

Riparian Buffer Sub-Grants Program



SUMMARY

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts offers two subgrants: 1) Multi-functional Riparian Buffers and 2) Conventional Buffers (multi-functional encouraged). Sub-Grants program is for conservation districts to install buffers in conjunction with landowners.

- Program administered by PACD.
- Total Funding: Approximately \$500,000 available 2020-2022; + \$95,000 award from PA DCNR for 2022-24
- Source of Funding: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

FEATURES

Provides a simple process for conservation districts to apply for funding to install multifunctional & conventional buffers in cooperation with landowners.

Allows for harvesting of products such as nuts, berries, woody florals, forbs, or woody biomass.

Conservation district will receive 45% of grant upon approval, 45% after mid-term report submission, and final 10% after final report submission.

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

Conservation districts (work with landowners in targeted areas to implement buffers).

Eligible Costs

Installation of buffer, hand tools, and herbicide application equipment. Covers staff time for installation of buffer.

Costs NOT allowed: landowner outreach and education, legal and advertisement fees, site design, and purchasing equipment.

Match: 50:50 required for conventional buffer grants; no match required for multifunctional sub-grant program.

HELPFUL TIPS

Input of fertilizer and manure is prohibited in the buffer, and harvesting is not permitted in the first 15 feet of buffer from the edge of the streambank.

Must ensure buffer continuance for at least 25 years. Target survival rate should be at least 75%.

Requires approval for planting plans by DCNR Service Forester; plan must address maintenance. Templates are provided.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are first-come, first-serve. [Multifunctional buffer](#) final deadline - June 30, 2023; [conventional buffer](#) deadline - June 30, 2024. Both programs open until funding is used up.

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