

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER INVENTORY FORM**

**PLEASE RETURN TO :**

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**PROPERTY OWNER** (optional but desired)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANTING LOCATION:**

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Nearest City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete **at least one** of the following two geo-referencing methods:  
Farm # \_\_\_\_\_ Tract # \_\_\_\_\_ Field # \_\_\_\_\_  
Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ UTM: \_\_\_\_\_  
Watershed Name/HUP #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Waterbody/Stream Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**MANAGEMENT/ASSISTANCE:**

Lead Agency(s) or Group(s) Providing Technical Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Program for Financial Assistance (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Planting by: Volunteers(#) \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If planting done by volunteers, please give group name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUFFER INFORMATION:**

Any Prior Existing Buffer? Yes  No   
Buffer Length: \_\_\_\_\_(ft) Buffer Area: \_\_\_\_\_(acres) Avg. Width: \_\_\_\_\_(ft)  
Method of Buffer Establishment:  
Natural Regeneration  Planted  Fencing   
Buffer Species Composition of Planted:  
Dominant Overstory Species (list 1-3): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Dominant Understory Species (list 1-3): \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Planting Stock Size: # Seedlings \_\_\_\_\_ # Container \_\_\_\_\_ #B&B \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Buffer Establishment(mm/dd/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_  
Adjacent Land Use (check predominant use): \_\_\_\_\_  
Residential  Commercial  Industrial  Pasture   
Recreational  Crop  Idle Land  Other (specify)   
Status of Opposite Streambank  
Adequately Buffered with Trees (35' minimum width?) Yes  No

Form Completed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Submission Deadlines: FALL PLANTING - JANUARY 1 ~ SPRING PLANTING - JULY 1**

**RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER INVENTORY FORM DIRECTIONS**

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- \**Riparian Forest Buffer (minimum standards)* - at least 35’ wide on one side of the watercourse. NRCS provides guidance on conservation buffer widths in accordance with their technical standards. Buffer averaging is allowable as long as the stream does not meander outside the buffer zone. If the buffer is established by planting native, non-invasive woody trees then shrubs are strongly recommended using a minimum of two species for the planting design (either two trees, two shrubs or one of each.) Natural regeneration is acceptable if the site is suitable, a seed source is available and heavy site preparation is not needed.
- \*If a *substandard width buffer* is present, enhancement through planting or natural regeneration to bring buffer up to at least minimum standard is permissible.
- \**Deadlines for submitting this form* are January 1 for fall planting and July 1 for spring planting.
- \**Return form* by mail to the address at the top of the other side of this form, or by fax or via the internet.

**PROPERTY OWNER:**

\*This is the mailing address of the property owner, NOT the site address. This is optional but desired.

**BUFFER PLANTING LOCATION**

- \*Please complete the county name and the name of the nearest city or town.
- \*Complete the name of the waterbody or stream - e.g. Town Creek.

**MANAGEMENT/ASSISTANCE**

- \*Enter the name of the agency(s) and or group(s) providing technical assistance (ex.-planting plan preparation, planting coordination): this will generally be a local, state or federal agency (e.g. Virginia Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, NRCS, etc.)
- \*Enter the name of the primary financial assistance program, if applicable (e.g. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP).
- Planting by: who actually planted the trees - volunteer, contractor or other. If volunteers, report number of volunteers and the name of the volunteer group (if applicable.)

**BUFFER INFORMATION**

- \*Report the length (feet), area (acres) and average width (feet) of the buffer planting. Include any pre-existing width for buffers being enhanced.
- \**List the dominant overstory and understory species<sup>1</sup> planted.* List up to three species each. Write out the names of the species or use the following codes:

BC-Bald Cypress	BW-Black Walnut	LP-Loblolly Pine	RM-Red Maple	SP-Scotch Pine	WP-White Pine
BG-Black Gum	CA-Crab Apple	NS-Norway Spruce	RO-Red Oak	SY-Sycamore	YP-Yellow Poplar
BL-Black Locust	DW-Dogwood	PO-Pin Oak	SG-Sweet Gum	WA-White Ash	WM-Wax Myrtle
BP-Bicolor Lespedeza	GA-Green Ash	RB-Redbud	SM-Silver Maple	WO-White Oak	Ruby Red Osier Dogwood
					Hollies

- \**Method of Buffer Establishment:* was it planted, was it allowed to regenerate naturally, and was fencing used for either method. Check all that apply. Invasive species should be controlled.
- \**Planting Stock Size:* Report the approximate numbers of each size (seedling, container, ball/burlap.)
- \**Date of Buffer Establishment:* Report the date the buffer was planted or protected.
- \**Adjacent Land Use:* Check the appropriate block for the predominant land use of adjacent land.
- \**Status of Opposite Streambank:* Check “yes or “no” if a buffer of 35’ or more exists.

**FORM COMPLETED BY AND DATE:**

\*Print the name of the person completing this form and the date on which it was completed.

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<sup>1</sup> DCR - Division of Natural Heritage. Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration, and Landscaping - Riparian Forest Buffers. 1997