

FORESTRY GUIDANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Maryland Planning Commissioners
Association

October 25, 2023

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

- Local planning and zoning officials and staff:
 - Educates about the many facets of the forestry industry
 - Provides a comprehensive overview of the Maryland laws and regulations that govern the forestry industry.

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

- Gives examples of how local planning and zoning can support the state's forestry industry while supporting other community needs as well.



MARYLAND'S STATUTORY VISION FOR FORESTRY

- "Since it is in the State and public interests to preserve the forest land base and other natural resources, **a local government with planning and zoning powers shall support forestry by a reasonable exercise of these powers**, including the:
 - consideration, development, and interpretation of planning and zoning requirements that beneficially impact the efficient and economic practice of forestry in a manner consistent with the local government's implementation of the [12 state planning] visions listed in §1-201 of the Land Use Article."
- Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article, § 5-102.1(e).

MANY FACETS OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

- Forestry includes:
 - Forestry management practices—caring for the forest to keep it healthy and productive including stewardship and conservation.
 - Timber harvesting.
 - The creation of wood products, from logs and mulch to stove pellets to fine furniture.

MANY FACETS OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

- The guidance provides definitions of many forestry-related terms to help local planners understand the complexities of the industry.



MANY FACETS OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

- The forestry industry includes growers, loggers, foresters, primary and secondary manufacturers, and distribution yards.
- Forest products from harvested trees include lumber, logs, pulpwood, firewood, bark, chips, shavings, sawdust biomass, pilings and poles, sawdust, woody biomass, pellets, and mulch.

MANY FACETS OF THE FORESTRY INDUSTRY

- Other equipment and land uses that are part of wood products creation include lumber-drying kilns, stump yards, and chip mills, as well as furniture or other specialized wood products.



MARYLAND FORESTRY LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- History of forestry governance in Maryland
- Sediment and erosion control plan (standard or custom) required for any forest harvest operations that disturb more than 5,000 square feet or 100 cubic yards of soil.

MARYLAND FORESTRY LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Additionally, if the harvest site includes removing trees adjacent to a stream or other water body, a Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) Plan may be required.
- Forest Conservation Act not applicable.

MARYLAND FORESTRY LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Other regulated elements include:
 - prescribed burning
 - use of pesticides and herbicides
 - transportation and vehicle requirements
 - noise control

MARYLAND FORESTRY LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- DNR encourages the development of forest management plans and forest stewardship plans



LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING OPTIONS

- Each of the three categories within forestry (forestry management practices—caring for the forest to keep it healthy and productive including stewardship and conservation, timber harvesting, and the creation of wood products, from logs and mulch to stove pellets to fine furniture) is impacted by local planning and zoning decisions.

LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING OPTIONS

- Supporting markets for raw materials, whether for processing at sawmills or for creation of finished wood products, helps to determine whether forest landowners will have a financial incentive to retain land as forest.

LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING OPTIONS



LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING OPTIONS

- The guidance provides:
 - Allowable Uses within Zoning Districts table
 - Discussion of forestry as an element of agriculture
 - Consideration of forestry components as agricultural versus industrial or manufacturing

LOCAL PLANNING AND ZONING OPTIONS

- The guidance provides:
 - Presentation of an overlay zoning district concept
 - Examples of innovative forestry zoning ideas from other jurisdictions
 - Minimum Acreage and Maximum Setbacks for Forestry and Related Uses

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS GUIDANCE

- Ideas for conditions that could be considered for inclusion in a local zoning ordinance as part of the Special Exception review and approval process for different forestry-related uses.
- Covers the following zoning categories:
 - Resource Protection
 - Residential
 - Commercial

QUESTIONS?

PHOTO CREDITS

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