



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**E390118Z**

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Increase riparian herbaceous cover width for nutrient reduction

#### Conservation Practice 390: Riparian Herbaceous Cover

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 Years**

#### Enhancement Description

Where an existing herbaceous riparian buffer is located along a river, stream, pond, lake, or other waterbody, increase the width of the buffer in order to allow a greater percentage of nutrient removal from surface and subsurface flows.

#### Criteria

- Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater. Maximum enhancement buffer width may be increased up to the greater of 100 feet or the State-allowed maximum width, but no greater than the width of the geomorphic floodplain.
- To the extent possible, the buffer area and extended buffer will be shaped and vegetated to increase overland flow interception.
- Concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement shall be controlled in the up gradient area prior to establishment of the riparian herbaceous cover.
- Existing underground functional drains that pass through these areas shall be replaced with rigid, non-perforated pipe through the buffer or equipped with a management regulating structure to allow control of overflow.



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- Species selected shall have stiff stems and high stem density near the ground surface to reduce water velocities and facilitate infiltration into the floodplain. Only viable, high quality and site-adapted planting stock will be used. Selection of native plants is recommended.
- In areas where native seeds and propagules are present, natural regeneration can be used in lieu of planting. Planting is required if no native seed bank is present.
- Selected plant species must be adapted to the projected duration of saturation and inundation of the site.
- Where available, use Ecological Site Description to guide restoration to appropriate vegetative community phase and include appropriate vegetative functional groups.
- Necessary site preparation and planting shall be done at a time and manner to insure survival and growth of selected species.
- Management systems applied will be designed to maintain or improve the vigor and reproduction of the desired plant community.
- Harmful pests present on the site will be controlled or eliminated as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose. Pest management will be conducted in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.
- Protect riparian vegetation by reducing or excluding haying and grazing until the desired plant community is well established, with grazing deferred for a minimum of two years.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 5 years.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- Specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site. Specification shall be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.