

**SCAN HERE FOR ANNE
ARUNDEL COUNTY'S NATIVE
PLANT LIST**



Adding native plants to your forest conservation easement (and gardens) is a great way to increase diversity, improve forest health, and beautify landscaping!

CONTACT US

If you have any other questions about your forest conservation easement, please contact the Forestry Department.

 **410-222-7441**

 **forestry@aacounty.org**

 **<https://www.aacounty.org/inspections-and-permits/forestry>**



**FOREST CONSERVATION
EASEMENT
GUIDE**



**ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY
MARYLAND**



WHAT IS A FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

Forest conservation easements (FCE) protect forests by limiting certain activities and preserving an area of land as forest forever. A forest conservation easement is a perpetual property right granted to Anne Arundel County that transfers with ownership of the land. Its terms, conditions, and area are recorded in official land records.

These agreements commonly prohibit removing vegetation, clearing, grading, building, or changing the natural character of the land without written permission from Anne Arundel County.

HOW DOES A FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT IMPACT MY PROPERTY?

FCEs limit activity in the protected areas. Examples of prohibited activities include but are not limited to:

- Mowing, raking leaves, root grubbing, or clearing of any kind.
- Planting grass seed or establishing new turf lawn.
- Permanent and/or semi-permanent structures like sheds, patios, and pools.
- Removal of any vegetation without prior approval from Anne Arundel County.

Work within a FCE requires prior approval from the Forestry Office.

POSITIVE IMPACTS

- Increases property value.
- Provides privacy screening from neighbors and road noise.
- Helps reduce heating and cooling costs by shading your home and reducing storm impacts.
- Provides storm water management.
- Preserves habitat for native wildlife.



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FOREST

Ways to get started:

- Remove and manage invasive plants and vines.
- Remove trash and debris.
- Fill in gaps in the forest by planting a variety of native trees and shrubs.
- Leave fallen leaves and logs in place to provide insect and wildlife habitat.
- Avoid dumping yard waste, pumpkins and fruits, and non-native plants into the FCE.

Work within a FCE, even habitat enhancement projects, requires prior approval from the Forestry Office.



PERMITS FOR PROJECTS IN FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Work within a FCE requires prior approval from the Anne Arundel County's Forestry Office.

Tree pruning under 2,500sqft per ANSI A300 standards does not require additional approval.

The scope and size of your project will determine what permit is the best fit:

- Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
- Habitat Enhancement Plan (HEP)
- Standard Grading Plan (SGP)

Applications and more information can be found online at:

<https://www.aacounty.org/inspection-s-and-permits/forestry>

