



Removal of Vegetation in a Resource Protection Area

Application Form

Customer & Technical Support Center

Land Development Services

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 230, Fairfax, VA 22035

Phone: 703-222-0801, TTY 711

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment

Applicants have the option of submitting the form electronically to LDSSAC@fairfaxcounty.gov, or in person to the Site Application Center, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 230, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) are the corridors of environmentally sensitive land that lie alongside or near the shorelines of streams, rivers, and other waterways. In their natural condition, RPAs protect water quality, filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff, reduce the volume of stormwater runoff, prevent erosion, and perform other important biological and ecological functions. RPAs help to safeguard the quality of our rivers and streams and contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. RPAs were established under the county's [Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance](#) which was adopted in response to state regulations. Under the current ordinance, RPAs are required to be designated around all water bodies with perennial flow. Perennial flow means that water flows in the stream or other water body year-round during a year of normal precipitation. It is important to note that RPAs must be designated regardless of the presence of existing uses, encroachments, and prior vegetation clearing. RPAs are identified as 1993 RPAs or 2003 RPAs depending on the time the ordinance provisions first required their designation. There were further revisions to these maps in 2005, 2006, and 2013. For additional information on ordinance requirements, the RPA mapping process, and to determine the presence of RPA on your property, please visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/faqs-resource-protection-areas.

Generally, RPAs are areas which should remain in a natural undisturbed condition. If encroachment is necessary, the county is required to ensure that any encroachment is minimized and steps are taken to reduce the impacts of the encroachment on water quality. For more information, please contact the Site Development and Inspections Division at 703-324-1720.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- PFM Table 12.17: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/sites/landdevelopment/files/assets/documents/pdf/pfm/chapter12.pdf
- Recommended Tree and Shrub Species for Reforestation of RPAs: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/rpa_tree_and_shrub_list_9-24-07.pdf
- Invasive Plant Management Program: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/>
- Virginia Invasive Alien Plant Species List: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>
- A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests: https://www.srs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs131.pdf

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

Title (Owner, Tenant, Contractor, Agent): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

JOB LOCATION

Street Address: _____

Magisterial District: _____

Tax Map ID Number: _____

APPLICATION TO (check all that apply):

- Application to remove dead, diseased, and/or dying trees in an RPA.
- Application to remove invasive and/or noxious plants in an RPA.

Note: Any use of herbicides in the RPA must be in strict conformance with all product labeling. Treatments must be performed by or under direct supervision of Virginia Certified Pesticide Applicator or Registered Technician. The Applicant must be able to provide copies of applicator spray logs/labels upon request. Applications proposing removal of 3 or more trees will require a letter from a Certified Arborist.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

PROJECT SUBMISSION CHECKLIST (check all that apply):

- A plat showing proposed tree removal and RPA boundary. Applications for invasive vegetation removal must also delineate the target area(s).
- Photos of target area(s), tree(s) and vegetation identified with a ribbon, consistent with the location(s) and/or tree(s) identified on the house location plat.
- A letter from the property owner's Certified Arborist or Registered Consulting Arborist explaining the work to be done, tree defects and/or condition analysis, as applicable (for dead/diseased/dying trees only).
- A letter from the property owner's Certified Pesticide Applicator or Registered Technician (for herbicide application only).
- A letter explaining the objective and proposed work, to include (for invasive vegetation removal only):
 - An itemized list of type and species of vegetation, to include scientific name, to be suppressed and managed.
 - Total square footage of targeted area(s), consistent with areas delineated on house location plat.
 - Proposed method of management to be used to remove the vegetation, i.e. by hand, mechanical equipment, chemical control, etc., as well as how the proposed method will minimize impacts to surrounding vegetation.
 - Information regarding timing of treatment (hand removal, mechanical equipment, or chemical treatments) will begin and end.
 - Proposed vegetation/ground cover.

APPLICANT AFFIRMATION AND SIGNATURE:

I hereby certify that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and request approval under Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance under Section 118-3-3(d)(3).

Applicant Signature: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Date: _____

APPROVAL CONDITIONS (County Use Only):

- Not in RPA, no approval required.
- Tree removal shall be done by hand or with the aid of hand-held tools; no heavy equipment shall be used in the RPA. Limbs shall be lowered carefully so as not to harm adjacent vegetation.
- The stump within the RPA shall be cut at ground level and left to remain or carefully ground with a stump grinder.
- No land within the RPA shall be disturbed other than what is necessary to provide for tree removal.
- No open flames are permitted in the forested setting.
- An invasive vegetation species management plan has been submitted containing all the required information from the Submission Checklist.
- Number of re-plantings required (*specify*): _____
 - Understory (*specify*): _____
 - Overstory (*specify*): _____
 - Shrubs (*specify*): _____
 - Replacement tree(s) shall have a minimum caliper of (*specify, in inches*): _____
 - Mulch/native ground cover and seeding (*specify*): _____
- Recommended disposal method (*specify*): _____

- Urban Forest Management Division recommendations and mitigation measures (*specify*): _____

- Additional recommendations attached? (*if yes, specify number of pages*): _____

FINAL DETERMINATION (County Use Only):

- Approved**
- Approved as Noted (conditions noted above and/or attached)**
- Disapproved**

FAC Technician Signature: _____ Date: _____

FAC Technician Name (printed): _____

SDID/UFMD Signature: _____ Date: _____

SDID/UFMD Name (printed): _____