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, 2019.

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 2020

(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)

- Streamside Buffer
- Wildlife/Pollinator Habitat
- Wetland or pond project
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Field windbreak
- Livestock confinement buffer planting
- Organic crop buffer
- Nut or fruit production – list kind: __________________________
- Other agroforestry (silvo pasture, alley cropping, etc.)________________
- 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, 2019** to: Trees Forever, Attn. Deb Roman, 80 W 8th 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.