

Forest Conservation Enforcement Actions

Pre-Construction, Active Construction (Developer)

If violations occur while the developer is still under the Forest Conservation Developer Agreement, the developer is required to resolve and correct any violations and will do so under the direction of the Forest Conservation Inspector.

Post Construction (Property Owner)

Violation notices and enforcement actions are applied to residential property owners and/or Home Owner's Associations. The Forest Conservation Inspector works with property owners to resolve and correct any violations.

- FY18
 - Nine residential enforcement actions were taken with only one requiring a non-compliance fee.
 - Violation 1: Clearing and removal of trees and understory of 9,352 square feet (0.214 acres) which resulted in a fine of \$4,111.20. Funds were used by Howard County Recreation and Parks, Natural and Historic Resources to restore forest conservation area. Forty-three native trees were replanted.
 - Violation 2: Clearing and removal of trees. Resolved by removing debris and replanting of area with seven native trees.
 - Violation 3: Non-native invasive grasses, wooden structure and gravel road. Area was restored, structures, gravel and invasive plants were removed and area was replanted with four large native trees.
 - Violation 4: Mowing and removal of trees. Resident abandoned mowing and replanted area with sixteen native trees.
 - Violation 5: Dumping and structure. Debris and structure removed. No other actions needed.
 - Violation 6: All terrain vehicles were being used excessively. ATV use was stopped.
 - Violation 7: Minor dumping. Inspector worked with resident to educate and dumping was stopped.
 - Violation 8: Excessive dumping. Resident removed all debris.
 - Violation 9: Clearing and dumping. Debris was removed and three native trees were replanted to restore area.

- FY19
 - Seven enforcement actions were taken with only one requiring a non-compliance fee. Six residential and one Homeowner's Association.
 - Violation 1: Clearing and removal of trees and understory of 1,759 square feet (0.04 acres) which resulted in a fine of \$1,900.00. Funds were used by Howard County Recreation and Parks, Natural and Historic Resources to restore forest conservation area. Ten native trees were replanted.
 - Violation 2: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
 - Violation 3: Paved pathway, mowing and clearing. The HOA removed the pathway, stopped mowing and replanted fifty-five native trees to restore areas.
 - Violation 4: Dumping of lawn debris. Debris was removed.

- Violation 5: Drainage pipes running through forest conservation area. Pipes were removed.
 - Violation 6: Dumping. Debris was removed.
 - Violation 7: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
- FY20
 - Seven enforcement actions have taken place, not requiring non-compliance fees.
 - Violation 1: Disturbance of FC area. Removed debris and replanted two native trees.
 - Violation 2: Dumping. Inspector worked with resident to educate and debris was removed.
 - Violation 3: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
 - Violation 4: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
 - Violation 5: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
 - Violation 6: Mowing. Inspector worked with resident to educate and mowing was stopped.
 - Violation 7: Structures and storage of materials and livestock. Homeowner has agreed to remove encroachments.