

DOOR COUNTY SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Cost-Share Program Policy Vegetated Buffer Strips

PURPOSE

To abate water pollution by promoting the installation of vegetated buffer strips along surface waters, concentrated flow channels, wetlands, and direct conduits to ground water. To provide monetary incentives to landowners to install and maintain vegetated buffer strips on agricultural lands.

GENERAL POLICY

The eligibility and administration procedures included in the SWCD Water Pollution Abatement Cost-Share Program Policy are applicable.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC POLICY

1. Only actively cropped land is eligible for cost-sharing under this policy. Vegetated buffers must have a minimum width of 30 feet. The maximum cost-shareable width shall be 100 feet*. The buffer width may vary between the minimum and maximum widths to fit the needs of the location and operation.

* Designated buffer widths may be exceeded, and cost-shared, to provide straight boundaries to otherwise meandering buffers for ease of management. In order to provide access to buffers, end rows around cropped fields may also be eligible.

2. Cost-sharing shall be issued as a one-time payment after verification of seeding establishment. Up to 70% of establishment costs are cost-shareable in addition to the payment rates in the table below.

<u>Vegetation Species</u>	<u>Contract Period</u>	<u>One-Time Payment</u>
Introduced	5 years	\$500/acre
Introduced	10 years	\$1,250/acre
Introduced	15 years	\$1,500/acre
Native	10 years	\$1,500/acre
Native	15 years	\$2,000/acre

3. The buffer shall be established and maintained according to a SWCD approved conservation plan that, at a minimum, identifies a seed mix, establishment procedures, and harvesting guidelines (buffers shall not be harvested before August 1 to protect ground nesting birds). Establishment of trees and shrubs are optional and not eligible for cost-sharing.
4. During the contract period, adequate sod or self-sustaining vegetative cover shall be maintained such that 70% effective cover is maintained.
5. Buffers may be used as a turning area for field equipment.

6. Commercial fertilizer, manure, or other forms of nutrients may not be spread on the enrolled acres except for establishment purposes.
7. The SWCD may install permanent markers to locate the buffer for future reference.
8. Cost-shared acreage may be re-enrolled after the contract period.
9. Acreage that is currently enrolled in CRP, or a similar program, or has established perennial vegetation is not eligible to receive payment under this program.

ADOPTED BY THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – 3/11/21