

Guidelines for Mitigation Plantings in the Critical Area

1. Amount of Disturbance and Clearing

There are two ways to calculate the amount of disturbance in the Critical Area. Disturbance is based on either the area disturbed or the number of individual trees that will be cut. It is recommended that when an area to be disturbed more closely resembles a natural forest (i.e., canopy cover with a multi-layer understory) or when structures or other impervious surfaces are placed within the Buffer or a BEA, even if no trees are cleared, you should quantify the disturbance amount in the *area cleared*. On the other hand, if your site more closely resembles a park setting (i.e., scattered trees with little or no understory), it is recommended that you count the *number of trees removed*.

2. Plant Spacings and Mitigation Credits for Various Size Trees and Shrubs*

Credit Square Feet	Plant Size	Plant Spacing
100 sq. ft.	1 tree (2-inch caliper)	10-foot center
400 sq. ft.	1 tree (minimum: 2-inch caliper and either balled and burlapped or container grown) <u>and</u> understory vegetation (minimum 2 small trees or 3 shrubs)	tree: 20-ft. center understory: 10-ft. center
50 sq. ft.	1 tree (seedlings)	7-ft. center
50 sq. ft.	1 shrub	3 - 7 ft. center

* The Critical Area Commission recognizes natural regeneration as a method for mitigation on appropriate sites. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. All plantings will require an easement to ensure that these areas remain forested in perpetuity.

3. Mitigation Ratios

Choose from the following for the mitigation ratios:

Mitigation Ratio for Clearing Outside of Buffer

Clearing of Forest/Woodlands up to 20% 1:1
 Clearing of Forest/Woodlands up to 30% 1.5:1
 Clearing of Forest/Woodlands over 30% 3:1
 Clearing Violation 3:1
 Other
 N/A

Mitigation Ratio for Disturbance/Clearing Within Buffer

New Development/Redevelopment (non-BEA) 3:1
 New Development/Redevelopment (BEA) 2:1
 Shore Erosion Control 1:1
 Public Shoreline Access 2:1
 Clearing Violation 3:1
 Other
 N/A

4. Planting Date

The Planting Date should be either the Spring or Fall season following the approval of the project by the Critical Area Commission.

5. Site Visits

Two site visits will be conducted over a period of two years by Critical Area Commission staff. The objective of the site visits is to verify that the plantings have been carried out in accordance with the approved planting plan (i.e., species, number of trees/shrubs, location) and that the plantings are surviving.

Planting Agreement for State/Local Projects

State/Local Agency

Project Number

Agency Contact

Phone Number

Commission Approval Date

CAC Planner

Project Name

Project Location

Square Feet Cleared Outside 100ft Buffer

Mitigation Ratio for Clearing Outside Buffer

Mitigation Calculation Outside Buffer

Square Feet Disturbed/Cleared Within Buffer*

Mitigation Ratio for Disturbance/Clearing Within Buffer*

15% Afforestation Requirement Met?

Mitigation Calculation Within Buffer

Total Mitigation Requirement

Planting and Natural Regeneration Plan (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Planting Date

Year

First Site Visit Date

Completed by

Second Site Visit Date

Completed By

Date Mitigation Complete

Responsible Contact for Mitigation (Print)

Signature

Date