



# Illinois Buffer Partnership

## 2020 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.

## Illinois Buffer Partnership™

The Illinois Buffer Partnership is a collaboration of private and public agricultural and conservation organizations which promotes and showcases the voluntary efforts of farmers and landowners in the planting, maintenance and enhancement of conservation buffers and practices. The primary goals are to highlight the ongoing efforts to restore Illinois' flood plains and to increase the awareness of streamside buffer potential for improving water quality and pollinator habitat.

**Applications are available in August and the submission deadline is Dec. 31, 2019.** Program participants agree to allow their project to 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.

For more information: Debbie Fluegel, 309.613.0095 or [dfluegel@treesforever.org](mailto:dfluegel@treesforever.org)

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





# Illinois Buffer Partnership™

## 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)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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, 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](mailto:droman@treesforever.org). **Call Trees Forever at 1-800-369-1269 x110 with any questions.**