



Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building

## Tree Protection

### Our Commitment

Montgomery College is committed to tree protection and we will do our best to protect the existing trees along New York and Takoma Avenues— especially the park-like setting along this street. Additional landscaping materials will be added to the campus as part of this project to help with screening, aesthetics and stormwater management.

### Overview

The College has demonstrated our commitment to the value of trees as vital elements of the environment on this campus, as well as the Rockville and Germantown campuses. The Germantown Campus is home to 75 acres of trees protected by a Forest Conservation Easement Category I and a Forest Conservation Easement Category II that protects a champion chestnut tree. These easements protect more than 30 percent of the campus property in perpetuity. Trees are protected at the Rockville Campus by a forest conservation master plan, which protects existing trees and installs new trees with each construction project. The College continues its commitment on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus by taking strong measures to protect existing trees and planting new trees in support of “Takoma Park’s commitment to growing its canopy and helping address climate change.”

### State and County Requirements

- State of Maryland Natural Resources Article 5-1601 - 1613, Forest Conservation Act, enacted in 1991

*As population in the Chesapeake grows and development increases, more and more forestland is vanishing from the Maryland landscape. In the process, we are not only losing areas that contribute to the beauty and character of the state, but resources that provide economic products and safeguard the quality of our air, water, and soil.*

*Maryland’s Forest Conservation Act (FCA) strives to conserve forest cover on development sites by establishing rules that minimize the loss of existing forests and, in some cases, replenish forest that has been lost to development activities in the past. By reviewing development plans for their compliance with the FCA and by monitoring forest protection during construction, citizens can help ensure forests are protected as fully as possible.*

- Montgomery County Code of County Regulations (COMCOR) Chapter 22A. Forest Conservation - Trees - Regulations
- City of Takoma Park Municipal Code Title 12 Trees and Vegetation. “Title 12 is intended to supplement and not to contradict or supersede any applicable provisions of the law and regulations of the State of Maryland. Pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 4-111 of the local government article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and by Section 1-203 of the Montgomery County Code, the City of Takoma Park specifically exempts itself from the following sections of the Montgomery County Code relating to tree protection and tree canopy preservation.

- Section 8-26(n) and (o);
- Section 19-71;
- Section 49-35;
- Section 49-36A;
- Sections 55-1 through 55-11 (Ord. 2014-4 § 1, 2014)”

## Compliance

Tree Protection Plan and Tree Removal Permit. The agency having jurisdiction is the City of Takoma Park. The City prefers that tree removal mitigation—new trees—be planted on site. Replacement trees must be 1.5 inches in diameter or greater. However, if that is not feasible, a fee-in-lieu will be accepted. The initial Tree Protection Plan and Tree Removal Application were filed February 2019 and apply to trees 7-5/8 inches in diameter or greater. The urban forest manager has met multiple times with the landscape architect from A. Morton Thomas, the College’s contractor. The urban forest manager reviewed the Tree Protection Plan and Tree Removal Application and issued his comments June 2019. Once the overall site design is finalized, the urban forest manager will review and approve the final Tree Protection Plan and final Tree Removal Application.

Forest Conservation. Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission also regulates tree protection especially with respect to the protection of forests. As part of the Mandatory Referral Review process, the College submitted a Natural Resources Inventory and Forest Conservation Exemption application as required as a forest does not exist on the campus. On January 10, 2019 the Forest Conservation Exemption Request No. 42018088E was approved. However, the College will work with the local government—the City of Takoma Park—with respect to tree protection to support this City’s commitment to “growing its canopy and helping address climate change.”

The College is committed to tree protection as trees contribute to aesthetics, provide screening, mitigate air pollution, contribute to stormwater management and to an overall healthy environment.

## Contractors are committed too

The contractor hired to demolish the Falcon Hall and Science South buildings and construct the new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building is required per the terms of the company’s contract with the College to adhere to the approved Tree Protection Plan.