

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 12-2021

Introduced: January 4, 2021

Auditor: Lisa Geerman

Fiscal Impact:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact related to the changes proposed in this legislation. According to the Administration, the updates can be absorbed by current staffing levels.

Purpose:

This resolution repeals and replaces the Forest Conservation Manual (the Manual). The Manual provides guidance for compliance with the County program for implementing the Forest Conservation Act (FCA).

The FCA was repealed and replaced via Council Bill 62-2019. Those updates incorporated State law changes since 1999 and added improvements to increase forest retention, ensure more successful forest planting, and strengthen the variance process. Section 16.1203 of the FCA requires that a Forest Conservation Manual be prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning and adopted by resolution of the County Council.

The current version of the Manual was adopted by Council Resolution 10-1998 and major updates are required in order for the Manual to be consistent with the recently updated FCA and current practices.

Other Comments:

A Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of individuals with expertise in forestry and the forest conservation process, helped develop the draft Manual. The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Office of Community Sustainability also helped prepare the draft manual. A public meeting was held to provide an overview of the draft manual and receive comments.