

## **REVISED NOTICE TO ARBOR CONTRACTORS**

(This revision is not due to a change in law, but to clarify current code requirements)

Anne Arundel County Code no longer requires submittal and approval of Standard Vegetation Management Plans for removal of single trees from properties that are located outside of the Critical Area buffer or expanded buffer, provided the following conditions are met for all activities involving cutting, pruning and/or removal of vegetation:

- 1) Work will not occur on slopes 15% or greater; and
- 2) Area(s) affected will not exceed 5,000 sq. ft., including aerial measurement of crowns, limbs and other outgrowth of vegetation;<sup>1</sup> and
- 3) The vegetation is not situated in environmentally sensitive areas subject to separate State or federal law e.g. non-tidal wetlands and floodplains, designated bog areas; and
- 4) Vegetation removal on any given property will not exceed allowable thresholds for clearing established in Article 17 of the County Code; and
- 5) Work may not be undertaken on properties that are the subject of pending or active permit(s); and
- 6) All work must be performed in accordance with State and County law and industry standards.

The County Code requires *prior* submittal and written approval of Standard Vegetation Management Plans for removal of any existing vegetation within the Critical Area buffer and expanded buffer, and for removal of any vegetation from properties subject to Forest Conservation Easements. It is the responsibility of the contractor to determine the extent of applicable Critical Area buffers, including expanded buffers.

The above guidelines are for informational and educational purposes. In accordance with State and County law, all responsible parties associated with violations, including property owners, contractors and individuals performing work on-site, may be subject to fines, mitigation requirements and civil and/or criminal prosecution.

**Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact your area Forestry Specialist at (410) 222-7441 with any questions.**

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<sup>1</sup> Disturbance associated with clearing involves the cutting or removal of trees and affected area(s) can be quantified through Critical Root Zone calculations (reference D.N.R. Licensed Tree Expert requirements). In *any* case where disturbance exceeds 5,000 square feet, a County grading permit is required.