



Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™

2019 Application Form



*A Trees Forever Water Quality Program for
Farmers, Landowners and Communities*



Planting a Healthier Environment

Trees, shrubs, native grasses and flowers provide multiple benefits. Their root systems help stabilize soil by improving its physical structure. This helps to reduce erosion while also improving the soil's ability to absorb and filter water. Diverse and well-managed plantings of native trees and plants also reduce the ability of invasive plant species to become established, provide critical habitat for birds, bees, amphibians and other wildlife, and in some cases diversify crops and income.

Trees Forever works with rural landowners who are committed to planting strips of their land with native trees and prairie plant species to benefit their land, as well as the larger community.

Working Watersheds: Buffers and Beyond™

Trees Forever's *Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond* program helps to improve water quality, soil retention, and wildlife and pollinator habitat by working with Iowa landowners to implement conservation practices and promote land stewardship.

Program participants agree to allow their project serve as a demonstration site, where field days will be conducted to bring producers, landowners and communities together to showcase these efforts and to educate the public about the benefits of conservation buffers and practices.

Cost-share funds are available to participating landowners to help support their projects. Participants will be reimbursed, up to \$2,000, for 50% of the expenses that remain after CRP or other federal, state or local funding has been applied to their project. Landowners can also benefit from a seed cost-share program offered through FS/ GROWMARK. **Applications are due December 31, 2018.**

We are placing a special emphasis on working with no-till farmers interested in establishing STRIPS (Science-based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairies). You can learn more about STRIPS at www.prairiestrips.org.

For more information: Jeff Jensen, 515.320.6756 or jjensen@treesforever.org

This water quality program is brought to you by Trees Forever and its members and these sponsors:





Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™

Buffer Site Application Form for Project Year 2019

(Please print or type) Date Filled Out: _____

Note:

**Must be filled out to be eligible for approval*

***Projects are expected to be completed in the same year that the grant is awarded. Extensions must be requested in writing and will be given on a case-by-case basis.*

***Landowner/Primary Contact**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: ____ home: ____ work: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Site Application form prepared by (if different from landowner/primary contact)

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Email: _____

***Site Information:**

County: _____ Section: _____ Township: _____ Watershed: _____

Physical address of site: _____

GPS Coordinates of site: _____

Directions to site: _____

Is the site located on Highly Erodible Land (HEL)? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Not sure

Type of operation where site is located: ____ grain and/or livestock ____ small farm (fruits, vegetables, etc.)

____ acreage ____ other, please describe _____

What is the status of the project site? ____ new ____ partially planted ____ planted

If planted, when? (MM/YY) _____

***General Information Needed:**

If site application is awarded, the check should be made out to: _____

And sent to: _____

Please note the name you would like the project listed as for the Annual Report (i.e. John and Jane Doe, or GreenDye Farm) _____

If site application is awarded an Illinois Buffer Partnership sign will be provided. Please note what you would like it to read (Doe Farms, etc.) _____

Size wanted, please choose one: 2' X 4' _____ or 12" X 18" _____

Proposed Project Type:

Indicate type of water quality project (choose all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Streamside Buffer | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock confinement buffer planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Pollinator Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic crop buffer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland or pond project | <input type="checkbox"/> Nut or fruit production – list kind: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain garden/bioswale | <input type="checkbox"/> Other agroforestry (silvo pasture, alley cropping, etc.) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field windbreak | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Funding Opportunities:

Are you enrolled or planning to enroll in CRP? _____ Year coming out of CRP _____

Have you qualified for other cost share opportunities with USDA/SWCD Field Office Staff? (for example, EQIP, CSP, WHIP, CREP). Please list and describe:

Is there support from local conservation organizations? (Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc.). Please describe:

Are there other local funding opportunities?

Landowner's Leadership & Community Involvement:

Please list landowner's involvement in agricultural/commodity groups, committees, memberships, awards, etc. (ex. Scout leader, Farm Bureau member, service clubs, etc.). How will you involve youth in the project?

Project Site and Goals: Please complete on a separate sheet:

1. Name of stream: _____ Average width of stream (feet): _____
Length of stream in buffer (feet): _____ Number of acres considered for buffer: _____

2. Current land use/farming practices **on project site** (e.g., pasture, hay, corn, beans, timber, lawn, etc):

3. Current land use/farming practices on **adjacent lands**:

4. Describe any specific **problem areas** (e.g., bank erosion, wet areas, gully or sheet erosion):

5. Project description:

- a) Describe the project?
- b) Why are you doing the project?
- c) What are your goals?

6. Describe the positive impact(s) you expect this project to have on water quality.

7. Describe the overall management system plan for the site.

8. Do you have a planting plan already developed? ____ yes ____no. If yes, please attach.

Additional Attachments:

Please include an aerial map and/or a sketch of the area showing the proposed work to be done. Please be as detailed as possible. Also include any photos you may have of specific problem areas on the site as described in question 4 above.

Return completed forms by December 31, 2018 to: Trees Forever, Attn. Deb Roman, 770 7th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302, or fax to (319) 373-0528 or email - droman@treesforever.org. **Call Trees Forever at 1-800-369-1269 x110 with any questions.**