



RESTORING NATURAL COVER, RIPARIAN BUFFERS OR WINDBREAKS

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION & FORWARD TO:	
ST. CLAIR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY: ATTN: KAILEY MICHNAL	
205 MILLPOND CRESCENT, STRATHROY, ON N7G 3P9	
EMAIL: KMICHNAL@SCRCA.ON.CA	PHONE: (519) 245-3710 EXT. 126
FAX: (519) 245-3348	

PERSONAL INFORMATION	
FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:
MAILING ADDRESS:	
CITY:	POSTAL CODE:
EMAIL:	PHONE:
ALT. EMAIL (IF USING A GRANT SERVICE):	
FARM BUSINESS NAME:	
FARM BUSINESS NUMBER (REQUIRED):	

PROJECT LOCATION		
FIELD NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
GPS COORDINATES:		
X: _____		Y: _____
CITY:	TOWNSHIP:	
LOT:	CONCESSION:	SIZE OF FIELD (AC):
ARE YOU THE LANDOWNER OR RENTER?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Renter		

PLEASE SELECT ALL ADDITIONAL BMPs YOU WILL BE APPLYING FOR:

Note: This will not affect your application. Applying for multiple BMPs is encouraged. Each FBN is eligible for a maximum of \$50,000 per year.

- Cover Crop Incentive
- Restoring Natural Cover, Windbreaks & Riparian Buffers/Filter Strips
- Wetland Restoration
- Erosion Control Structures
- Livestock Restriction from Watercourses
- Alternative Watering Systems for Livestock (in conjunction with a fencing project)
- Phosphorus Application Equipment Purchases and/or Modifications
- 4R Nutrient Management Services
- Alternative Phosphorus Applications

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

GRANT RATE: N/A	GRANT MAXIMUM: up to 100% of the project subtotal
APPLICATION INTAKE:	APPLICATION DEADLINE:
April 1, 2026 @ 10:00 AM	September 1, 2026

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DECEMBER 31, 2026

To apply, submit:

- This completed application.
- Aerial map of the proposed project site and/or site plan.
- A site visit may be required by SCRCA staff to assess the land for project suitability.
- Projects are reviewed by and implemented in accordance with the advice of a Forest Professional and/or SCRCA staff.

Additional requirement for windbreaks:

- Before the planting of a windbreak on a property line can begin, SCRCA requires a signed letter from the landowners on both sides of the property line indicating they have discussed the proposed project and consent to its construction (this can be sent to SCRCA after a tentative approval is given).

Required to receive payment (if your application is approved):

- Written approval from the local Drainage Superintendent if applying to restore habitat along a municipal drain.

- All planting and maintenance guidelines must be followed correctly, including permitted species (i.e. native and/or non-native/naturalized species).
- If the proposed project is completed by an organization other than SCRCA, a dated invoice (on or after April 1, 2026), marked “paid” is required.
- No less than one metre is left and maintained between the tree row and cultivated crop.
- Photos of the restored land taken before and after the project is complete and taken from the same vantage point.

Priority will be given to:

- Riparian buffer and/or windbreak projects that are at least 9 metres (30 feet) in width and consist of multiple tree rows and diverse species.
- Applications that take place on erosion-prone land and/or take into consideration water quality improvement, wildlife habitat and the creation/joining of wildlife corridors.

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE FIELD BOUNDARIES AND OVERLAND FLOW.

WHAT LAND RETIREMENT/NATURAL COVER TYPE ARE YOU APPLYING FOR?

- Windbreak/block tree planting**
- Riparian buffer**
- Restoring natural cover**
 - **Meadow**
 - **Grassland**

HOW WILL RESTORING NATURAL COVER OR ESTABLISHING A WINDBREAK OR RIPARIAN BUFFER REDUCE PHOSPHORUS LOSSES FROM YOUR LAND?

WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU EXPECT THIS PROJECT TO ADD TO YOUR LAND?

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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY

WHAT CROP(S) IS/ARE FARMED ON THE AREA WHERE THE NATURAL COVER, RIPARIAN BUFFER OR WINDBREAK WILL BE CREATED?

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LAND USE OF THE AREA YOU ARE LOOKING TO RETIRE?

FOR MEADOW AND TALLGRASS PRAIRIE PLANTINGS, DO YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MANUAL OR DRILL SEEDER?

YES NO

RESTORING NATURAL COVER INFORMATION

PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE RESTORING NATURAL COVER CATEGORY

THE PROPOSED RESTORING NATURAL COVER PROJECT WILL COMPRISE OF:

- Trees/shrubs**
- Grasses** (i.e. meadow or tallgrass prairie)

SPECIES SELECTION FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL INCLUDE:

- Native species** (trees and/or shrubs or grasses)
- Non-native/non-invasive** (trees and/or shrubs or grasses)
- Combination of both native and non-native/non-invasive species**

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE PROPOSED LAND RETIREMENT?

ACRES: _____

WILL THE PROPOSED PROJECT CONNECT TO EXISTING WILDLIFE HABITAT?

- No, it will not connect to existing habitat.**
- Yes, it will connect to:**
 - Meadow/prairie**
 - Wetland**
 - Woodlot/forest**
- Other:** _____

WHAT TREE/PLANT SPECIES ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPYING THE AREA?

Note: You do need to indicate specific species if you are unsure. Answers along the lines of “grasses mixed with Timothy and ryegrass”, or “shrubs with some grasses”, or “it is mostly bare” are acceptable descriptions.

WHAT TREE SPECIES DO YOU PREFER?

Select all that apply:

- I do not have a preference in species – the Forest Professional/SCRCA can choose what suits the area best.
- Coniferous (evergreen) trees.
- Deciduous (hardwood) trees.
- Some species I would like to see are:

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MOW THE RESTORED AREA AT LEAST ONCE A SEASON FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS?

YES NO

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING THE PROJECT IN PLACE?

- _____ years.
- Forever/as long as I own the property.

IF THE PROPOSED TREE PROJECT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BY SCRCA STAFF, HAS IT BEEN DESIGNED/REVIEWED BY A FOREST PROFESSIONAL?

YES NO

RIPARIAN BUFFER INFORMATION

PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE RIPARIAN BUFFER CATEGORY

WHAT TYPE OF BUFFER WOULD YOU LIKE TO CREATE?

- GRASSED
- TREED

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE PROPOSED BUFFER?

METRES/FEET: _____

WHAT IS THE WIDTH OF THE PROPOSED BUFFER?

Note: If you are interested in buffer creation on both sides of a watercourse, please only give the width on the longest side of the watercourse.

METRES/FEET: _____

CURRENTLY, HOW CLOSE ARE YOUR CROPS TO THE WATERCOURSE?

METRES/FEET: _____

WILL THE CREATED BUFFER CONNECT TO EXISTING WILDLIFE HABITAT?

- No, it will not connect to existing habitat.

- Yes, it will connect to:
 - Meadow/prairie
 - Wetland
 - Woodlot/forest
 - Other: _____

ARE YOU AWARE OF WHETHER YOUR NEIGHBOURS ARE INTERESTED IN CREATING BUFFER HABITAT ALONG THEIR PORTION OF THE WATERCOURSE?

Please select. If none of the answers apply, use the space below to write your response:

- Yes, at least one of my neighbours would like to extend the buffer onto their property.
- Neither of my neighbours are interested in extending the buffer onto their property.
- I have not spoken to my neighbours.
- _____

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING THE RIPARIAN BUFFER?

- _____ years.
- Forever/as long as I own the property.

WATERCOURSE INFORMATION

PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE RIPARIAN BUFFER CATEGORY

ARE BOTH SIDES OF THE WATERCOURSE ON YOUR PROPERTY?	YES NO
ARE YOU LOOKING TO CREATE A BUFFER ON ONE OR BOTH SIDES OF THE WATERWAY?	<input type="checkbox"/> ONE SIDE <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH SIDES
IS THE WATERCOURSE A MUNICIPAL DRAIN?	YES NO
IF THE WATERCOURSE IS A MUNICIPAL DRAIN, HAVE YOU DISCUSSED THE POTENTIAL FOR PLANTING ALONG THE DRAIN WITH YOUR MUNICIPAL DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT?	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, I have not yet approached my local Drainage Superintendent.	

	<input type="checkbox"/> I have reached out to them but have not yet received a decision/response. <input type="checkbox"/> I have spoken to my local Drainage Superintendent and they have approved the installation of the proposed project.
	<p>IF THE DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A RIPARIAN BUFFER ALONG THE DRAIN, WHAT BUFFER TYPE HAVE THEY APPROVED?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> A grassed/herbaceous riparian buffer. <input type="checkbox"/> A treed/shrubbed buffer. <input type="checkbox"/> Any buffer that suits the area and the land's needs. <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<p>Please include detailed written approval from the Drainage Superintendent with your application.</p>
	<p>IF THE WATERCOURSE IS A DRAIN, WHEN IS IT NEXT DUE FOR A CLEANOUT?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YEAR: _____</p>
<p>WHAT IS/ARE THE NAME(S) OF THE ASSOCIATED WATERCOURSE(S)?</p>	
<p>ARE THE BANKS OF THE WATERCOURSE CURRENTLY PLANTED OR BARE?</p> <input type="checkbox"/> One side is bare soil, one side is planted. <input type="checkbox"/> Both sides are bare soil. <input type="checkbox"/> Both sides are planted. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<p>WHAT PLANT SPECIES ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPYING THE AREA?</p> <p>Note: You do need to indicate specific species if you are unsure. Answers along the lines of "grasses mixed with Timothy and ryegrass", or "shrubs with some grasses", or "it is mostly bare" are acceptable descriptions.</p>	

WINDBREAK INFORMATION

PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE WINDBREAK CATEGORY

WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE PROPOSED WINDBREAK?

METRES/FEET: _____

IS THE PROPOSED PROJECT A SINGLE-ROW OR MULTI-ROW WINDBREAK?

- Single (one) row of trees/shrubs.**
- Multiple rows of trees/shrubs.**

CURRENTLY, HOW CLOSE ARE CROPS TO THE PROPOSED WINDBREAK SITE?

METRES/FEET: _____

WILL THE CREATED WINDBREAK CONNECT TO EXISTING WOODLOTS?

- No, it will be placed between farms and not connect to existing woodlot.**
- Yes, it will be a small extension off of a woodlot.**
- Other:** _____

HAVE YOU DISCUSSED INSTALLATION OF A WINDBREAK WITH THE NEIGHBOUR SHARING YOUR PROPERTY LINE?

Please select.

- The windbreak will be contained within my own property.**
- Yes, my neighbour has consented to, or is in agreement with, planting a windbreak on our shared property line.**
- My neighbour would not like a windbreak on their property line but I am aware of the setback requirements (3-5 metres from the property line).**
- I have not spoken to my neighbours.**
- Other:** _____

WHAT TREE/SHRUB SPECIES DO YOU PREFER?

Select all that apply:

- I do not have a preference in species – the Forest Professional/SCRCA can choose what suits the area best.**
- Coniferous (evergreen) trees.**
- Deciduous trees.**
- Shrubs.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Some species I would like to see are: <hr/>	
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MOW BETWEEN THE ROWS AT LEAST ONCE A SEASON FOR THE FIRST 3 YEARS?	YES NO
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON KEEPING THE WINDBREAK? <input type="checkbox"/> _____ years. <input type="checkbox"/> Forever/as long as I own the property.	
WHAT PLANT SPECIES ARE CURRENTLY OCCUPYING THE AREA? <p>Note: You do need to indicate specific species if you are unsure. Answers along the lines of “grasses mixed with Timothy and ryegrass”, or “shrubs with some grasses”, or “it is mostly bare” are acceptable descriptions.</p>	
IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BY SCRCA CONSERVATION SERVICES STAFF, HAS IT BEEN DESIGNED/REVIEWED BY A FOREST PROFESSIONAL?	YES NO
HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH SCRCA STAFF ON TREE PROJECTS?	YES NO

**SITE PLAN OF PROPOSED PROJECT – RESTORING NATURAL COVER,
RIPARIAN BUFFER OR WINDBREAK**

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE
WINDBREAK, RIPARIAN BUFFER AND/OR RESTORING NATURAL COVER
CATEGORIES**

PLEASE SKETCH A BASIC OVERVIEW OF THE SITE*

Please indicate existing features, including: the proposed project location, the location of crop fields, slopes, areas of existing woodlots/meadows, areas of bare land, watercourses, roads, wells, and other important/relevant information.

***Alternatively, you can submit an aerial map with the above features indicated (JPEG and PDF format).**

SITE VISIT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To be able to choose well-suited and appropriate species for your area and to create an effective planting/maintenance plan, SCRCA staff may need to visit the proposed project site multiple times throughout the year to gain a better understanding of the site's moisture regime, flooding risk, types of native and invasive species present, etc.

All site visits will be scheduled ahead of time, with the approval of the landowner.

Will you allow SCRCA staff to access the site?

- YES
- NO

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS PROGRAM?

- MY CCA
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SCRCA WEBSITE
- EMAIL FROM SCRCA
- NEWSLETTER/NEWSPAPER
- COMMUNITY WORKSHOP/EVENT
- NEIGHBOURS/FRIENDS/FAMILY
- SUPPLIER/CO-OP
- POSTER/FLYER
- OTHER: _____

LANDOWNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I acknowledge that submitting an application does not guarantee funding.

If my application is approved, I do not hold liable the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority for any amount of the invoice above the approved grant allocation nor any additional works over and above the agreed upon project.

Please note, by submitting an application, you consent to allowing St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) to collect, manage, and share the project cost, project coordinates, and crop management data associated with the project. The data collected by SCRCA will be shared with government partners and university researchers to assist with tracking the industry's progress towards addressing the watershed environmental

challenges and program goals. Personal data including name, home address, and contact information **will not be shared externally**. Any data shared publicly will be in aggregate form and no business or personal identities will be shared with other organizations or agencies. SCRCA is committed to keeping the personal information of applicants confidential, secure, and private.

An example of how data maybe aggregated and shared publicly: 25 producers in the Brown Creek Subwatershed planted over 3,000 acres in cover crops this fall.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE 2026 GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THIS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FUNDING CATEGORY.

SIGNATURE:

DATE: