000 sq. ft or more	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Major BMP</div>	Landscape schedule and 120% surety (see Other Requirements)

Other Requirements

- For all Buffer Management Plans (BMPs), a site or sketch plan must be attached which indicates the location and amount of disturbance and the location, amount, and type of mitigation plantings.
- In the case of a **Minor** or **Major** BMP,
 - 1) the size of trees removed must be documented,
 - 2) a landscape schedule which shows proposed species type, quantity and size of plants, and proposed planting date must be included,
 - 3) a maintenance plan for the control of invasive species, pests, and predation with provisions for two years of monitoring and reinforcement plantings must be submitted, and
- In the case of a **Major** BMP, a **surety** representing 120% of the cost of plant material, installation labor, and maintenance of plantings must be provided concurrent with a **planting plan agreement**.
- All establishment/mitigation plantings must be native to Maryland.
- All contractors performing home improvement work in the Critical Area must be MHIC licensed.

Project Details

Permit/Case/Subdivision/Site Plan Number: _____ Area of disturbance (sq. ft): _____

Description of project: _____

Justification for the disturbance: _____

Project start date: _____ Method of removal (if applicable): _____

Proposed establishment/mitigation and maintenance: _____

Surety type and amount (if applicable): _____

Certification

1. I certify that these statements are true and accurate, and that the vegetation to be removed for this project is on property I own. I hereby grant permission to Dorchester County staff and officials to enter my property for inspections to assess compliance with this Buffer Management Plan.
2. I shall notify the Dorchester County Planning and Zoning Department within 48 hours of completion of mitigation or establishment. These plantings shall be installed in the first growing season prior to construction of the project, or concurrent to the conclusion of the project, but no later than one year from the date of this Plan unless written approval is requested from and issued by the Department.
3. I understand that I am responsible for the proposed activity and for ensuring the survival of all mitigation plantings. I understand that **failure to implement this Plan is a violation** of the Critical Area Law.

Owner Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

This Planting Plan has been reviewed and approved by Dorchester County Planning and Zoning.

Staff signature: _____ Date: _____