**Site Specific Buffer Planting Funds Application**

**Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) 2024 Woody Buffer Block Grant**

**Due October 20, 2023**

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| **Please complete and save the Application as one document (Word or PDF format) and email to WUV Director Lyn Munno at** [**watershedsunited@gmail.com**](about:blank) **and WUV Grant Administrator Christian Pelletier at christian@whiteriverpartnership.org**  If you have any questions about your planting project or its eligibility, please contact WUV’s Grant Administrator Christian Pelletier: [christian@whiteriverpartnership.org](about:blank) or 860-428-6900.  **Grant Overview:**  This grant opportunity through WUV’s Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Woody Buffer Block Grant (WBBG) is for organizations to implement high priority, cost-effective, native riparian woody buffer plantings. This WBBG will support the implementation of forested woody buffers along rivers and streams using native vegetation. Projects must have a minimum buffer width of 35 feet and a minimum planting density of at least 300 stems/acre. Stem selection considerations must include species adapted to the soil and climate of the planting site, Trees should be tolerant of extended periods of flooding, should have moderate to aggressive root and crown spread to occupy the site quickly and provide adequate litter fall, and should be resistant to pests and herbicides.  WUV has two additional sources of funding to support riparian buffer plantings funds for 2024 through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and through the private company Pur Projet. As part of this grant application, please indicate to us if you are interested in additional funding through these programs instead of or in addition to the WBBG funds. If this is the case, we will contact you directly to see if you are interested and confirm that these funds will work for your site.  Plantings under this round of funding can be completed in Spring and Fall of 2024.    ***All projects and expenses under the WBBG must meet the requirements of the 2023 DEC CWIP (Clean Water Initiative Program) Funding Policy:*** [***2023 CWIP Funding Policy***](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/WID/CWIP/SFY23%20CWIP%20Funding%20Policy_FINAL_12.2.22_JBSIGNED%20-%20Corrected%20links.pdf) |

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| **Contact Information** |
| Organization Name: |
| Contact Person: |
| Phone Number: |
| E-mail Address: |

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| **Organizational Information** |
| Is your organization a non-profit 501c3?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If not, please explain: |
| Does your organization have general liability insurance with the following coverage:  $1,000,000 Each Occurrence  $2,000,000 General Aggregate  $1,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate  $1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury  ☐ Yes  ☐ No |

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| **Woody Buffer Project Summary** |
| Project Title: |
| Project Location Town: |
| Project Location Watershed: |
| Planting Site Address: |
| Planting Date:  ☐ Spring 2024  ☐ Fall 2024 |
| Planting Description (3-5 sentences summarizing the planting): |
| Buffer Width: |
| Landowner Details (public/private and summary of landowner interaction/interest): |
| Planting Acres: |
| Expected water quality benefits: |
| Expected co-benefits: |
| Planting Area Current and Previous Land Use (please briefly describe the history of land use at your site): |
| Potential barriers to planting success: |
| Is your planting site in Eastern Brook Trout habitat (this question is being used to assess whether the site would be suitable for additional funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  Please see the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture webmapper [here](https://ebtjv.de/) to identify if Brook Trout are present at your planting area. |
| Will you be requesting Enhanced Survivorship Funds for this planting?  (Enhanced Survivorship Funding can be used for site-prep and post-planting vine and weed removal – please see the grant guidelines for full details and requirements on how enhancement funds can be used)  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If yes, please describe anticipated enhanced survivorship activities: |

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| **Project Eligibility** |
| **Project Prioritization Source** (may check more than one box if applicable):  ☐ Tactical Basin Plan  ☐ River Corridor Plan  ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Project O&M**: Will you be able to secure the DEC operations and maintenance agreement for a minimum of 10 years?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No |
| **DEC Approval:**  The site must be in the watershed project database. Is the project currently in the database, listed as a specific site under the river planting category?  ☐ Yes **Watershed Database ID#:\_\_\_\_\_**  ☐ No  Even if yes, please make sure to confirm approval from your [DEC Watershed Planner](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/WID/WPP/BasinPlannerMap_Rotation11.pdf.) for your planting project plans and confirm that your Watershed Database ID is correct.  If no, please complete the [DEC New Project Form](https://anronline.vermont.gov/app/#formversion/4d39eacb-c3ec-44ee-bf56-08cc4764c780?FormTag=CWPNewProject) which will submit your project to your Basin Planner for approval and creation of a Watershed Database ID.  DEC Watershed Planner had approved site:  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  DEC Watershed Planner Comments (if applicable):  Groups must receive site approval from their [River Scientist](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/rivers/docs/rv_River_Scientist_Regions.pdf) to ensure the site is suitable in terms of stream bank slope, erosion, invasive management, etc. for a woody buffer planting and to help guide species and placement if needed.  Have you received approval from your River Scientist?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No, but approval is in process  Name of River Scientist approving site location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  If approval from River Scientist has not been received yet, please give a brief summary of status and expected approval date: |
| **Buffer Requirements**: Please read through the following requirements for this funding**:**   1. Must be at least 35’ 2. Need to have at least 300 stems per acre 3. Native woody species appropriate to site location 4. Site location or strategy identified in Tactical Basin Plan or River Corridor Plan 5. Planting Plan and Landowner Agreement completed before planting 6. Adherence to the USDA NRCS Forest Buffer Standards   **This planting can meet all the buffer requirements:**  ☐ Yes  ☐ No |
| **Additional Recommendations:** Please review the following recommendations for the buffer planting funding, although these are not required, please check off any recommendations that you believe will be followed for this planting:  ☐ Stock from Vermont grown nurseries  ☐ 3 to 5-foot trees (both this and the above recommendation have been shown to lead to lower mortality)  ☐ Wider buffers (50 feet) where appropriate and possible  ☐ More stems per acre (400) for certain sites |

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| **Project Likelihood** |
| **How experienced are you/your organization in planting riparian buffers?**  ☐ Very  ☐ Limited  ☐ Brand New!  Additional information: |
| **How likely is it this planting project will happen in the timeframe required?**  ☐ Very  ☐ Somewhat  If somewhat, please explain: |
| **Describe the stage of woody buffer project readiness. Check all that apply:**  ☐ Landowner has tentatively agreed to the planting  ☐ Landowner has fully agreed to the planting  ☐ Landowner contract (non-DEC contract between landowner and sub-grantee) has been signed  ☐ Planting plan has been developed |

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| **Project Costs:** |
| Estimated Total Project Cost including all funding sources:  **Total Request Budget Breakdown:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Project Management including reporting and deliverables preparation: | $ | | Tree/shrub Costs: | $ | | Crew Costs (if applicable): | $ | | Mileage: | $ | | Tools Request:  \*See grant guidelines for information on allowable tool purchase | $ | | Indirect (up to 10%): | $ | | Enhanced Survivorship Funding Request:  \*See grant guidelines for information on enhancement funding | $ | | ***Total Requested Amount*** | ***$*** |     **Budget Explanation (**please provide additional information as needed including hours/rates for any staff. Please be sure to include description of tools if requested above**):** |
| **Anticipated Voluntary match/leverage amount and type (can be in-kind):** |
| **Will you be using this funding as match for any other funding sources?**  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If yes, how much of the total requested amount will be used as match: $  What is the other source that you are using DEC funds to match: |
| WUV has two additional sources of planting funds for 2024 (PUR Projet and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation). If in our review of your project it appears to be eligible for either source of funding, are you interested in part of your funding request coming from these sources? We realize you may need some additional funds to cover monitoring and reporting requirements of additional funders.  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  If you selected Yes, we will be in contact on which source of funding may pair best with your application.  Details on these funding sources can be found in the Woody Buffer Grant Guidelines document. |

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| **Planting Support** |
| **Please indicate if you would like any additional support in the following aspects of development for this planting. We cannot guarantee the level of support we can provide, but will either try to help directly or refer you to someone with expertise.**  **Check all that apply:**  ☐ Determining suitability of planting site  ☐ Creating a planting plan  ☐ Ordering/sourcing trees  ☐ Running a planting with a crew or volunteers  ☐ Additional funding sources  ☐ Deliverables preparation  ☐ Invoicing process  If you checked any of these boxes, we will reach out to you shortly to provide support and to gain a better understanding of your planting project needs. |