

## Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

# Community and Watershed Forestry Grant

### *Applying for Riparian Forest Buffers*

## Riparian Forest Buffers

The PA DCNR supports riparian forest buffer implementation projects across Pennsylvania to improve water quality within local waterways and in larger watersheds such as the Chesapeake Bay. The Riparian Forest Buffer grant opportunity provides funding to promote and facilitate the planting of new forests (within 300-ft of water's edge) along waterways such as streams, rivers, and lakes.

- Projects may be implemented on public or private lands.
- A 25-year landowner agreement or equivalent is required for each planting project.
- Implemented acres must be tracked and reported in PracticeKeeper (*DCNR assistance is available*).
- All riparian forest buffer projects must be planted within 300 feet of a water body.

## Funding Priorities

- Implement new acres of riparian forest buffers on farmlands or other streamside lands.
- Build technical assistance capacity for riparian forest buffer outreach and implementation. within applying organizations and/or via their partner organizations.
- Help accelerate the rate of buffer implementation across Pennsylvania, especially within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in PA.
- Implement projects within PA's Most Effective Basins, as identified by EPA.
- Implement projects within PA's EPA-identified "Disadvantaged Communities" within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- Implement multifunctional or conventional riparian forest buffer projects.
- Harness landowner-to-landowner outreach, or help foster local buffer champion landowners.
- Create demonstration projects usable for future workshops, educational events, etc.
- Build capacity for buffer stewardship.

## Riparian Forests

Riparian forest buffers are the trees, shrubs, and grasses planted along streams that play an important role in maintaining the health of our waterways. These streamside forests serve as a transition from land to water. Riparian forests act as filters for the sediments and pollutants from farm fields, residential lawns, and roadways to help keep them from reaching the water.



## Minimum Requirements

- Minimum buffer width is 15-ft, with a minimum average width of 35-ft is strongly preferred
- Stem density should be 150-200 trees/acre
- Use only native species except for in specific cases for multifunctional buffers in zones 2 and 3 only
- Plant at least three different tree and shrub species

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## Eligible Activities

Discuss your specific grant proposal with your BRC Regional Advisor and/or your local DCNR service forester to ensure eligibility of your project activities.

- Purchase of planting materials: trees and shrubs (bare root, restoration-grade, or small containerized stock), tree tubes or other tree protection materials, etc.
- Site preparation, planting, and post-planting establishment activities: related labor, herbicide applications, specialized equipment rental, etc.
- Education and outreach: developing educational materials and campaigns, printing resources, signage, engaging landowners, outreach events, etc.
- Staff time related to riparian forest buffer programs and projects: outreach, education, project planning, coordinating or completing implementation activities, other technical assistance activities, etc.
- Contracting of appropriate landscape professionals to complete eligible site prep, planting, and/or post-planting establishment activities.
- Hosting riparian forest buffer related workshops, trainings, or other capacity-building activities targeted at private landscape and nursery professionals, project coordinators and designers, conservation professionals, etc.
- Post-planting establishment activities necessary to ensure the long-term survival of other riparian forest buffers planted within the past 5 years, as long as the total cost of post-planting establishment activities within a single proposal do not exceed 20% of the full proposal amount.



## Opportunity Details

- Projects may be implemented on public or private lands where the current land use is anything other than forest (pasture, cropland, lawn, fallow fields, hay fields, mixed open, etc.).
- A 25-year landowner agreement is for all projects implemented on private properties.
- Projects that do not include the implementation of any new acres of riparian forest buffer are ineligible.
- Each individual planting project will require a planting and establishment plan, as well as a plan for long-term maintenance.
- Funds can be sub-granted, but the same specifications listed within this document apply to all sub-grantees.

## Questions?

Contact Teddi Stark, Watershed Forestry Program Manager at [c-tstark@pa.gov](mailto:c-tstark@pa.gov), or your Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist.



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AND NATURAL RESOURCES