



Cecil County's Forests

More than 60 native species of trees are found in Cecil County. Cecil County's forests provide vital habitat for many of Maryland's animal species. Forests are important to the health of the Bay, acting as filters, improving water quality, reducing sedimentation, removing nutrients, and regulating stream flow during storm events. In addition, forests can be harvested sustainably for products including lumber, furniture, flooring, firewood, and pulp for paper.

There are approximately 85,000 acres of forest in Cecil County, comprising about 38 percent of the land area. Of that, about 8,000 acres of forest are located in State parks, forests, or State/Federal wildlife management areas. However, forest land is decreasing in Cecil County and Maryland.

In an effort to lessen the impact of development on forestland, the State of Maryland adopted The Forest Conservation Act in 1992. The Act regulates the cutting, clearing, or grading of forested areas that are to be developed. A Forest Conservation Plan also defines how sensitive areas will be protected during development. Since 1993, Cecil County Planning and Zoning has been implementing and enforcing the State mandated Forest Conservation Act through approved Forest Conservation Plans or exemption declarations.



Where To Get Help for forestry information

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Cecil County Office **410-287-5777**
- Cecil County Forest Conservancy District Board; <http://www.cecilfb.sailorsite.net>
- A Citizen's Guide to the Forest Conservation Act in Maryland
<http://www.cbf.org/news-media/newsroom/2017/cbf-in-the-news/maryland-should-put-actual-conservation.html>
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service;
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests>; **1-877-620-8367**
- The Importance of Maryland's Forests
http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/publications/forests_ytt.pdf
- Cecil County Maryland Forest Conservation Regulations
<http://www.ccgov.org/home/showdocument?id=1262>