Improve Water Quality, Soil Retention, Wildlife Habitat and More!

Trees Forever works with partners, landowners, farmers, conservation groups and community leaders to plant trees and native grasses in buffers along rivers, streams and waterways. Trees Forever’s Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™ Illinois Buffer Partnership™ and Pollinator Habitat Conservation programs assist participants through a cost sharing grant and on-site assistance.

Conservation Practices & Benefits

Strategically placed buffers and conservation plantings of perennial trees, shrubs, prairie grasses and flowers are proven to help:

- **Reduce sediment runoff into streams and other waterways.** According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), buffers can reduce sediment runoff by up to 75 percent.

- **Improve pollinator, fish and wildlife habitat.** Native plantings along streams and waterways can provide food, cover and migration corridors for wildlife.

- **Reduce and filter fertilizer and pesticide runoff.** According to research from Iowa, buffers can remove up to 50 percent or more of nutrients and pesticides from runoff.

- **Improve soil quality.** Permanent root structures and reduced tillage promote microbial activity benefiting soil structure and quality.

- **Provide additional income through agroforestry practices.** Perennial crops include chestnuts, hazelnuts, aronia berry, pecans and black walnuts.
600+ Project and Demonstration Sites in Iowa and Illinois

Each year, we recruit 20 pollinator habitat demonstration sites in Iowa and Illinois (10 in each state) to showcase proper site selection and preparation, appropriate plant species composition and ongoing maintenance requirements for the establishment of sustainable pollinator-friendly habitat.

Zwingle, Iowa, landowner and Pollinator Habitat participant David Gossman shows how his prairie goes right next to his corn field. Gossman held a field day during 2018 showcasing his conservation projects.

Nashua-Plainfield High School (Iowa) students planted a pollinator habitat project and windbreak just west of the football field and track in May 2018.
Buffer Plantings on Farms and Public Lands
Pollinator Habitat Planting Sites
Community Project Sites
Recover, Replant, Restore! Sites

After participating in Trees Forever’s Pollinator Habitat program, thousands of monarchs visited Mitch and Charli Gregory’s farm in Tazewell County, Illinois. The couple watch for more than a week while these pollinators roosted in the trees and fed on the wildflowers.

This little critter at Jubilee Farm near Springfield, Illinois, is just one reason why we plant native plants and trees! Native prairie wildflowers, such as this ironweed plant, provide food and shelter for important pollinators. This skipper can thank the Illinois Buffer Partnership™ and the Dominican Sisters of Springfield for this scrumptious meal.
What Can You Do?

How We All Can Help Improve Water Quality

- Plant native trees, shrubs, prairie grasses and flowers to intercept rainwater, improve infiltration, and create wildlife and pollinator habitat.
- If you use herbicides or pesticides on your lawn, trees or plants, follow all directions carefully. Consider hand-weeding when possible.
- Collect rainwater from your roof to use for irrigation later. Plant rain gardens to keep stormwater runoff from reaching city storm sewers.
- Plant buffers on farms between crop fields and streams.
- Volunteer with your community tree or conservation group. Or start one!
- Consider a donation to Trees Forever in support of water quality initiatives.

Join Our Movement! Plant a Buffer. We Can Help.

Trees Forever’s Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™ and Illinois Buffer Partnership™ and Pollinator Habitat Conservation programs assist participants through a cost sharing grant and on-site assistance. We can provide a 50 percent cost share (up to a maximum of $2,000) to implement a water quality project or demonstration site. Eligible conservation projects include: riparian buffers, livestock buffers, streambank stabilization projects, wetland development, pollinator habitat, rain gardens and agroforestry projects.

Learn More Here

www.treesforever.org/Working_Watersheds
www.treesforever.org/Illinois_Buffer_Partnership
www.treesforever.org/PollinatorHabitatCons