PA Phase 3 WIP
Forestry Workgroup
Recommendations

July 10, 2018 Steering Committee
Outline

• Riparian forest buffers
• Urban tree canopy
• Land conservation
Riparian forest buffers (RFBs)

---Preface

• The workgroup and partners are prepared to support the implementation of RFBs in the WIP
• Thanks to the efforts of many partners, support and momentum is building and we have a strong foundation on which to build a long-term successful program
• Holistic approach
Recommendations for Implementation

1. Communications
2. Leadership & Coordinated Commitment
3. Technical Assistance
4. Funding
5. Reporting & Tracking
6. Site Preparation & Maintenance
7. RFB Width
8. Concentrated Flow Paths
9. Stream Restoration & Legacy Sediments
10. Conserving Existing Riparian Forests
1. Communications

- Up-to-date and consistent messaging
- Importance of co-benefits of buffers
- Incorporate findings from PA in the Balance
- Use social science and targeted marketing to reach specific audiences in specific places where focused efforts are needed
- Producer led, farmer-to-farmer critical for communicating with agriculture communities
1m Landcover Data & Buffer Gap Analysis
2. Agency and partner leadership and coordinated commitment

• Leveraging funding and resources

• Consistent support for priority practices like forest buffers

• Consistent messaging and communication

• Capitalize on regional partner networks

• Capitalize on organizational strengths

• Coordinate, collaborate, and innovate
WHY DO WE NEED 10 MILLION TREES?

Trees are critical to life. Prioritizing the restoration and preservation of trees alongside streams, streets, and other sensitive landscapes will have a profound impact on Pennsylvania. This ambitious collaborative partnership aims to plant 10 million new trees for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians.

OUR HEALTH

Trees cleanse the air and sources of drinking water. They provide cooling shade for buildings, playgrounds, and parks during the heat of summer.

OUR FARMS

Trees help keep nutrients and soil on the field, where they are needed, and out of streams. Tree roots and leaves also help improve soil health.

OUR ECONOMY

Trees bolster fishing, hunting, boating, and other recreational opportunities, reduce healthcare costs, protect property, and increase farm productivity.
3. Technical assistance

- Landowner-focused; service-oriented

- Roles and capacities of agencies, NGOs, and businesses

- TA training needed to ensure field offices, conservation districts, other local partners understand, support, and advocate for buffers in their service areas

- Concentrated technical assistance efforts on the ground equals higher levels of implementation
Support is Key – PA CREP Buffers Correlate Strongly to Presence of RFB-Focused NGO, Ag Consultants, and Agency Staff
Conservation & Manure Plans

BMPs for Fields and Facilities – We Help Find Funding if Needed

Forested Buffer Earns $4000/ac

Soil Health Practices
4. Funding

- Both public and private
- Flexible and streamlined
- Explore and offer landowner incentives
- Incorporate buffers into farm operations and whole-farm planning
- Innovation needed, such as income-producing buffers and “pay for success” models
- “Stretch” capacity (including technical assistance) = 1,400 acres annually
- CREP is a critical program and should be enhanced and improved to meet increasing demands for forest buffers.
6. Site prep and maintenance

- Early investments in both site preparation and post-planting maintenance are critical to success

- Practices have improved significantly over early efforts

- Landowner participation/understanding

- Recommend the development of a stand-alone buffer maintenance model to ensure long-term success

Support and Maintenance = Happy Landowners and Very Successful Buffers
7. RFB width

- Wider buffers have higher efficiencies for load reduction and greater values for co-benefits.

- Our goal is 100-foot width, both sides when possible.

- Pursue greater incentives for wider buffers.

- Trees provide greater overall benefits compared to grass buffers.
5. Reporting and tracking

8. Concentrated flow paths

9. Stream restoration and legacy sediments

10. Conserving existing riparian forests
Urban Tree BMPs

- Tree Canopy
- Urban riparian forest buffers
- Urban forest planting (turf to trees)
Trees, worth our time, worth our resources

• Vital to a community’s health
• A community legacy
• Part of a community’s infrastructure
• Wise investment of community dollars
• Positive impact on business and tax base
Trees: Vital to Human Health

Hospital patients with views of trees from their windows:
• Need less medication
• Speed recovery time
• Reduce stress

• 100 trees annually remove 32 tons of CO2
• 100 trees remove 430 lbs of pollutants per year, including 100 lbs of ozone & 83 lbs of particulates
• Improve focus of children with ADHD
Trees: Increase Property Value

- Treed neighborhoods consistently rank higher with prospective buyers
  - Large specimen trees can add 10% or more to property values
Trees: Increase Pedestrian Traffic

- Aesthetically pleasing landscapes and sidewalks increase pedestrian activity
- Retail shoppers spend more dollars when shopping in treed districts
Trees: Improves Hydrology

- 100 mature trees intercept about 539,000 gallons of rainwater per year
  - Less $ for storm water control
  - Cleaner water
Trees Pay Us Back

100 Trees Over 40 Years...

Benefits = $379,000
- Energy
- Air Quality
- Runoff
- Real Estate

Costs = $148,000
- Planting - Pruning
- Removal/Disposal
- Irrigation
- Sidewalk Repair
- Litter
- Legal - Admin

Pay Off: $231,000
Tree Tenders®

- In partnership with PHS, WPC, PSU Extension, DCNR
- Teaches about tree biology, tree care and maintenance, and urban forestry
- Diversity of people take the class
- Over 6,000 currently trained
- Online and face-face options
Land Conservation Scenario

• Forest Conservation
  • 15,000 acres conserved annually by agencies and land trusts
  • 12,000 acres of new Clean and Green Forest Reserve “conserved” annually
  • All riparian forests conserved

• Growth Management
  • Smart growth, infill, redevelopment
  • Planning and zoning modernization

• Farmland Preservation Program