

# Fact Sheet

## Re-Invest in Minnesota: Riparian Buffers Program

### What is a riparian buffer?

**W**hat is a riparian buffer and why is it important to our streams in Scott County? A riparian buffer consists of either native grasses, or trees and shrubs, that are located adjacent to streams, ponds or wetlands. These buffers help stabilize the soil along the waterbody, create shade for fish and other aquatic organisms and provide important wildlife habitat.

The Scott Soil & Water Conservation District is currently assisting with a signup for landowners who wish to establish a riparian buffer along their streams, lakes, ponds or wetlands.

Riparian forest buffers can intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other materials in surface runoff. They also reduce nutrients and other pollutants in shallow subsurface water flow.

By design, forested riparian buffers are made of woody vegetation (trees and shrubs) that provide food and cover for wildlife, lower water temperatures by shading the water and slow out-of-bank flood flows.

Native grass riparian buffers provide these same benefits. These areas may serve as great habitat areas for prairie wildlife, and the grasses which are produced may be a source of renewable energy.



### Signup Details

There is an ongoing signup for this program, with applications being funded on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is a permanent easement program which provides 100% of the Assessors Average Township Value (AATV) for cropland, and 60% of this value for non-cropland.

Only landowners within certain areas are eligible to apply for this program, and the minimum total area of the riparian buffer must equal three acres or more. The buffer will be 50 to 100 feet wide, and if accepted into the program, the area will likely be planted the 2011 crop year.

Landowners who are presently in CRP may also be eligible for this program, as long as the CRP area had crop history prior to enrollment and they meet the criteria listed above.

In order to proceed with the signup, visit the Scott Soil & Water Conservation District office in order to determine eligibility and receive the application materials.



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### For more information, contact:

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