



Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative

General Information:

The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) helps residential landowners protect their property and preserve natural habitat along stream banks in the Catskill/Delaware watershed areas. CSBI's environmental experts work with you to diagnose streamside-related problems and recommend solutions to effectively manage your stream property. By cultivating strong streamside buffers that use vegetation native to the Catskill region, CSBI helps landowners create streamside habitat, reduce stream bank erosion, and improve water quality.

The overall goal of the CSBI is to inform and assist landowners in better stewardship of their riparian (streamside) area through protection, enhancement, management, or restoration. DEP and its partners (County Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Cornell Cooperative Extension) will assist private, riparian landowners throughout the West of Hudson Watershed by providing:

- 1) Riparian Corridor Management Plans to create awareness about riparian management issues specific to individual properties
- 2) Best management practice design and/or prescriptive measures and installation to encourage positive riparian stewardship and
- 3) Educational materials and activities as needed by landowners to understand the critical role of their buffer and how to maintain it in optimal functioning condition.

Application Specific Information

1. **Project Title:** Please provide a title that begins to describe the project – for example – Smith streamside planting, Lowry Japanese knotweed removal and native plant establishment, or Lucas streambank grading and willow installation.
2. **Contact Information:** All project related correspondence will be directed to the information provided here. This is particularly important if your primary address is not the project location (ie. if your full time residence is downstate).
3. **Project Location:** Identify address of project/property.
4. **Intended Use of Property:** Some examples include primary residence, weekend vacation home, area for nature appreciation, wildlife viewing.
5. **Best Management Practice (BMP):** Please check all that apply. Please note that checking item e, f, or i triggers the need for engineering services to install appropriate grading, root wad placement or VRSS.
6. **Stream Management Plan (SMP) adoption:** Where stream management plans have been developed, the associated towns and villages must have adopted the plan in order for projects to be considered. Please visit www.catskillstreams.org to see if a plan has been developed for your area.
7. **Site Visit:** self explanatory. Please contact your local SWCD if a site visit has not already been conducted.
8. **Riparian Corridor Management Plan:** The Riparian Corridor Management Plan (RCMP) is different from a Stream Management Plan. The RCMP is for your individual property, while a Stream Management Plan encompasses an entire stream system for your watershed. The RCMP should identify the Stream Management Plan where one has been developed.
9. **RCMP Recommendations:** Please review your RCMP to see if the best management practices that you are requesting are recommended in the Plan.
10. **Buffer width:** Please circle the average width of streamside buffer you are allowing for best management practice installation.
11. **Project length:** Please provide an approximate length in feet. Please indicate whether or not the project would be on one or both stream banks.



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- 12. Landowner agreement:** We must ensure the project partners are allowed access for project installation and monitoring. Before any projects can be initiated, we must receive a signed landowner agreement.
- 13. Landowner Project Support:** Best management practice stewardship by landowners is one of the goals of the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative. We understand that not every landowner can provide monetary assistance to a project, but we hope that the landowner will think creatively about how to be involved. Evaluation of your Grant application is based, in part, on the landowner support.
- 14. Workshop Participation:** Another goal for the Initiative is that streamside landowners understand the importance of streamside buffers. Please indicate your interest in attending future workshops organized by your CSBI Coordinator.
- 15. Parcel location:** A portion of application ranking is based on your property's distance from a stream and an existing forest, wetland or stream restoration project. Your parcel does not have to be located directly adjacent to a stream to receive assistance, but it does need to lie within the mapped buffer area. Consult your CSBI Coordinator to check the map for eligibility.
- 16. Program Participation:** An additional purpose of CSBI is to target landowners that do not qualify for other watershed assistance programs. Participation in other watershed programs does not make your application ineligible; it just won't be scored as high as an applicant who cannot participate in any other programs.
- 17. CSBI Participation:** Landowners may receive assistance from CSBI for multiple projects, but the lifetime assistance cap is \$150,000. CSBI ranks new applicants higher in order to promote program implementation across a broad array of properties.
- 18. Non-native, invasive species:** The presence of non-native, invasive species on a parcel can threaten the success of native plant establishment. An invasive species management plan would need to be in place prior to planting native species. If invasive species cover the majority of the project area, successful project installation may not be possible.
- 19. Project Description:** In your own words, please describe your project and the issues you wish to address. If this project is to address an amount of stream bank erosion, please describe the rate of erosion you have experienced. How high is the eroding bank? When does it seem to erode?
- 20. Project goals:** We want to ensure that we understand your personal goals for the project prior to installation. Here are some examples of project goals. Please list all that interest you.

Create new streamside buffer. Enhance existing buffer. Install understory. Reduce stream bank erosion. Improve aesthetics. Enhance wildlife habitat. Improve stream access. Improve water quality. Slow down surface runoff. Filter excess nutrients or pollutants. Add native species. Improve fish habitat.
- 21. Additional details:** Are there any special considerations about the project? Would you allow your project to be used as a demonstration project? How many trees, shrubs, herbaceous plugs or live stakes/posts do you want installed? What type of species do you want to use? Are there any species you would NOT like to use? If you would like native seed establishment, do you want grasses only or wildflowers, too?

Additional Information – for additional information or assistance with application contact CSBI Coordinator info here.



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Cover Page: Application Deadline: October 1st (with the exception of February 1st, 2010)

1. Project Title: _____

2. Project Contact Person (if different from landowner): _____

Telephone Number/Fax of Project Contact Person: _____

Landowner: _____

Mailing Address

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

3. Project Location (parcel data): Do you own additional parcels within the NYC DEP West of Hudson watershed? Yes No

If so, please list additional parcel data: _____

4. What is the primary or intended use of the property: _____

5. What best management practice(s) are you applying for (check all that apply)?

a. Native Tree/shrub planting

g. Live fascine/stake/post planting

b. Native Herbaceous plug planting

h. Brush layering

c. Native seed establishment (grasses/wildflower)

i. Vegetated Reinforced Slope Stabilization (VRSS)

d. Joint planting of existing rip-rap

j. Invasive species removal

e. Stream bank grading

k. Sod mat installation

f. Root wad placement

l. Other (please describe): _____

6. Did the Municipality in which project is proposed adopt a Stream Management Plan? Yes No

7. Has a Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative Coordinator visited your property? Yes No

8. Do you have a completed Riparian Corridor Management Plan (or something similar) developed for your property? Yes No

9. Are the practices checked above specifically recommended in the Plan? Yes No

10. On average, how wide a streamside buffer are you willing to dedicate to the above practices?

Less than: 25ft 25-50ft 50-100ft 100ft +

11. How long is the project area (in ft.)? _____ . Does it cover one side of the stream or two? One Two



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12. Have you signed or are you willing to sign a landowner agreement? Yes No

What type of landowner agreement have you signed or are willing to sign?

5 year license agreement 10 year temporary easement perpetual easement

13. What type of project support, or cost share, do you plan to provide to the project (check all that apply)?

a. Monetary — How much? _____

b. Assistance with installation

c. Recruitment of volunteers for project installation

d. Assistance with monitoring or maintenance

e. Other (please describe):

14. Would you be willing to or are you interested in attending a workshop related to your project? Yes No

15. Is your parcel adjacent to a stream? Yes No

Is your parcel adjacent to an existing wetland, forest, or recent stream restoration/planting project? Yes No

16. Do you participate in any other watershed programs? Yes No

If so, which one(s)?

17. Have you received assistance from the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative in the past? Yes No

If so, how much monetary assistance did you receive?

18. Are you aware of any non-native, invasive species on your property? Yes No

If so, which one(s)?

What is the extent of cover within the project area? 25% 25-50% 50%

19. In your own words, please describe your property and the problem you wish to address:

20. Please list goals you hope the project addresses:

21. Please provide more detail about the best management practices to be applied to your project:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit two copies of completed application to:
Buffer Coordinator info here.