

## WHO WE ARE

Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is a not for profit, tax exempt organization directed by local volunteers. We are local citizens in northeast Indiana counties who are committed to natural resource protection.

## WHAT WE DO

Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has resource committees that focus on the forests, lands and waters of northeast Indiana. Other efforts include:

- ◆ Woodland Management
- ◆ Tree, Shrub & Wildflower Park
- ◆ Farmland Protection
- ◆ Water Quality Monitoring
- ◆ Water in Motion Van
- ◆ Rural Fire Protection
- ◆ Leadership Development & Community Involvement

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

- ◆ Serve as a clearing house for information
- ◆ Increase public awareness



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### Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D:

- ◆ Combination of volunteers solving natural resource problems through local involvement
- ◆ Serves DeKalb, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley counties
- ◆ Tax exempt organization

## MISSION

VOLUNTEERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR  
RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR  
NATURAL RESOURCES

## OUR VISION

THAT AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND WISE-  
USE WILL CONSERVE AND IMPROVE THE  
FUTURE QUALITY OF OUR AIR, WATER,  
LAND, WOODS, PLANTS, AND WILDLIFE.  
THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF VOLUNTEERS  
AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT WILL SERVE AS  
A CATALYST TO PROVIDE LOCAL  
SOLUTIONS TO NATURAL RESOURCE  
PROBLEMS IN NORTHEAST INDIANA.

Wood-Land-Lakes prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs or family status.(4.03).

# BUFFER STRIPS



## A GUIDE TO CLEANER WATERS

## WHAT ARE BUFFER STRIPS?

- ◆ A strip or area of vegetation planted where water will pass over it as it flows
- ◆ Often called filter strips, riparian areas or vegetative buffers

## HOW DO BUFFER STRIPS WORK?

- ◆ Keep soil, nutrients, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants from entering surface water
- ◆ Slow water and sediment runoff
- ◆ Reduce soil erosion

## BENEFITS

- ◆ Decrease maintenance
- ◆ Enhance wildlife habitat
- ◆ Provide additional income
- ◆ Improve water quality
- ◆ Increase aesthetic value
- ◆ Reduce streambank cutting
- ◆ Provide year long access
- ◆ Increase safety

## WHERE TO PLANT?

- ◆ Along water courses and near areas to be protected from water runoff, nutrients or pesticides
- ◆ Near wetlands, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks and ditches

## TYPES OF BUFFER STRIPS

- ◆ Grass
- ◆ Grasses and legumes
- ◆ Shrubs (ornamental)
- ◆ Trees (consult County Surveyor for regulations)

NOTE: Consult local Natural Resources Conservation Service for specification recommendations

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- ◆ Hay crop
- ◆ Bare root seedlings - ornamental shrubs
- ◆ Cuttings of seedling branches

## ESTIMATED COST

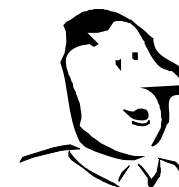
Grass or grasses and legumes may cost up to \$150 per acre. Tree or shrub plantings may cost more.

## IS THERE ASSISTANCE?

Contact:

- ◆ Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ◆ Future Farmers of America Chapters
- ◆ USDA Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ IDNR Division of Soil Conservation

NOTE: Different incentive programs may have varying width requirements and financial assistance



WHAT CAN I DO



- ◆ Keep from spraying pesticides near water bodies
- ◆ Plant buffer strips at least 20' wide
- ◆ Maintain for a minimum of 5 years
- ◆ Demonstrate your commitment to conservation
- ◆ Talk with your neighbors about the advantages of buffer strips. Let them know that one person can make a difference.