

CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Category II

DEFINITIONS

Grantor: Fee simple owner of real property subject to a:
(i) Plan approval conditioned on compliance with a FCP; or
(ii) Plan approval conditioned on compliance with a conservation easement agreement (issued pursuant to Chapter 50 or 59, Montgomery County Code).

Grantee: Montgomery County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission").

Planning Board: Montgomery County Planning Board of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Planning Director: Director of the Montgomery County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County, or the Director's designee.

Plan: Sediment control permit approved pursuant to Montgomery County Code Chapter 19; preliminary plan approved under Montgomery County Code Chapter 50; site plan, development plan, planned unit development or special exception application approved under Montgomery County Code Chapter 59; mandatory referral reviewed pursuant to Article 28 of Maryland State Code Annotated; approved for utility construction (as defined by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's regulations).

Forest Conservation Plan ("FCP"): Forest Conservation Plan approved by the Planning Board or Planning Director pursuant to Chapter 22A, Montgomery County Code.

Exhibit A:

- (i) FCP approved as a condition of receiving any of the Plan approval noted above; or
(ii) Approved and signed Plan referencing this Agreement.

IMP. FD SURE \$ 0.00
RECORDING FEE 0.00
TOTAL 0.00
Res: MQR 12/8/94 Rcpt: 12/8/94
MQR JJW BIK: 49
Dec 30, 1994 12:25 PM

WITNESSETH

This Agreement reflects a grant of easement by Grantor to the Grantee.

WHEREAS Grantor (or Grantor's agent) has obtained authority to develop pursuant to a Plan in accordance with Montgomery County, Maryland laws; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board or other approving authority approved Grantor's Plan conditioned upon a requirement that development occur in strict accordance with a FCP approved by the Planning Board after full review of the FCP pursuant to the

94 DEC 30 P 12: 27.6

FILED
MOLLY O. RUHL
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

provisions of Montgomery County Code Chapter 22A (Forest Conservation); Chapter 50 (Subdivision Regulations); and/or Chapter 59 (Zoning Ordinance); and/or

the Planning Board approved Grantor's Plan conditioned upon Grantor subjecting the property to be developed ("Property") or a portion of the property to be developed to a conservation easement pursuant to the provisions of Montgomery County Code Chapter 50 (Subdivision Regulations), and/or Chapter 59 (Zoning Ordinance) for the purposes set forth below running in favor of Grantee; and

WHEREAS, the location of this easement ("Easement") is as shown on Exhibit A (incorporated by reference into the terms of this Agreement); and

WHEREAS, the purpose includes preservation of trees and maintenance of tree cover, and preservation of the natural beauty of the property subject to the Easement and prevention of any alteration, construction or destruction that will tend to mar or detract from such natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the purpose may include screening the approved new development from the sight of adjacent and abutting property owners to ensure maximum compatibility between existing and proposed new developments; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend for the conditions and covenants contained in this agreement to run with the land in perpetuity and to be binding on all subsequent owners and occupants of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend that a servitude be placed upon the Property to create a conservation benefit in favor of the Planning Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Grantor has executed this agreement for no monetary consideration but for the purpose of ensuring compliance with development standards imposed by Montgomery County law as a condition of development approval. The Grantor does hereby grant and convey unto the Planning Board, in perpetuity, an Easement on the Property of the size and location described in Exhibit A, and further described on the applicable record plat(s), of the nature and character described herein. This Easement constitutes a covenant real running with the title of the land, and is granted to preserve, protect and maintain the general topography and natural character of the land. Grantor, its heirs, successors and assigns covenant to abide by the following restrictions within the Easement:

1. The foregoing recitals are agreed to and incorporated herein and shall be binding upon the parties.

2. No tree with a diameter greater than six inches (at a height of four feet from the ground) or more than thirty feet in

height (measured from the ground) ("Trees") or any tree planted as part of an afforestation or reforestation plan may be cut down, removed or destroyed without prior written consent from the Planning Board staff. Diseased or hazardous Trees or Tree limbs may be removed to prevent personal injury or property damage after a minimum of ten business days notice to the Planning Director, unless such notice is not practical in an emergency situation.

3. Understory plant materials including, but not limited to brush, shrubs, saplings, seedlings, undergrowth and vines may be cut down, removed or destroyed without prior written consent of the Planning Director, provided their removal does not damage, injure or kill Trees or create erosion or slope stability problems and provided that they were not planted as part of an afforestation or reforestation plan.

4. Fences are permitted within the Easement provided their construction and maintenance can be executed in compliance with the restrictions of this agreement.

5. Mowing may occur, provided it does not damage, injure or kill Trees. Grantor may supplement existing or replace dead Trees or undergrowth with new plantings provided that new plantings are characteristic of trees or undergrowth materials native to Maryland.

6. The following activities may not occur without prior written consent from the Planning Director:

- a. Construction (including roadways, private drives, paths and trails), excavation, grading or retaining walls.
- b. Erection of any buildings or structural improvements on or above ground, including (but not limited to) sheds, dog pens, play equipment and retaining walls.
- c. Activities which in any way could alter or interfere with soil or slope stability or drainage (including alteration of stream channels, stream currents or stream flow).

The Planning Director may approve these activities upon a finding that the proposed activity will not interfere with the purposes stated above, and in particular with tree preservation; screening existing and proposed development from adjacent and abutting landowners; maintenance of tree cover; and preservation of open space. This approval exception shall be narrowly interpreted, and the Director is under no obligation to authorize any of these activities when approval is requested.

7. Timber cutting or any other industrial or commercial activities shall not occur.

8. No posting of any advertising, including signs or

billboards, shall occur.

9. No dumping of unsightly or offensive material, including trash, ashes, sawdust or grass clippings shall occur. Natural biodegradable materials may be allowed in a properly located, designed, managed and maintained compost pile, provided the activity does not damage adjacent trees. Upon prior written approval of the Planning Director, suitable heavy fill and other stabilization measures may be placed to control and prevent erosion, provided that the fill is covered by arable soil or humus and properly stabilized.

10. The Easement shall not be used as a site for any major public utility installations such as, but not limited to, electric generating plants, electric transmission lines, gas generating plants, gas storage tanks, radio or microwave relay stations, and telephone exchanges except upon prior written consent from the Planning Director. Nothing in this paragraph prevents the construction or maintenance of (on, over or under the property) facilities normally needed to serve a residential neighborhood and which have been approved by the appropriate reviewing agencies. These facilities should be located to prevent or minimize any loss of trees.

11. All rights reserved by or not prohibited to Grantor shall be exercised so as to prevent or minimize damage to the forest and trees, streams and water quality, plant and wildlife habitats, and the natural topographic character of the land within the Easement.

12. Grantor authorizes Planning Board representatives to enter the Property and Easement at their own risk and at reasonable hours for the purpose of making periodic inspections to ascertain whether the Grantor, its heirs, successors or assigns have complied with the restrictions, conditions, and easements established herein. This Easement does not convey to the general public the right to enter the Property or Easement for any purpose. The Easement does not restrict or enlarge access to the general public in common open space held under community or homeowner association control beyond any access rights created by applicable community or homeowner association covenants and by-laws.

13. Upon finding a violation of any of the restrictions, conditions, covenants and easements established by this Agreement, the Planning Board shall have the right to enforce such provisions in accordance with any statutory authority (including, if applicable, the imposition of civil monetary fines or penalties in amounts and by such means as may be promulgated from time to time). The Planning Board also may seek injunctive or other appropriate relief in any court of competent jurisdiction, including the right to recover damages in an amount sufficient to restore the property to its original natural state, and Grantor agrees to pay for court costs and reasonable attorney fees if the Planning Board successfully seeks judicial relief.

14. Grantor further agrees to make specific reference to this Easement in a separate paragraph of any subsequent deed, sales contract, mortgage, lease or other legal instrument by which any interest in the Property is conveyed.

15. No failure on the part of the Planning Board to enforce any covenant or provision herein shall waive the Planning Board's right to enforce any covenant within this agreement.

16. All written notices required by this Agreement shall be sent to the Planning Director, M-NCPPC, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the Planning Board, its successors and assigns forever, this Grant shall be binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns of the Grantor in perpetuity and shall constitute a covenant real running with the title of the Property.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is to certify that the within instrument has been prepared under the supervision of the undersigned, an attorney duly admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

*Michele Rosenfeld*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Michele Rosenfeld  
 Associate General Counsel  
 M-NCPPC

LF 13178.426



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Department of Parks, Montgomery County, Maryland  
9500 Brunett Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

December 30, 1994

Clerk of the Circuit Court  
Judicial Center  
50 Courthouse Square  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Clerk:

Please record among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland the attached conservation easement on behalf of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Commission is a state-created agency authorized to buy, sell and otherwise dispose of real property interests pursuant to Article 28 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and therefore is exempt from transfer and recording fees.

Your cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

Sincerely,

William E. Gries  
Land Acquisition Specialist

WG/kb  
/clerk.ltr/