

Forest Conservation Requirements for Building Permits

When applying for a building permit show any forest conservation easements on the property. Also, show the area that will be disturbed by your project. For small projects like decks, there may be no real disturbance, but for larger projects like pools, pole buildings, and houses there will be. Disturbance is defined as the cutting of trees, clearing, grading, grubbing, excavating, filling, or otherwise modifying the existing topography or forested features. Disturbance is shown graphically with a limit-of-disturbance (LOD) line. Reporting the square footage of the LOD is also critical. For forest conservation purposes, the square footage of the forested LOD should be reported, and the square footage of total LOD should be reported.

For building permits related to houses, be aware that the LOD must include the features described:

In forested areas:

- (a) the foundation of any structure plus a minimum of 60 feet from the outside perimeter of the foundation
- (b) the entire septic area
- (c) the driveway
- (d) any other grade change anticipated on the lot

In nonforested areas:

- (a) the foundation of any structure plus a minimum of 30 feet from the outside perimeter of the foundation
- (b) the initial, active septic area
- (c) the driveway
- (d) any other grade change anticipated on the lot