

# Funding for Streamside Forest Buffer Projects

## About Us

The DCNR Bureau of Forestry has a service forester assigned to each county. Service foresters can assist landowners with:

- Riparian forest buffers
- Technical assistance and best management practices
- Tree planting
- Related funding opportunities



## What are Streamside Forest Buffers?

Streamside forest buffers – technically known as riparian forest buffers – are among the best practices for improving stream health and water quality.

Expenses to install forest buffers can include:

- Site preparation
- Trees and planting materials
- Post-planting maintenance



There are several voluntary conservation programs and grants available to partially or completely offset landowner out-of-pocket expenses.

## Funding Sources

### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency provides landowners with financial incentives to implement conservation practices that help protect water and soil through the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**. Contracts are voluntary and generally last between 10 to 15 years with the option to re-enroll. Landowners are paid an annual rental rate each year that they are under contract. Find your local FSA office at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS offers a voluntary program called the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** that helps landowners plan and implement conservation practices by providing financial and technical assistance. It offers flexible contracts for a maximum of 10 years. There is a wide variety of conservation practices in this program that address concerns such as water quality, soil erosion, nutrient management, and wildlife habitat. To make a local contact visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).

## State Conservation Commission

The Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission housed in the state Department of Agriculture helps to oversee the **Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)**, which is a tax credit program available to farmers. REAP can help offset up to 75 percent of the cost for conservation plans and other water quality best management practices. REAP can be used in conjunction with other funding sources such as EQIP. For more information about REAP contact the commission at (717) 705-4032 or visit [www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov).



## County Conservation Districts

County Conservations Districts can connect landowners with additional grant programs that may be available locally. Contact your local office and ask about help with funding riparian forest buffers through Growing Greener, DCNR's Riparian Buffer Grants, PENNVEST, or other local initiatives and funding sources. To find your local district visit [www.pacd.org](http://www.pacd.org).



## More Information

To find your local DCNR service forester visit [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov); call (717) 787-2703, or email [PAForester@pa.gov](mailto:PAForester@pa.gov).



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