

Removal of Vegetation in a Critical Resource Protection Area Application Form

Community Development Services Center
1300 Courthouse Road, 2nd Floor, Stafford, VA 22554
Phone: 540-658-8650

Applicants should submit a completed application in person to the Community Development Services Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, 2nd Floor, Stafford, Virginia 22554.

Critical Resource Protection Areas (CRPAs) are the corridors of environmentally sensitive land that lie alongside or near the shorelines of streams, rivers, and other waterways in Stafford County. In their natural condition, CRPAs 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. CRPAs help to safeguard the quality of county rivers and streams and contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. CRPAs were established under the county's [Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance](#) which was adopted in 1989 in response to state regulations. Under the current ordinance, CRPAs are required to be designated around all water bodies with perennial flow, and must include a 100-foot wide buffer on either side (or around) the protected water body. 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 CRPAs are designated and mapped regardless of the presence of existing uses and encroachments, and any prior vegetation clearing. For additional information on ordinance requirements, the CRPA mapping process, and to determine if CRPA lands are located on your property, please visit: [Stafford County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Website](#).

Generally, CRPAs are areas which should remain in a naturally vegetated and undisturbed condition. If an approved CRPA encroachment is deemed necessary, the county is required to ensure that the encroachment is minimized and steps are taken to reduce the impacts of the encroachment on water quality. Indigenous vegetation may be removed from the CRPA subject to approval by the county, only to provide for reasonable sight lines, access paths, general woodlot management and/or shoreline erosion projects approved by the county's Wetlands Board. For more information, please contact the Environmental Planners at 540-658-8668.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- 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 CRPA.
- Application to remove invasive and/or noxious plants in an CRPA.
- Application to remove other types of vegetation in an CRPA. Specify: _____

Removal of Hazardous Trees. _____

Note: Any use of herbicides in the CRPA 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/vegetation removal and the location of the landward CRPA 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 for removal of invasive vegetation, to include:
 - 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.
 - Water Quality Impact Assessment (WQIA) conducted.

APPLICANT AFFIRMATION AND SIGNATURE:

I, as applicant or agent for the owner(s) of the property subject to this application, do hereby certify that I have submitted this application for vegetation removal within the CRPA for review and approval as provided under the Stafford County Code, and further, that this submittal is in compliance with the requirements and applicable provisions of the Stafford County Code for zoning districts in which this project is located.

Applicant Signature: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Date: _____

APPROVAL CONDITIONS (County Use Only):

- 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 CRPA. Limbs shall be lowered carefully so as not to harm adjacent vegetation.
 - The stump within the CRPA shall be cut at ground level and left to remain or carefully ground with a stump grinder.
 - No land within the CRPA 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*): _____
 - All newly planted trees should be mulched with 2.5 foot radius around the tree, 2 inches deep and not touching the trunk.
 - Native ground cover and seeding (*specify*): _____
 - Recommended disposal method: Whole log can be left on ground or chipped outside of RPA and hauled.
 - WQIA required.
 - Environmental Planner recommendations and mitigation measures (*specify*): _____
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- 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**

Environmental Planner Signature: _____ Date: _____

Environmental Planner Name (printed): _____