

How Forest Complaints are Handled:

If a complaint reveals that a serious infraction of the Cecil County Forest Conservation Regulations has occurred, the following steps are taken:

- 1) Step 1: A certified letter is sent to the property owner. This letter tells the violator that one of two things need to happen: a) A revised forest conservation plan must be submitted to modify the forested area or b) the violator replaces the removed trees on a 1:1 basis and signs an active landscape agreement for such. The letter will indicate that the violator has 15-45 days to address the issue.
- 2) Step 2: If the property owner installs replacement plantings, the plantings are then monitored for two growing seasons to ensure a 75% survival rate. If during the inspection, the rate is found to be below 75%, replacement plantings will need to be installed to bring the survival rate to an acceptable level.

If the allotted time passes without action from the violator the violation is turned over to the county attorney for review.

- 3) Step 3: Once the county attorney has reviewed the case, a court date is set. The violator will receive notification of the case and will have up until the day of the case to remedy the issue. If not, the case will proceed to court.