

General Information

- 1** Any activity not specifically prohibited or authorized must be approved by the Carroll County Bureau of Resource Management.
- 2** An easement does not grant the public any right of access or use; however, Carroll County Government employees have the right to enter an easement periodically for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the conditions of the easement agreement.
- 3** Many state and federal government programs exist to provide the interested landowner with financial and technical assistance to establish forested stream buffers. Contact the following agencies if you are interested in planting trees within a non-forested Water Resource Protection Easement:

Carroll Soil Conservation District

410-848-8200

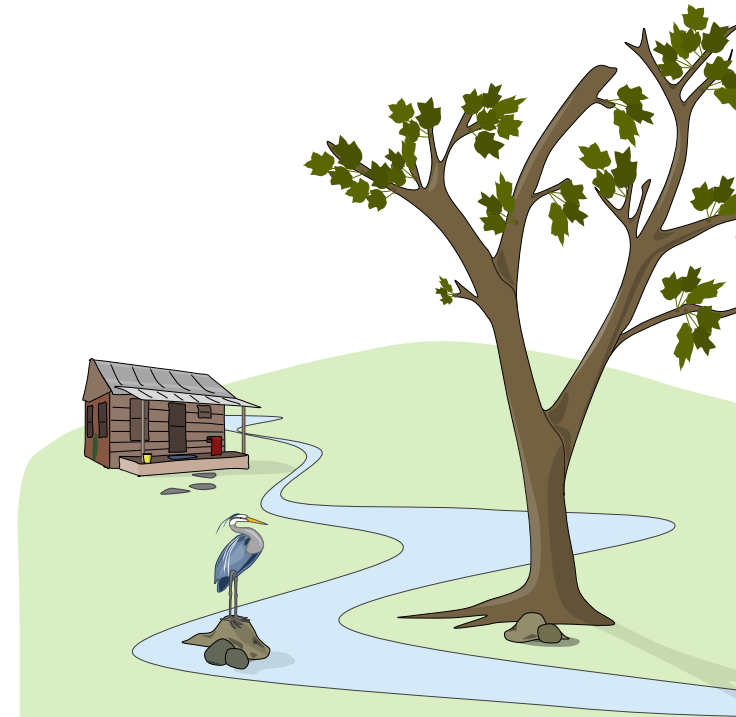
MD Department of Natural Resources

410-848-9290

CC Bureau of Resource Management

410-386-2506

Carroll County
Bureau of Resource Management
225 N. Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157



Water Resource Protection Easements

Carroll County Department of Land & Resource Management
Bureau of Resource Management

ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/resmgmt/
teberhard@ccg.carr.org
410.386.2506



Introduction

There are two types of water resource protection easements: forested and non-forested.

Requirements for both types are almost identical except that non-forested easements require that a dense and vigorous cover of non-lawn vegetation be maintained. These areas can be mowed or harvested no more than twice annually. A vegetation height of no less than six inches must be maintained.

Homeowners

When your land was developed, one of the property requirements was a permanent Water Resource Protection Easement along the stream. This requirement can be found in Chapter 154 of the Carroll County Code of Public Local Laws and Ordinances, the purpose of which is to protect the quality and quantity of ground and surface water resources.

The land within a Water Resource Protection Easement provides a buffer between the adjacent land use activities and the stream system. These buffers provide many benefits to the receiving stream and watershed including:

- 1** Filtering runoff that contains sediment and nutrients;
- 2** Moderating stream temperatures; and
- 3** Establishing wildlife corridors.

Overall, the land within a Water Resource Protection Easement is preserved for the purpose of enhancing water quality in the local and Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

Permitted Activities

The following practices and activities are permitted within the easement:

- 1** Planting trees and other horticultural practices that maintain tree health;
- 2** Removing trees in danger of falling on structures;
- 3** Removing dead, windblown, or damaged trees;
- 4** Hunting;
- 5** Applying timber management techniques with guidance from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or Maryland Department of Agriculture to preserve forest from extensive pest or disease infestation or from threat of fire; and
- 6** Establishing one walking path no wider than six feet. The path must remain stabilized, and it cannot be arranged in a direct line to the stream.

Permitted Activities With County Approval

The following practices and activities are permitted within the easement after review and approval by the holder of the easement (county/municipality):

- 1** Constructing driveways, bridges, and utilities if clearly proven that no feasible alternative exists and minimal disturbance to the easement area occurs during construction; and
- 2** Conducting scientific studies or stream restoration.

Prohibited Activities

Activities prohibited within the easement compromise the quality of the stream buffer, thereby reducing its effectiveness. The following practices and activities are prohibited within the easement:

- 1** Disturbing the soil by filling, grading, plowing, cultivating, or other practices;
- 2** Storing or dumping any material such as yard waste, appliances, automobiles, garbage, chemicals, pesticides, and construction debris;
- 3** Storing, maintaining, or operating motorized vehicles except on designated roads/driveways;
- 4** Housing, grazing, or otherwise maintaining domestic animals; and
- 5** Cutting or clearing of trees except for maintenance of dead or damaged trees.