

## Plan of Operations for the Tall Pines Conservancy Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project

Through RCPP, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns in the project area.

**Eligible Project Area:** Producers located within the Oconomowoc River watershed are eligible to participate in the project’s EQIP sign-up. At least 50% of the application area must be within the watershed boundaries to be eligible for financial assistance consideration through the RCPP-EQIP sign-up.

**Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:** Listed below are the practices eligible for the project. Practice payment rates are posted in the [NRCS Payment Schedule website](#).

### Core Conservation Practices

327	Conservation Cover
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
512	Forage and Biomass Planting <sup>1</sup>
412	Grassed Waterway
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin

<sup>1</sup>As an alternative to Filter Strip (393)

### Supporting Conservation Practices

342	Critical Area Planting
484	Mulching
500	Obstruction Removal
606	Subsurface Drain

**Eligible Land Uses:** The following land uses are potentially eligible:

- Crop
- Associated Ag Land

**Eligible Resource Concern Categories:**

Concentrated erosion  
 Field sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loss  
 Soil quality limitations  
 Terrestrial Habitat  
 Water erosion- sheet and rill

**Application Period:** Applications may be taken at any time and those received by announced NRCS-WI batching dates will be evaluated for funding consideration.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the local USDA Service Center. Applicants may also request EQIP assistance by telephone, FAX, e-mail, or letter. The location and contact information for local NRCS Service Centers can be found on the [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

**Funding Pools:** Applications will be placed in the Tall Pines Conservancy RCPP-EQIP Farmland Protection Program fund pool.

**Ranking:** Scoring of all eligible applications will be done according to the ranking established in the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART).

**Funding:** NRCS will allocate the available RCPP-EQIP funds based on the numerical ranking system in CART. Applications will be selected for plan development and contracted in ranked order according to the ranking score, as funds allow. If there are insufficient funds available to fund an application, applications not selected for contracting will be deferred to the next EQIP application ranking period.