

# Grass / Meadow Stream and Wetland Buffers

Grant Rate	Maximum Grant
75%	\$2,000

## Rationale:

To reduce the impact of soil erosion on water quality by reducing sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen and fecal bacteria loads to streams, lakes and wetlands.

## Eligible Projects:

- Grassed buffers adjacent to stream, wetlands, and lakes to act as a natural filter, reducing sediment deposits from entering the watercourse
- Minimum of 5m (15 feet) up to a maximum of 30m (100 feet), on both sides of the waterbody.
- Permanent grassed contour strips may be planted in-field to reduce soil loss up to 50%, on moderate-to-highly sloped crop fields (up to 11% slope), that touch a water-feature.
- Native grasses and permanent, non-harvested covers are preferred
- Projects must show a direct improvement to water quality and overall stream health.
- ***Delineation posts are highly recommended and increase the likelihood of approval***

## Conditions:

- The strip may be mowed/ hayed, but need to be maintained at over 15cm (6 inches) high so that they function well for soil conservation.
- The strip is to be amendment-free (no application of pesticides, fertilizers or manure).
- The strip may not be pastured by livestock
- The project must be maintained in good condition for its intended purpose for at least 10 years.
- Projects need to be designed to improve water quality and overall stream health.
- Written permission of the landowner(s) must be given on the grant application and agreement.



This grassed buffer along this stream protects water quality by filtering out sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus and fecal bacteria.

This is an option for sites, like municipal

Drain Superintendants often support adding trees and shrubs to the south and west sides. This improves fish habitat, lowers stream temperature and increase dissolved oxygen levels. To allow clean out, grass or meadow buffers can be used on the other side.

## Eligible Costs

- Purchased materials and supplies
- Contract labour (from registered company)
- Profession fees (consulting) for design, construction and supervision.

## Ineligible Costs:

- Pasture seeding, establishment or renovation
- Purchase of equipment and machinery (may be decided on an individual basis).
- Continual operating costs
- Labour and equipment use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Grants will not be provided for costs of in-kind labour and machine time, and personal expenses of the applicant(s), the applicant(s) business, or family members



Highly slope fields are prone to soil erosion.  
Your top-soil and its high productivity can wash away.

These grassed contour strips within the crop field reduce soil erosion up to 50%, depending on the fields slope and soil type. They can be used for hay.  
Maintaining crop residue and ploughing on the contour can help too!

This protects water quality and preserves soil fertility.