

Article X

Payment In Lieu of Afforestation and Reforestation

§31–10.1 Forest Conservation Account

- A. There is established a Forest Conservation Account in the local program.
- B. If a person subject to this Ordinance demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department that requirements for reforestation or afforestation onsite or offsite cannot be reasonably accomplished; the person shall contribute money into the Town of Easton Forest Conservation Account:
 - (1) For a project inside a priority funding area, as defined in Natural Resources Article, §5-1610, Annotated Code of Maryland, at a rate of thirty and one-half (\$30.5) cents per square foot of the area of required planting with the amount adjusted by the Department based on the previous year's inflation rate; and
 - (2) For a project outside a priority funding area, at a rate of thirty-six and six-tenths (\$36.6) cents per square foot of the area of required planting.
- C. Money contributed in lieu of afforestation or reforestation under this article shall be paid prior to development and or project plan approval.
- D. The Town shall accomplish the reforestation or afforestation efforts for which the money was deposited within 2 years or 3 growing seasons, whichever is a greater, upon receipt of the payment.
- E. Money deposited into the Town of Easton's Forest Conservation Account:
 - (1) May be spent on the costs directly related to reforestation and afforestation, including site identification, acquisition, preparation, maintenance of existing forests and achieving urban canopy goals;
 - (2) Shall be identified according to individual development project activities; and
 - (3) May not revert to the general fund.
- F. Sites for Afforestation or Reforestation Using Account Money.
 - (1) Except as provided in Subsection G of this section, the reforestation or afforestation requirement under this article shall occur within the corporate limits of the Town of Easton.
 - (2) If the reforestation or afforestation cannot be reasonably accomplished within the Town, then the reforestation or afforestation shall occur within Talbot County or the watershed of the State of Maryland.