WHAT ARE RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS (RPAs)?

RPAs, or riparian buffers, are regulated corridors of environmentally sensitive land adjacent to water bodies such as streams, rivers, and shorelines. In their natural condition, RPAs protect water quality, filter pollutants out of stormwater runoff, reduce the volume of stormwater runoff, prevent erosion, and perform other important biological and ecological functions.

Development, uses, and activities within RPAs are regulated under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 118 of the Code of the County of Fairfax.



Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas

Help Protect the Bay!

County records indicate you own or reside at a property that may be in a Resource Protection Area (RPA) - land within 100 feet of a stream or other water body. Before doing any work in an RPA, such as removing trees, clearing vegetation, or grading, you must get approval from Fairfax County's Department of Land Development Services.

Contact Land Development Services before:

- Removing dead, dying, or diseased trees and shrubs, noxious weeds, or invasive plants.
- Removal of vegetation to create lawns.

Doing work in an RPA without approval is a violation of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and may result in penalties up to $5,000 per day. Violators must also develop and obtain approval for an appropriate restoration plan.

Need help with an RPA application?

The county offers a variety of resources to support landowners, including no-cost reviews for removing invasive, non-native, dead, diseased or dying vegetation **and** access to an Engineer of the Day to discuss the right type of RPA application for your project.

How can I confirm whether an RPA exists on my property?

Visit the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance webpage to view the interactive RPA map to understand the potential location of an RPA on your property. A site-specific study may be required to determine the exact location of the RPA boundary before the county can approve proposed land-disturbing activities.

Learn more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/rpa

SCAN ME

RPA Notification

FAIRFAX COUNTY
LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Department of Land Development Services
Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Branch

Promoting Environmentally Responsible Development

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 659
Fairfax, VA 22035-5503
www.fairfaxcounty.gov, Search "RPA"

703-222-0801 TTY: 711

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Help Protect the Bay!

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Notification of Potential Resource Protection Area (RPA) Conditions on Your Property