



CHARLES SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Organized 1941

4200 Gardiner Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
(301) 638-3028

MEMO REGARDING AGRICULTURAL CLEARING OPERATIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

Lately the Charles Soil Conservation District has addressed several situations involving land clearing operations related to agricultural land. If you are considering similar operations please note the following:

- Land clearing and grading operations require Charles Soil Conservation District (District) sediment and erosion control approval. This approval is obtained by submitting a sediment and erosion control plan to the District which is compliant with current Charles Soil Conservation District Plan Submittal Guidelines (See website: CharlesSCD.com). Consult the appropriate professional consultant to prepare required plan.
- Land clearing and grading work carried out to construct Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of a District Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan (SCWQP) receive District sediment and erosion control approval via said plan. Please contact the District to speak to an agricultural planner for assistance.
- Land clearing and grading activities which disturb less than 5,000 square feet of land area and disturb less than 100 cubic yards of earth are exempt from the requirement of District erosion and sediment control plan approval. This exemption is not intended to allow land disturbance to be performed incrementally.
- Logging and timber harvesting operations, which do not involve stump removal and/or land grading, require a Charles Soil Conservation District Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations. For a Forest Harvest operation, you will need to complete an application and submit through our office (Charles SCD) along with the appropriate review fee. Please consult a professional forester to prepare required plan.
- Plans submitted to the Charles Soil Conservation District must reflect current conditions and cannot be approved for post construction.
- Questions related to Charles County Government permits should be directed to the Department of Planning and Growth Management at (301) 645-0692.
- Circumstances that could require other permits, specifically for impacted wetlands or waterways would require a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- The appropriate design professional should be consulted to prepare and submit applicable plans for the required approvals.