

8-209.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION:

(1) SUBJECT TO ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, "CONSERVATION PROPERTY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-107 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

(2) "CONSERVATION PROPERTY" INCLUDES:

(I) LAND THAT IS SUBJECT TO A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT THAT WAS ACCEPTED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1986; AND

(II) LAND AS TO WHICH THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER § 9-107 OF THIS ARTICLE IS GRANTED, EVEN AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE TAX CREDIT.

(B) CONSERVATION PROPERTY SHALL BE VALUED AT A RATE EQUIVALENT TO THE HIGHEST RATE THAT IS USED TO VALUE LAND THAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR AGRICULTURAL USE ASSESSMENT UNDER § 8-209 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING § 8-209(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, CONSERVATION PROPERTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE ACTIVELY USED FOR FARM OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR VALUATION AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

9-107.

(a) In this section, "conservation property" means land that is:

(1) unimproved;

(2) not used for commercial purposes; and

(3) subject to a perpetual conservation easement that is:

(i) donated to the Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Environmental Trust and identifies the Department of Natural Resources or the Maryland Environmental Trust as a grantee under Title 3, Subtitle 2 of the Natural Resources Article; and

(ii) accepted and approved by the Board of Public Works after June 30, 1986.

(b) There shall be a property tax credit granted under this section against the property tax imposed on conservation property.

(c) On or before October 1 of the taxable year for which property tax relief under this section is sought, an owner of conservation property may apply to the Department for the property tax credit. The application shall be made on the form that the Department provides.

(d) The property tax credit provided under this section shall be granted against 100% of all property tax that otherwise would be due.