

BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Riparian Buffer Program Application Procedures and Evaluation

Riparian Buffer Program Application Procedures

The Blair County Conservation District may from time to time allocate funds from their LTC Wetland Mitigation Account for the establishment and/or restoration of riparian buffers as those projects meet the requirements set by the District's LTC Wetland Mitigation Account Policy. It is also recommended that buffers be restored or established according to criteria outlined in the DEP, Riparian Forest Buffer Management Plan Toolkit and be maintained for a lifespan of not less than fifteen (15) years.

Funding Cycle – The District will accept requests for funding (not to exceed \$15,000) on an on-going basis. Applications will be reviewed and submitted for Board Decision within 60 calendar days of receipt at the District Office. Funds can only be used to cover the costs of labor and materials (such as but not limited to; trees, shrubs, bio textiles, fertilizer, seed, as well as limited grading in order to prepare the planting area). In all cases, native plant materials must be used.

Application – Provide a narrative and plan map to include the following:

1. Name of project,
2. Project location (latitude and longitude),
3. Property ownership information for the project area,
4. Plan map that delineates project area and shows proposed practices,
5. Watershed name where project is located,
6. Proposed project budget to include: Amount of District funds requested and a detailed list of matching funds (see below),
7. One or two paragraph description of the project,
8. One or two paragraph description outlining expected project results/outcomes,
9. Pictures of existing conditions should also be included and
10. Contact information for the project's primary point of contact.

Match – A minimum of 20% match is required for each project. That match can include both cash and in-kind, however for each project at least 5% of the match must be cash.

Project Timeline – Each project must be able to be completed within a 2 year period from when the grant agreement is awarded.

Fund Allocation – Funds will be allocated on a reimbursement basis. Request can be made on a quarterly basis (up to 75%) when submitted with a progress report. The remaining (25%) of the funds will be allocated at the completion of the project once all bills have been submitted and approved and the Conservation District has had the opportunity to conduct a site visit. Failure to complete the project will result in the forfeiture of all previously reimbursed funds.

Final Report – at the completion of the project a final report must be submitted that includes all project invoices, match documentation, project photos as well as a narrative that describes the project's results/outcomes.

Riparian Buffer Program Evaluation Worksheet

Project Name: _____ Evaluation Date: _____

1. Is the property located in an impaired watershed? _____
 - a) Yes 5
 - b) No 0

2. Is the property located in a priority watershed (HQ-CWF or EV)? _____
 - a) Yes 5
 - b) No 0

3. Is there a stream assessment completed for the stream? _____
 - a) Yes 5
 - b) No 0

4. Width of the proposed buffer: _____
 - a) 100' or greater 20
 - b) 50'' – 99' 15
 - c) 35' – 49' 10
 - d) Less than 35' 5

5. Will the Buffer be a Forested Buffer? _____
 - a) Yes 10
 - b) No 0

6. Is there a high population of invasive plant material in the project area (greater than 40% invasive species)? _____
 - a) Yes 5
 - b) No 0

7. What is the severity of streambank erosion? _____
 - a) Greater than 60% of project area 20
 - b) Between 40% - 59% of project area 15
 - c) Between 20% - 39% of project area 10
 - d) Less than 20% of project area 5

8. What is the height of streambank? _____
 - a) More than 5 feet 20
 - b) Between 4 and 5 feet 15
 - c) Between 2 – 3.99 feet 10
 - d) Less than 2 feet 5

9. Is the project in close proximity (within 1 mile) to other established buffers? _____

- a) Yes 5
- b) No 0

10. Is the project area open to public access? _____

- a) Yes 5
- b) No 0

Project must score 50 points or more to be considered eligible for board review.