

STREAMSIDE FOREST BUFFER PROGRAM

SUMMARY

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Streamside Forest Buffer program covers all costs of planting and maintaining riparian buffers on private and public land within the Chesapeake Bay basin in Pennsylvania.

- Program operated by Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Annual program funding (2022): approx. \$750,000
- Total funding since inception (2016): \$ 2.55 million
- Funding Source: PA DCNR and other funding sources

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

Any private or public landowner, including backyard landowners, businesses, farms, schools, municipalities, office campuses, and churches.

Eligible Costs

Buffer design, site preparation and buffer installation, plant materials and tree shelters/stakes, and three years of post-planting maintenance; fencing, stream crossing (1), and watering systems. Covers all costs (no funds go directly to landowner).

Criteria: 35-foot average buffer width; ½ acre minimum; less than 30% forest cover; must agree to exclude livestock from buffer.



Last Update: February 2022

FEATURES

Program covers 100% of the costs of trees/shrubs and supplies required to establish a riparian buffer.

Simple process. No funds go directly to the landowner (Alliance handles all transactions).

Minimum acreage of ½ acre; no cap on site of property. Largest site to date is 10.5 acres.

Encourages growing perennial plants for marketable goods (fruit, syrup, florals, etc.).

HELPFUL TIPS

First-come, first-serve basis and no ranking as long as property meets eligibility criteria. Be sure to check that you meet site requirements before calling for assistance. Program has not yet declined a request.

Must be willing to assume long term maintenance of buffer. Must sign agreement to retain forest cover for at least 25 years.

Opens door to potential assistance from other on-the-farm conservation practices.

HOW TO APPLY

No formal application. Rolling basis. Interested landowners should call Ryan Davis, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Forests Program Manager at 757-377-3200 to inquire about participation.