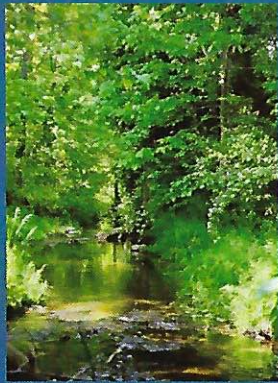


## WHAT ARE RESOURCE PROTECTION AREAS (RPAS)?

RPAs, or riparian buffers, are the 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 Protect the Buffer!



County assessment records indicate you own property which may be in a Resource Protection Area (RPA). Generally, no development, land disturbance, nor vegetation removal is allowed within 100-feet of a water body (known as the RPA boundary) without prior approval from Fairfax County's Department of Land Development Services.

- This includes the removal of dead, dying or diseased trees and shrubs, noxious weeds, or invasive plants.
- Additionally, clearing-cutting of vegetation is **NOT** permitted nor is the removal of vegetation to create lawns.

Non-compliance with RPA restrictions is a violation of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and can result in penalties up to \$5,000 per day. Violators are required to develop and obtain approval for an appropriate restoration plan.

### 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 generally understand the location of an RPA on your property. The determination of the exact width and location of the RPA boundary by a site-specific study may be required before the county can grant approval to start land-disturbing activities on properties in or near an RPA.

Learn more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/rpa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/rpa)



SCAN ME