

Resource Protection Areas

*Our link to nature
and the Chesapeake Bay*



***Does a Resource Protection Area (RPA) stand between you and a property decision?
Before you act, contact!***

Improvements in the RPA that require prior approval from Chesterfield County

- Construction or installation of structures that require a building permit
- Clearing or pruning vegetation
- Removing trees and shrubs
- Creating paths, driveways and roads
- Shoreline erosion projects

Chesterfield County Environmental Engineering is here to help you sort out issues related to RPAs with responsible research and expert insight. Get in touch — together we'll figure out the best way to serve land and home.

And always: ***Before you act, contact!***

What is a Resource Protection Area?

RPAs are 100-foot natural corridors of environmentally-sensitive lands that lie alongside the banks and shorelines of streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. RPAs stretch from tidal shores to perennial streams and waterbodies to non-tidal adjacent wetlands. Full of vegetation, the buffers typically include a dense canopy, an understory of trees and a ground cover of shrubs and leaf litter. In Chesterfield, RPAs are located adjacent to the James and Appomattox rivers; to the Falling Creek, Swift Creek and Lake Chesdin reservoirs; and, to over 850 miles of perennial streams throughout the county.

Why are Resource Protection Areas so important?

In their natural condition, RPAs protect water quality, prevent erosion, filter pollutants and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff. By respecting and preserving RPAs, we also protect our visual and recreational assets, as well as a wide variety of plants, animals and aquatic life.

What happens if RPAs are disturbed or improperly managed?

In Chesterfield County, a high percentage of homeowners benefit from living near a stream, river or other water body. However, disturbing an RPA sets off a chain reaction with destructive results. RPA neglect and disrespect can result in stream bank erosion, habitat destruction, water pollution and a reduction in biodiversity.

Our mission: We work with residents, businesses and the development community to protect natural resources and enhance communities while accommodating growth and development.

Before you act, contact!

For more information, visit www.chesterfield.gov/RPA or call 804-748-1035.



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