

Item 6 - Correspondence

From: [Molly Hauck](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Strengthen the Forest Conservation Law!
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 11:38:26 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Specifically, the Montgomery County Forest Coalition is asking the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

- protects existing forests;
- tightens requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated;
- strengthens replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss;
- strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forests, not just trees; and
- strengthens watershed considerations so that replantings strengthen the water quality of the county.
-

Molly Hauck
3900 Decatur Ave.
Kensington 20895

From: [Micek, Christina](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: We need a stronger Forest Conservation Law in Montgomery County.
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:32:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Please- Casey Anderson, our forest conservation must be of utmost importance as climate change hits us from every angle. We need a stronger Forest Conservation Law in Montgomery County.

On April 28, the Montgomery County Planning Board will review legislation to modify the current Forest Conservation Law.

1. **Protect existing Forest Ecosystems.** All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. **Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements** so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. **Strengthen replanting ratios** to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen replanting requirements to **require the planting of *Forest Ecosystem*, not just trees.**
5. **Increase watershed considerations** so that replantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. **Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.**

Between 2010 and 2017, the county lost more than 1,000 acres of forest—the 4th highest amount of forest cleared among all counties in Maryland. We must do more to protect this important resource. Your health, local economy, and environment depend on it.

Christina
Citizen of North Bethesda

CHRISTINA MICEK

MEDIA MANAGER, DIGITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERS



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WASHINGTON, DC, USA 20036
WWW.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

Note: My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal work schedule.

From: [Pia Tolster-Izquierdo](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Expand Forest Conservation through the Forest Conservation Law
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 4:05:23 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am a resident of Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland.

I'm writing to urge you extend the strongest possible protections of our forests by updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition (See six points below).

With the impacts of climate change already manifesting themselves throughout the county, protecting all remaining forests should be an imperative to the Planning Board. Their value as stormwater regulators and carbon sinks is immense. Additionally, their capacity to attenuate extreme summer temperatures and provide cooler outdoor recreation options especially for underserved residents that may not have access to a pool or air conditioning is of utmost importance. Replacing large tracts of healthy forest ecosystems with stands of planted trees somewhere else cannot recreate the value and function that the initial forest tract had. Even if we had the luxury to wait 50 years! Which we don't have...

Not only large tracts of healthy forests are being lost to development throughout the county, it is also alarming to see in my neighborhood how even small urban forest pockets are being cut down to give way to new homes that take up most of the plot. I was equally surprised to see that a new large house that takes up most of a lot with impervious surfaces pays the same stormwater fee than smaller homes that retain backyards with tree/forest cover. There is no incentive to keep backyard trees on private land!

And of course there is the conservation value of these ecosystems and the need to safeguard all animal and plant life, not only humans.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Pia Iolster-Izquierdo
8713 Hempstead Avenue
Bethesda

Pia Iolster-Izquierdo
piaiolster@gmail.com
8713 Hempstead Ave
BETHESDA, Maryland 20817

From: [Joseph Parambil](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: MoCo Needs a Stronger Forest Conservation Law
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 4:05:20 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson,

In the past decade, Montgomery County lost more than 1000 acres of forest. While I welcome updates to the forest conservation law to address this problem, the law needs to be far stronger to result in "no net loss" of forest. I support amendments suggested by the MoCo Forest Coalition, including:

1. Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
5. Strengthen watershed considerations so that re-plantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Protecting and adding forests to our County is a win for public health, environmental protection and water quality. Montgomery County should lead on this issue and a strong forest conservation law is the first step.

Joseph Parambil
bobawy@aol.com
7605 Tarpley Drive
Derwood, Maryland 20855

From: [KIT GAGE](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); partap.verna@mncppc-mc.org; [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Forest Conservation law hearing April 28
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 3:46:48 PM
Attachments: [FOSC Testimony MoCo Planning Bd 220428.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Please see the attached testimony from

Friends of Sligo Creek
PO Box 11572
Takoma Park MD 20913

Kit Gage
Advocacy Director
kgage@fosc.org
www.friendsofsligocreek.org
301.787.0187



26 April 2022

Montgomery County Planning Board

Dear Planning Board Members,

Friends of Sligo Creek supports strengthening the County's Forest Conservation Law, consistent with the recommendations of the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, as an active member of that coalition. Friends of Sligo Creek is a nonprofit environmental group dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.

We specifically ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems as the top priority. These should not be removed at all without a variance, based on strong justification;
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site. This will save developers' time and money as well as saving the most possible forest;
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all cases;
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystems, not just trees. When the forest ecosystem is what's being removed, that is what needs to be replaced as close as possible;
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and incentivizes replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county;
6. Tightens requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

Forests are the first line of defense, and the solution to climate change in many ways. Existing forests should be protected. When they cannot, repeat, cannot be saved, replacement forests must replicate them to the greatest extent possible. We focus our attention on saving forests, not just because of their beauty, but also for their flood and stormwater mitigation, water quality protection, cooling, capture of sediment and other pollutants, and health effects for humans as well as to a healthy biome. They should be considered and classified as critical natural infrastructure.

For the Sligo watershed, we well understand how even a narrow, forested area can serve all the above critical functions. We have seen again and again how infill development puts increased and virtually impossible pressure on the remaining forest to capture stormwater and pollutants, as well as to support an increasingly stressed biome.

Montgomery is losing forest at a high rate, apparently fifth highest in the state, and already has relatively little forested area. No net loss of forest is not only a great slogan: it is critical to the health of the county and the world. It doesn't happen by itself. The Planning Board and the County can make it happen only by regulation and enforcement, rule by rule, law by law, decision by decision.

Pressure on forests doesn't just come from development: diseases including Emerald Ash Borer and Oak Blight in recent years have decimated some of the biggest trees in our forests. So development pressures are not alone the risks to forests, but are some of the obvious decisions humans can make to save forests.

Please look again at the Planning Commission proposal to Council for Forest Conservation and strengthen the document to reflect these concerns.

Sincerely,

Kit Gage
Advocacy Director
Friends of Sligo Creek
kgage@fosc.org
www.friendsofsligocreek.org

From: [Daniel Pais](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: MoCo Needs a Stronger Forest Conservation Law
Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 12:36:31 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson,

In the past decade, Montgomery County lost more than 1000 acres of forest. While I welcome updates to the forest conservation law to address this problem, the law needs to be far stronger to result in "no net loss" of forest. I support amendments suggested by the MoCo Forest Coalition, including:

1. Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
5. Strengthen watershed considerations so that re-plantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Protecting and adding forests to our County is a win for public health, environmental protection and water quality. Montgomery County should lead on this issue and a strong forest conservation law is the first step.

Daniel Pais
daniel_pais@verizon.net
12314 W Old Baltimore Rd
Boys, Maryland 20841

From: [Suzanne Camacho](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: MoCo Needs a Stronger Forest Conservation Law
Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 12:53:15 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson,

In the past decade, Montgomery County lost more than 1000 acres of forest. While I welcome updates to the forest conservation law to address this problem, the law needs to be far stronger to result in "no net loss" of forest. I support amendments suggested by the MoCo Forest Coalition, including:

1. Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
5. Strengthen watershed considerations so that re-plantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Protecting and adding forests to our County is a win for public health, environmental protection and water quality. Montgomery County should lead on this issue and a strong forest conservation law is the first step.

Suzanne Camacho
Suzanne.Camacho1@gmail.com
12142 Skylark Road
CLARKSBURG, Maryland 20871

From: [Walter Cohn](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: County's Forest Conservation Law
Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 1:25:30 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Board Members,

We urge you to strengthen Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Laws. Our county is already experiencing increased flooding which will only continue to worsen as storms intensify due to increases in worldwide fossil fuel emissions. I have already witnessed water bubbling up from stormwater covers in streets and rivers of water rushing down certain county streets. We are also already experiencing increasingly brutally warm summers with unhealthy air quality. We need more trees throughout the county to protect us from these floods, extreme heat and unhealthy air.

Contiguous forests are different than newly planted contiguous trees. Pre-existing contiguous forests provide benefits that individual trees cannot achieve. They support an entire ecosystem. Please modify the existing Forest Conservation Law to ensure that all pre-existing forest ecosystems in Montgomery County are designated and treated as priority forests.

We need much stronger forest conservation laws. The law needs to ensure that existing conservation easements cannot be easily relocated or eliminated. The replanting ratios need to be significantly strengthened. Older trees sequester much more carbon in their leaves, branches, trunks and roots than newly planted trees. Older trees similarly have much greater capacity to absorb water and provide shade than very young trees. So removal of any mature trees should be replaced not by one new tree planted anywhere, but a significant multiple (say 5 or 10 trees) of a variety of native trees either in contiguous forested areas, in riparian shoulders or in densely developed communities. Agreements to prevent destruction of contiguous forested areas do not result in no net loss, and even a strict no net loss rule does not restore (let alone ultimately increase) the protection against climate change and protection of overall watershed health that our county needs.

And we need laws that require Parks and Planning to consider the impact of development very early in the pre-development stage so that changes in site development can be made before a developer submits a formal application plan for site development. The laws need to enable the Planning Board to evaluate forest stand delineation much earlier in the planning process to protect County residents' interest in clean and healthy watersheds, forests and overall county tree canopy.

Thank you for ensuring that the Board significantly strengthens the Forest Conservation Law. We need these assurances as we ultimately consider the dense development contemplated in Thrive Montgomery 2050. These go hand-in-hand and the degree to which the Board strengthens the Forest Conservation Law ensures that dense development near transportation hubs can be safely and wisely implemented.

Walter and Deborah Cohn
6212 Goodview Steet
Bethesda 20817
301.229.5023

From: [Laura Barnitz](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Cc: aman@potomac.org; sapplings@onemontgomerygreen.org
Subject: We Need Stronger Forest Law to Protect our Health & Fight Climate Change
Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 1:31:15 PM
Attachments: [WrittenTestimony_ForestConservation.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hello,

I have attached my letter of testimony for the Planning Board's consideration regarding tree conservation and forest laws. We must strengthen forest protections as much as possible for our families' health and to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

Laura Barnitz
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Laura Barnitz.

I am a resident in Montgomery County, living in the Colesville area of Silver Spring.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found [here](#).

I grew up exploring forests on my family's farm in Missouri, and even today I help manage approximately 1600 acres of forest there. In Maryland my "forest" consists of two silver maples (we just lost one other), a huge fir tree, a couple of hollies, a mimosa, three apple trees, a dogwood and two redbuds. Trees are a great comfort to me—being living things that will outlive us if healthy and left alone while hosting and supporting countless other forms of life, including ours.

Though trees are important, forests are more so, and we cannot afford to lose more. Preventing forest loss is much less expensive than mitigating pollution and cleaning our waterways after the fact. Every 10% increase in forest cover in a watershed produces double the savings in water treatment downstream, according to research reported by American Forests. Protecting and preserving our forests makes good financial sense for this reason as well as the fact that we need forests to combat climate change. Cutting forests for development or roads or any other reason retards, instead of supports the County Climate Change plan, which recognizes that we must reduce our carbon emissions and sequester as much carbon as possible as fast as possible.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, [combat climate change](#), and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. **Protects existing forest ecosystems**. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to **2:1 in all scenarios**.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that a whole forest ecosystem, not a monoculture of individual trees, is also what will be replanted.

5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and **to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County**, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the *strongest* possible forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our families' health and fighting climate change can't wait.

Sincerely,

Laura Barnitz
311 Eldrid Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20904

From: [Madeline Amalphy](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Save Montgomery County's Forests
Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:43:46 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

As a Gaithersburg resident who is extremely concerned about the climate crisis and loves taking long walks in beautiful local forests, I strongly urge the Montgomery County Planning Board to provide our forests with the strongest protections possible to create healthy communities and climate resilient future for the county.

I strongly urge the Board to implement the Montgomery County Forest Coalition's six main recommendations below:

1. Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County should be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
5. Increase watershed considerations so that replantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Healthy forests are essential for preventing the worst effect of the coming climate crisis from claiming the lives of millions of innocent Americans.

Madeline Amalphy
radchic05@gmail.com
651 Saybrooke Oaks Boulevard
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

From: [Nanci Wilkinson](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Save our forests
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:27:04 AM

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Montgomery County Planning Board,

Please pass the Forest Bill written by the CAP Coalition Sequestration group. It is stronger than the Planning Board's version and is what we need in this time of Climate Emergency.

Nanci Wilkinson

5502 Glenwood Rd

Bethesda MD 20817

Nanci Wilkinson

nanciwilkinson@gmail.com

5502 Glenwood Rd

Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From: [Laura O'Brien](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Protect our communities by protecting our forests!
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:52:36 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Laura O'Brien.

I am a resident in Montgomery County, living in Silver Spring.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the

Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,
Laura O'Brien
Silver Spring

Laura O'Brien
lauritaob310@gmail.com
8710 Reading Rd
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

From: [Betsy Kingery](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Protect Montgomery County Forests
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 10:27:50 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Montgomery County Planning Board,

I am writing to strongly encourage to Planning Board to adopt the recommendations of the Montgomery Country Forest Coalition as they relate to the consideration of the Forest Conservation Laws. Their recommendations are:

1. Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.
2. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.
4. Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
5. Increase watershed considerations so that replantings improve the water quality of the county.
6. Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Protecting forests, which are increasingly stressed due to development and environmental degradation is a crucial factor in climate change mitigation.

I am very proud of the Montgomery County programs to protect the environment and even have three trees from Tree Montgomery and a Rainscapes garden.

Please keep up the good work and support the forests here to the fullest extent.

Elizabeth Kingery
Kensington, Maryland

Betsy Kingery
erkingery@gmail.com
9709 Elrod Rd
Kensington, Maryland 20895-1683

From: [David Mosher](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest Conservation Law
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 10:36:43 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is David Mosher

I am a resident in Montgomery County, living in Gaithersburg.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the

Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

I am a retired science teacher and a parent. My understanding of the science of our environment drives my feeling of urgency to protect our remaining natural resources. I want to leave our next generation a livable and healthy planet.

Forests protect public health, the water we drink, clean air, and well-being for MoCo families. Forests protect our public health by maintaining and improving water quality and air quality, as well as reducing flooding.

All Montgomery County families have a right to clean, safe water to drink. Forests protect the water we drink.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that the whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they

cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I urge you to strengthen the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

David Mosher

15 Mirrasou Lane

Gaithersburg Md 20878

David Mosher

davidmosher1@yahoo.com

15 Mirrasou Ln

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-4117

From: [Margaret Moore](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Modification of the current Forest Conservation Law
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 11:07:39 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board:

I'm writing to say I agree with the Audubon Naturalist Society's goals for tightening protections for local ecosystems. My intention is not to stand in the way of development but to require developers to learn ecological principles and design developments in ways that maximize the ecological value of developed space.

Other industries need to be in a constant state of improvement and the development industry should be no different. They should be pushed to learn how to design spaces that promote human health and well-being while also allowing ecosystems to flourish and support a healthy food web for wild creatures and native plants.

I'm repeating the Audobon list of requests below for your reference:

- 1) Protect existing Forest Ecosystems.
- 2) Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements.
- 3) Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss.
- 4) Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
- 5) Increase watershed replanting.
- 6) Require a forest stand delineation before any application is submitted for development.

Respectfully,

Margaret Moore
Bethesda homeowner

Margaret Moore
margside@verizon.net
5340 Pooks Hill Rd
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

From: [Janet Alward](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Protect the Forests of Montgomery County
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 12:21:46 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members:

My name is Janet Alward.

I have been a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland for 50 years, currently living in Silver Spring. I have had the pleasure of raising two wonderful children in Montgomery County.

I write in support of the strongest possible laws to protect and preserve the MoCo forests as recommended by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

One of the things I learned, or better perhaps, remembered periods of isolation during the Pandemic was how important our Nature is. It was the bright blue skies, the beauty of trees, the sounds of birds - the reawakening to nature around me kept me optimistic. They related back to childhood memories of being outdoors, breathing in clean air, sitting in the shadow of a tree, being astounded by cicadas and these are what I hope will be the future for the children of Montgomery County.

The problems we face, air pollution and the diseases that causes, heat zones surrounding our growing urban areas, social unrest, desensitizing of our citizens, mental health issues, a disturbing trend toward a more antagonistic society, overall stress - these do not come from forests. In fact, the solution to many of these issues could be helped by a reconnection to nature. For that to happen, we must ensure that our forests are protected, for now and for future generations. The forests are essential for the survival of our humanity.

Specifically, I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.

6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

These are the recommendations of others who know more than I about what must be done to provide assurance that our forests can survive and thrive.

I hope that I can count on you to support these measures. I can remember what has been and enjoy what is, but it is up to you to sustain it for all of us now and especially for our future.

Sincerely,

Janet Alward
10109 Capitol View Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Janet Alward
fvp4@hotmail.com
10109 Capitol View Ave
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

From: [Geoffrey Kidd](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Strengthen Forest Protections
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 12:45:07 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Geoffrey Kidd. I am a resident of Germantown in Montgomery County.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the

Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found here.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest

possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Kidd, Ph.D. (Biochemistry)

Geoffrey Kidd

netgk@hotmail.com

14012 Eternity Rd.

Germantown, Maryland 20874

From: [Clayton Cochran](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest AND tree preservation
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 1:08:12 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

I am the past Conservation Chair of the Appalachian Mountain Club's Potomac Chapter. I strongly urge the Planning Board to preserve and expand Montgomery's forests and conservation ecosystems. Our organization has assisted in numerous projects to mitigate the effects of forest loss, agricultural runoff and degradation of public lands.

Here in Kensington, within the past few years dozens of huge, old trees have been felled and lots completely bared of vegetation to make way for massive houses. Next door to me, seven trees were removed only two weeks ago. How is Montgomery County responding to this? By allowing even more encroachment on our few remaining forests? I sincerely hope not.

Clayton E. Cochran

Clayton Cochran
judyclayton@verizon.net
2724 Jennings Rd
Kensington, Maryland 20895-2816

From: [Miles Amooore](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest conservation law
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 1:29:39 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hi there,

I'm aware that on Thursday, April 28, 2022, the Montgomery County Planning Board will review and hold a hearing regarding proposed amendments to the existing forest conservation law.

Given the growing triple planetary crisis of climate, waste and pollution, our forests have never been more important. Forests and other nature-based solutions will be key in mitigating, adapting to and building resilience to this crisis.

So, respectfully, I am asking that the Planning Board recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. protects existing forests;
2. tightens requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated;
3. strengthens replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss;
4. strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forests, not just trees;
5. strengthens watershed considerations so that replantings strengthen the water quality of the county.
6. Increases the number of urban food forests throughout urban areas in Montgomery County

Very best,

Miles

From: [Kathleen Samiy](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Preserve & Protect existing Forest Ecosystems
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 2:26:11 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Mature trees and forests sequester and store significant amounts of carbon for free. One large mature tree over 18" caliber can store 1,809% more carbon than a smaller tree, and can sequester 345% more carbon, absorb 180% more stormwater run off, remove more pollution per ounce by 174%, and maximizes wildlife habitat, food, and biodiversity. Per your own Planning Department document, SSDAC Appendix E, April 2022

If you want to help achieve the recently adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) goals - which is to cut greenhouse emissions by 80% by 2027- in 5 years, and 100% by 2035, — then you'd best act fast and act now to preserve and protect all existing forest ecosystems in our County. Anything less is irresponsible.

Please:

Protect existing Forest Ecosystems. All remaining pre-existing Forests in Montgomery County are to be designated & treated as priority forest in FCL. First priority is to protect existing forest ecosystems.

Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated.

Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss of forests after development.

Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.

Increase watershed considerations so that replantings improve the water quality of the county.

Forest stand delineation must be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.

Kathleen Samiy
ksamiy.silverspring@gmail.com
622 Bennington Drive
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

From: [SDT](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Forest Conservation Law
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 2:27:03 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am Stephen Taylor, a resident of Bethesda in Montgomery County, a Master Gardener and member of the Audubon Naturalist Society.

I believe that we humans are overwhelming Earth and that we need to take steps to maintain natural areas. I was walking my dog on the fields around Burning Tree Elementary school and discovered a fenced off area with a sign marking it as a Forest Conservation Area which surprised me and led me to understand that efforts are being made to preserve areas of forests in Montgomery County.

I support your efforts to enhance the Forest Conservation Law, specifically require more trees so that there is no net loss when trees die. Trees and their natural settings with soils that are undisturbed are very important to the overall health of our environment. I hope that more open areas of MC can be planted with trees and turned into natural settings in the future. Please let the Montgomery County Council know the importance of trees to the general environmental health of the county.

I would like the county to be more restrictive for residents who want to cut down trees and certainly would hope that developers are more restricted in clearing trees to build houses.

Sincerely,
Stephen Taylor
6712 Loring Court
Bethesda, MD 20817

From: [Tara Rice](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Protect MoCo Forests
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 3:33:22 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

I live in Gaithersburg. I urge you to support the strongest forest protections possible within the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) to create healthy communities and a climate resilient future for the county.

I work in public health. Forests protect public health, the water we drink, clean air, and well-being for MoCo families. I drink tap water and am concerned about maintaining the health of the streams in the northern part of MoCo, where rapid upcounty forest loss threatens the quality of the water we drink.

I am a Black woman, and preserving forests is important to my community. BIPOC and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by air pollution and climate change, and forests can be natural filters to lower respiratory illness among frontline communities. BIPOC and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by flooding. Forests reduce flooding, and preserving forests can reduce flood-related deaths, injuries, and damage to homes and businesses.

I am a gardener, hiker, and bird watcher. Soil health and plant biodiversity are important to me. Forests filter pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers, and street runoff, prevent sediment erosion, and mitigate flooding.

Therefore, I join the Montgomery County Forest Coalition in urging you to:

- 1) Protect existing Forest Ecosystems.
- 2) Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements.
- 3) Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss.
- 4) Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
- 5) Increase watershed replanting.
- 6) Require a forest stand delineation before any application is submitted for development.

In closing, please strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Best,

Tara Rice

Gaithersburg, 20878

Tara Rice

taramrice@yahoo.com

353 Market Street West, #222

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

From: [Beth Levine](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Save Our Forests
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 4:01:34 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Beth Levine.

I am a resident in Montgomery County and live in Rockville.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

There is so much noise and traffic here. Many of the forest areas that I loved walking by have been razed for development. It makes me sad and not like living in MC as much as I used to.

Plus, we are killing Mother Trees. Trees need each other to survive. We need to take care of trees and forests for their sakes and ours.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so

they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Beth Levine
282 New Mark Esplanade
Rockville, MD 20850

From: [Roselie Bright](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest conservation
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 5:34:37 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Hi Montgomery County Planning Board,

I support the position of the Montgomery County Sierra Club and their recommendations to the Planning Board and County Council to:

- protect existing forests,
- - tighten requirements around forest conservation easements so that they may not be so easily extinguished or relocated,
- - strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss,
- - strengthen replanting requirements to require the planting of forests, not just trees, and
- - strengthen watershed considerations so that replantings strengthen the water quality of the county.

Sincerely,
Roselie Bright
451 Hungerford Dr, Ste 119-214
Rockville, MD 20850

From: [Kathy Strom](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Strong Protection for Montgomery County Forests Needed!
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 5:47:39 PM
Attachments: [MoCo Forest Law Planning Board letter April 2022.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chair of the Planning Board,

Please see attached letter and share with the Planning Board members. Thank you.

Kathy Strom
7212 Ridgewood Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD

April 25, 2022

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Kathy Strom.

I am a resident in Montgomery County, and live in Chevy Chase.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found [here](#).

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being. It is also very important as we take measures to address climate change. We need to take steps at the local level as we also seek greater protection throughout the nation.

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the ***strongest*** possible forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

/Kathy Strom/

Kathy Strom

7212 Ridgewood Avenue

Chevy Chase, MD

From: [Robert Wald](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Protect MoCo's Trees
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 8:57:32 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

I have treasured Montgomery County's trees ever since I moved here in 1993. All these years later, we need them more than ever. I urge you to protect existing forests and their ecosystems, tighten requirements with regard to forest conservation easements, and take other actions to strengthen and grow the County's forest ecosystems.

Sincerely,
Robert Wald
Silver Spring

Robert Wald
rwald1729@verizon.net
1729 Dublin Dr
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

From: [Chris Hertz](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#); [Verma, Partap](#)
Subject: strengthen protection for forests and trees
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:03:50 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Chris Hertz and I am a life-long resident of Montgomery County, and live in Bethesda. I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, [found here](#).

One of the great advantages of growing up in MoCo was being surrounded by old growth trees and forests that populated our landscape. These trees provided shade, shelter for wildlife, clean air, and fought erosion -- it was a magical and healthy place to grow up. These trees and forests, and all their benefits, have been under assault over the last twenty years and like the Lorax, I hope you will speak for the trees.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,
Chris Hertz
5914 Kirby Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

From: [Tina Murray](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest Conservation Law Recommendations
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:27:06 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

116 Lee Avenue, #409
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Tina Murray. I am a resident in Montgomery County, in Takoma Park. I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law. As a 5-year member of the Takoma Park Tree Commission, I shepherded the recent amendments to the Takoma Park Tree Ordinance. Takoma Park is well known for its abundant canopy, which sadly is aging and dying off. Despite this, and against all professional and community advisement, the City Council has severely weakened the law's ability to ensure the strength of our canopy is maintained. We anticipate that the canopy has been reduced by as much as 10% in the last five years. What makes this particularly unfortunate is that it is increasingly understood that trees make a demonstrable contribution to mitigating the effects of carbon on our climate.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being. Given the absence of support of the City Council in the maintenance of our canopy, the Forest Conservation Law gives the County the opportunity to step in on behalf of all residents.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the

water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.

6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

These measures will support the maintenance of our forest ecosystems and provide a continuity of benefit to communities throughout the county.

Thank you for your consideration as you move forward with positive conservation recommendations.

Sincerely,
Tina Murray
240 338 3574

Tina Murray
tina.murray@outlook.com
116 Lee Avenue, Unit 409
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

From: [Vincent Verweij](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Forest protections in Montgomery County
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 9:45:42 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Vincent Verweij, I am a resident in Montgomery County, and I live in Takoma Park.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the

Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found [here](#).

I'm a certified arborist myself, and my love for the Eastern deciduous forest drives my enthusiasm for its conservation. These forests provide the life and lungs to our region, protecting biodiversity, filtering stormwater, trapping pollutants, and cooling our rapidly heating urban environments.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.
7. Support the removal of invasive species on both public and private property, to ensure we keep healthy forests over time.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Vincent Verweij
v.w.verweij@gmail.com
68 Walnut Ave
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912

From: [lydia Liu](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: We Need Strongest Possible Forest Law to Protect our Families' Health
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:54:17 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Lei Liu, I am a resident in Montgomery County, live in 1 Whisperwood Court, Rockville MD.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found

[here](#).

I grew up in a rural area in China and appreciate the beauty and all the benefits forests provide to all creatures. Seeing the destructions and sometime environmental disasters that took place in China in the past 30-40 years due to rapid development and industrialization I can personally testify the grave damages ensued when human beings ignored the nature and destroy forests in the process.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to

incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.

6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Lei Liu

1 Whisperwood Court

13208 Tamarack Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904

From: [Liz D](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Re: Item 6 Forest Conservation Law
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:00:43 PM
Attachments: [Forest Conservation Law Testimony of Liz Davenport.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 26, 2022, at 11:58 AM, Liz D <lizdenterprises@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> As submitted:

>

> Liz Davenport

> 519 Dartmouth Ave.

> SS, MD

>

>

Liz Davenport
519 Dartmouth Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 26, 2022

I am honored to submit written testimony as homeowner for 22 years in the urban forest neighborhood of older homes, apartments, and businesses between Dale Drive and Sligo Creek Park next to SS International and Sligo Creek Elementary.

Thanks to the Planning Board and Staff for your work to strengthen Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law. I support recommendations advanced by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition for nature-based solutions to remedy the vulnerability as an urban heat island...address tree losses to Purple Line and other developments, deal with climate change impacts, and mitigate environmental justice issues (tree equity in South SS - park restoration). In addition to signing on to the ten recommendations advanced by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition about nature-based solutions to remedy DTSS's vulnerability as an urban heat island...address tree losses to Purple Line and other developments, deal with climate change impacts, and mitigate environmental justice issues (tree equity in South SS - Jesup Park restoration).

- Protect existing Forest Ecosystems.
- Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements.
- Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss.
- Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
- Increase watershed replanting.
- Require a forest stand delineation before any application is submitted for development.

Trees are essential investments to achieve the Silver Spring Plan now under final review by the Montgomery County Council. In earlier testimony on the SS Plan, I recommended "Office of SS Champion" to:

- Prioritize goals, oversee work, assess results, and adapt the Plan as needed.

- Team with others, including other agencies, to achieve work.
- Be accountable by publicly reporting results.

To those functions, I would add education of property owners to know their trees, benefits of preserving existing trees, potential threats, better native tree replacements, helpful online tree tools, and area tree-planting programs. Engaging owners will enhance rather than hamper development and help ensure economic success.

SS yards have mature trees and gardens that ecologically connect to the tree canopy and wildlife of Sligo Creek Park. These neighborhoods also serve as a cooling green donut around Downtown SS, which Planning sees as a Green Community that values staying GREEN...a region with 7 unique districts unite around green loops with interconnecting corridors that connect on the themes of health, security, and success.

505 walkable acres, climate resilient, healthy lifestyles, vibrant places, shaded green loops under canopy trees...comfortable for visitors...access to parks and public spaces...in the heart of SS...cooled by green infrastructure.

The SS Plan credits mature trees and tree canopy as fundamental to urban functions of storm water management, air pollution control, heat index mitigation, wildlife protection, and a myriad of highly valued recreation, physical, and mental health programs.

The Forest Conservation Law must address loss of trees in urban centers like DTSS as an essential element for NO NET LOSS management. How trees are used to offset urban heat in SS (3rd worst in MoCo) relative to other communities could be one evaluation barometer. Let NO NET LOSS address deficit areas first.

SS has lost hundreds of older trees due to Purple Line and other recent developments. Environmental stewardship requires the preservation of older trees during development. This is critical to productive ecosystems and to mitigate and improve the growing problem of urban centers and their heat indices likely to get worse from climate change and make it harder to nurture young trees. Because tree changes are incremental, people need to know where to turn for help before tree canopies and ecosystem values they provide are permanently lost. Area schools, MC, and civic associations for civic education can and should be engaged to help.

In SS Plan testimony, I stressed: “REQUIRE a minimum of 35% green cover on Optional Method Projects.” (Replace ENCOURAGE with REQUIRE regarding green cover: green roofs, tree canopy, or combination or energy self-generation). REQUIRE is consistent with the Bethesda Plan.

Silver Spring and all of MoCo needs forest remediation and conservation to offset greater urban challenges in the next 20 years. As a Green Community, Silver Spring will attract startups, associations, government agencies and others as an exciting investment opportunity, a city of tomorrow designed with lessons learned from climate change and the pandemic.

More parks, public spaces and seamless access to them, two Green Loops and connecting corridors require saving existing trees between 20-80 years old...and aggressive planting and replanting trees and other vegetation will be needed. SS can help Maryland meet its 40% goal for no net loss of urban forest through preservation of existing trees.

>

> Sent from my iPad

Liz Davenport
519 Dartmouth Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 26, 2022

I am honored to submit written testimony as homeowner for 22 years in the urban forest neighborhood of older homes, apartments, and businesses between Dale Drive and Sligo Creek Park next to SS International and Sligo Creek Elementary.

Thanks to the Planning Board and Staff for your work to strengthen Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law. I support recommendations advanced by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition for nature-based solutions to remedy the vulnerability as an urban heat island...address tree losses to Purple Line and other developments, deal with climate change impacts, and mitigate environmental justice issues (tree equity in South SS - park restoration). In addition to signing on to the ten recommendations advanced by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition about nature-based solutions to remedy DTSS's vulnerability as an urban heat island...address tree losses to Purple Line and other developments, deal with climate change impacts, and mitigate environmental justice issues (tree equity in South SS - Jesup Park restoration).

- Protect existing Forest Ecosystems.
- Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements.
- Strengthen replanting ratios to ensure no-net-loss.
- Strengthen Re-planting requirements to require the planting of Forest Ecosystem, not just trees.
- Increase watershed replanting.
- Require a forest stand delineation before any application is submitted for development.

Trees are essential investments to achieve the Silver Spring Plan now under final review by the Montgomery County Council. In earlier testimony on the SS Plan, I recommended "Office of SS Champion" to:

- Prioritize goals, oversee work, assess results, and adapt the Plan as needed.
- Team with others, including other agencies, to achieve work.
- Be accountable by publicly reporting results.

To those functions, I would add education of property owners to know their trees, benefits of preserving existing trees, potential threats, better native tree replacements, helpful online tree tools, and area tree-planting programs. Engaging owners will enhance rather than hamper development and help ensure economic success.

SS yards have mature trees and gardens that ecologically connect to the tree canopy and wildlife of Sligo Creek Park. These neighborhoods also serve as a cooling green donut around Downtown SS, which Planning sees as a Green Community that values staying GREEN...a region with 7 unique districts unite around green loops with interconnecting corridors that connect on the themes of health, security, and success.

505 walkable acres, climate resilient, healthy lifestyles, vibrant places, shaded green loops under canopy trees...comfortable for visitors...access to parks and public spaces...in the heart of SS...cooled by green infrastructure.

The SS Plan credits mature trees and tree canopy as fundamental to urban functions of storm water management, air pollution control, heat index mitigation, wildlife protection, and a myriad of highly valued recreation, physical, and mental health programs.

The Forest Conservation Law must address loss of trees in urban centers like DTSS as an essential element for NO NET LOSS management. How trees are used to offset urban heat in SS (3rd worst in MoCo) relative to other communities could be one evaluation barometer. Let NO NET LOSS address deficit areas first.

SS has lost hundreds of older trees due to Purple Line and other recent developments. Environmental stewardship requires the preservation of older trees during development. This is critical to productive ecosystems and to mitigate and improve the growing problem of urban centers and their heat indices likely to get worse from climate change and make it harder to nurture young trees. Because tree changes are incremental, people need to know where to turn for help before tree canopies and ecosystem values they provide are permanently lost. Area schools, MC, and civic associations for civic education can and should be engaged to help.

In SS Plan testimony, I stressed: “REQUIRE a minimum of 35% green cover on Optional Method Projects.” (Replace ENCOURAGE with REQUIRE regarding green cover: green roofs, tree canopy, or combination or energy self-generation). REQUIRE is consistent with the Bethesda Plan.

Silver Spring and all of MoCo needs forest remediation and conservation to offset greater urban challenges in the next 20 years. As a Green Community, Silver Spring will attract startups, associations, government agencies and others as an exciting investment opportunity, a city of tomorrow designed with lessons learned from climate change and the pandemic.

More parks, public spaces and seamless access to them, two Green Loops and connecting corridors require saving existing trees between 20-80 years old...and aggressive planting and replanting trees and other vegetation will be needed. SS can help Maryland meet its 40% goal for no net loss of urban forest through preservation of existing trees.

From: [rg steinman](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Testimony: Proposed 'no net loss of forest' amendments to the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law and Forest Conservation & Trees Regulations
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 12:06:17 PM
Attachments: [Testimony, MoCo FCL Amendments, Apr2022-FINAL.doc](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Commissioners,
Attached please find my testimony on the 'no net loss of forest' amendments to the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law and Forest Conservation & Trees Regulations

Thank you for reading and taking these recommendations into consideration.

~ Roberta G (rg) Steinman

9009 Fairview Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20910-4106

301-565-2025

lifeonurth@gmail.com

To: The Montgomery County Planning Board Chair and Commissioners

From: Roberta G Steinman, 9009 Fairview Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: Testimony on Staff Report, "No Net Loss of Forest" Amendment

PRELUDE: We are living in a time of climatic and ecological crises. Retaining and increasing our natural forest ecosystems is our best technology and best hope to combat climate disruption and bring back balance to our planet, our home. Forests are a refuge for biological diversity and a sink for carbon sequestration. Boreal and Tropical forests are at the brink of their tipping points due to development as well as disease resulting from the atmosphere heating. With regard to climate, this means that, soon, these forests won't be able to sink as much carbon as they are losing. Our future therefore lies with the temperate forests of the Eastern U.S., especially the older forests that can hold more carbon than young forests. It all comes down to **how we safeguard our temperate forests** – do we use them for commercial purposes, or do we preserve and expand them?

PRESERVE AND EXPAND OUR FORESTS

The urgency of the climate situation requires preservation and expansion of our forested ecosystems. The **"No Net Loss" vision is not a viable strategy because it does not protect existing forest ecosystems, nor does it allow for natural regeneration to increase forest preservation.** Furthermore, mitigation that uses existing forests to substitute for forest mitigation plantings required by the Forest Conservation Act, overtime, leads to net loss of mature or maturing forest along with the loss of complex ecological relationship with ecological value. **We cannot "plant" a forest ecosystem.** Forest ecosystems, especially mature forest ecosystems, cannot be duplicated. We humans simply cannot "plant" a forest that replicates the ecological services that are lost. It takes several hundred years for forest soils to develop and for forest canopy, sub-canopy, and understory to develop to full maturity. These qualities simply cannot be recreated by planting. With the window quickly closing for effective climate action, we need to preserve all our existing forests, and encourage expansion of our forests through a natural regeneration process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF FOREST PRESERVATION - HEALTHY AIR, LAND, WATER, AND COMMUNITIES

- **HEALTHY AIR →** In this time of climate chaos and elevated greenhouse gas emissions, the critical role of forests cannot be overstated. Forests sequester carbon thus reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Annually, one acre of trees can remove 40 tons of carbon from the air and produce 108 tons of oxygen.¹ Trees filter out pollutants and release fresh oxygen. Forests clean the air of particulate matter, and their cooling effect counteracts the urban heat island effect.
- **HEALTHY LAND →** Forests are critical for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. Forests provide habitat and migration corridors for native flora and fauna (birds, bugs, and other animals), thus promoting sustainability of the native species. The decay of the forests' fallen leaves and deadfall enrich the composition and texture of the soil, thereby creating healthy, fertile soil essential to the fungal relationships that support the life of the forest.
- **HEALTHY WATER →** Forests are the most beneficial land use in terms of water quality. By absorbing water, the forested ecosystem filters the water, feeds the forest soil and wetlands, and provides the mechanism for groundwater recharge for the seeps, springs, and creeks. Forests are also our best storm management system. By retaining water, the forests stabilize the soil and reduce runoff that would otherwise pollute the streams with toxins and sediment.
- **HEALTHY MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILIES →** Preserving our existing forests provides economic and health benefits for Montgomery County families.
 - Health care costs are reduced with improved air quality.
 - Forests protect the water we drink. Every 10% increase in forest cover in a watershed produces double the savings in water treatment downstream, according to research reported by American Forests.²
 - Forests reduce flooding. The loss of forests can result in increased property damage to homes and businesses.
 - Forests moderate or buffer weather extremes. Trees cool the air and reduce the need for air conditioning because they provide shade cover and transpire moisture.
 - Forests contribute to a higher quality of life. By connecting us with nature, forests improve human health, reduce stress and give people a sense of well-being. The beauty and grace of the forest trees provide aesthetic

¹ Conserving the Forests of the Chesapeake: The Status, Trends, and Importance of Forest for the Bay's Sustainable Future, USDA Forest Service, 1996. P.7

² Maryland League of Conservation Voters, HB991, Forest Conservation, Mar2021.

benefits, and the uplifting nature of trees offers Peace and Serenity. Studies show that populations living near forested areas exhibit lower asthma, diabetes, and high blood pressure rates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Protect existing Forest Ecosystems and provide for the expansion of forests through natural regeneration.** Preserve all remaining Forests in Montgomery County to protect existing forest ecosystems.
- **Prioritize natural riparian forest regeneration.** To improve the water quality in Montgomery County, allow for the reforestation of riparian areas that are currently without forest cover to regenerate naturally. This applies to watercourses of all sizes. If natural regeneration is not practical, replant only with locally native species. Upland forest regeneration is also very important but should not be prioritized ahead of the riparian forest restoration.
- **If you do pursue tree replacement, strengthen tree replacement requirements at a 2:1 ratio based on Diameter at Breast Height.** To ensure no-net-loss of forests after development, state and local entities should calculate tree replacement replanting at a 2 to1 ratio based upon the diameter at breast height (dbh) lost. For example, the loss of one 24"dbh tree would be replaced with sixteen 3 inch dbh trees or twelve 4 inch dbh.

CONCLUSION

Forests are vitally important for sustaining life on Earth, and play a major role in the fight against climate change. If we are really serious about tackling climate change and the decline in biodiversity, we need to preserve our forests and allow them to naturally regenerate. This is the most cost effective way to fight climate change. Preserving and expanding our forested ecosystems is crucial for sustaining life on Earth!

*****END*****

From: [Dedun Ingram](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#); [Verma, Partap](#)
Subject: Comments on Forest Conservation Law update under consideration on April 28
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:25:41 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am writing concerning the proposed update of the County's Forest Conservation law. The draft update does not go far enough to protect our forests. I urge you to strengthen the Forest Conservation Law in accordance with the recommendations you have received from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition before you send your recommendations to the County Council. The law must require stronger forest protections and replanting requirements!

Our forest are valuable assets for so many reasons. They are essential for the physical and mental well-being of many residents -- providing much needed green spaces where residents can recreate and enjoy nature and rest from the noise and hubbub of our increasingly urban communities. They also are important as we strive to foster good environmental conditions in our county – they clean our air; provide protections for our water resources, offset our growing heat islands; provide sanctuaries for migrating birds, other animals, and ecosystems;

I ask you to strengthen the bill that will update the Forest Conservation law and only then transmit it to the County Council. I strongly support the strengthening recommendations made by the Montgomery County Forest Coalition. The law must:

1. Protect existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Require Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning prior to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthen replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthen replanting requirements to require the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that the whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthen watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

We need the strongest possible forest protection laws now!

Sincerely,

Deborah Ingram
4312 Willow Ln
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

From: [Robin Stocks](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: We are loosing our forests in Montgomery County
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 8:29:32 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Montgomery County Planning Board,

As I drive around our County I am ever astonished and sad that large tracts of forested land are being developed, We are out pacing our capacity for transit, stirring the multiple herds of deer, local predators like owls and foxes, and setting ourselves up for decline of our ecological systems. If the trees aren't available to cool the earth, house the nesting birds and offer hidey-holes, nourishing decomposers, how can WE HUMANS survive? We need to have a widely scoped view of providing for our population and developing new areas...no more large, new homes with acreage. We need to look at other development possibilities for replacing and rehabing derelict strip malls and empty warehouses. We need to provide nature with corridors of natural meadows and forests so that we can LIVE too.

Robin Stocks
robinstocks2@gmail.com
2810 Aquarius Ave
Silver Spring, Maryland 20906

From: [Tame Coalition](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Strongest Possible Forest Law to Protect our Families' Health
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:07:07 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

The TAME Coalition urges the Board to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the [Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition](#).

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend Forest Conservation Law legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tightens requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

The [MOCO Climate Action Plan](#) (Carbon Sequestration) speaks to the urgency that we must solve our climate crisis, use existing natural resources to do so, and plan for a climate resilient future.

Through TAME Coalition's ongoing participation in Montgomery County's Climate Action and Resilience Plan, County officials have been presented with a

No New Highways policy in the Plan, along with a related climate action in this direction: **removal of proposed M-83 highway from the county's master plans.** Removing M-83 highway from the master plans, and stepping-up investments in Upcounty transit, will set a clear direction toward people-centric and away from car-centric travel; will avoid increasing the county's carbon emissions from transportation; and will enhance climate resilience through protection of existing forests, wetlands and stream valleys in Upcounty communities.

We ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the *strongest* possible forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our planet and our health cannot wait any longer.

Yours for the Earth,

Margaret Schoap, Organizer

240-581-0518 cell

Diane Cameron, Volunteer

301-655-6049 cell

<http://www.tamecoalition.org/>



From: [Daniel Clohossey](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Forest Conservation
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:14:47 AM
Attachments: [Forest Conservation.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am submitting the attached as a resident of the Town of Chevy Chase. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Daniel Clohossey
4212 Thornapple Street
Town of Chevy Chase

April 27, 2022

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Daniel Clohossey. I am a resident in Montgomery County and live in the Town of Chevy Chase. I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

Protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tighten requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated. A local example in my Town is the likely forest conservation easement that will be put in place as part of the redevelopment of the 4-H property on Connecticut Avenue.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the ***strongest possible*** forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Daniel Clohossey, 4212 Thornapple Street, Town of Chevy Chase

From: [Abbie M. N.](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Strengthen MoCo Forest Law
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:29:17 AM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am a resident in Montgomery County, live in Bethesda, MD.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the

Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition.

We need the strongest possible protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I urge you to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the strongest possible forest protection laws now. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,
Abbie Meador
20817

From: [Catalina C-S](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)
Subject: Strong Forest Law is Imperative
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 11:11:14 AM
Attachments: [Strengthen Forest Protections.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

April 26, 2022

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Catalina Salazar and I am a resident in Germantown, Montgomery County.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found [here](#).

I moved here from California in 2018 to live among the trees and forests of Maryland. In 1997 after having grown up in Los Angeles, with limited access to trees and forests I started making yearly trips to the east coast for the beauty of the fall colors. I began to learn more about the deciduous forests here and all the ways they help humans, plants and animals survive and thrive.

As a Retreat leader and Educator I know that protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend Forest Conservation Law legislation to the County Council that:

- Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
- Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
- Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
- Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
- Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
- Tightens requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the ***strongest*** possible forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Catalina Salazar

DaySpring Retreat Center

11301 Neelsville Church Rd
Germantown, MD 20876