

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

Benton SWCD
14 2nd Avenue West
Foley, MN 56329

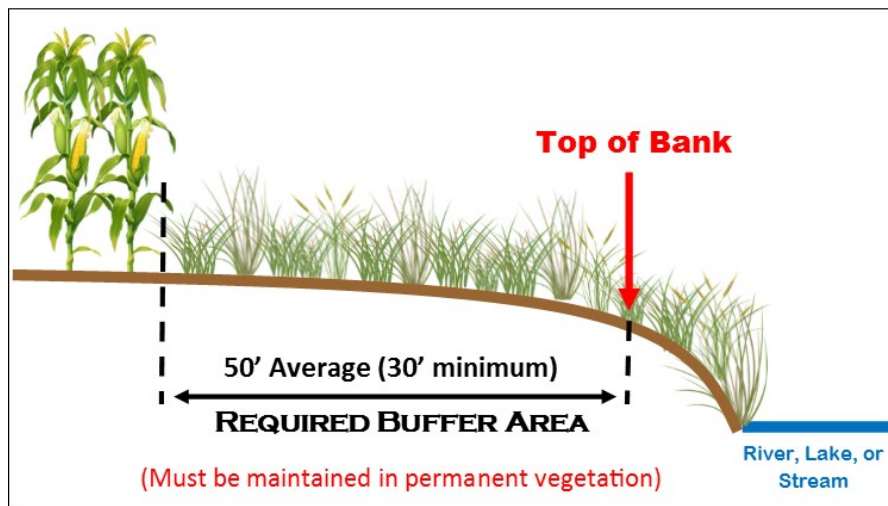
Tel. (320) 968-5300 x3
www.soilandwater.org



NEW BUFFER LAW

Minnesota Statute, section 103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES:

- ⇒ **Public Waters:** A 50-foot average width, 30-foot minimum width, continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation.
- ⇒ **Public Drainage Systems:** A 16.5-foot minimum width continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation on public “County” drainage ditches.



What’s the timeline for landowners to come into compliance with the new buffer law?

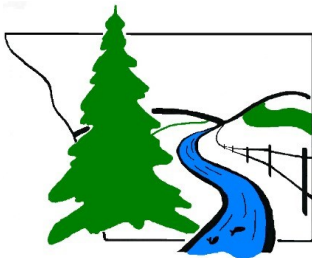
- ⇒ November 1, 2017: Buffers in place on all public waters
- ⇒ November 1, 2018: Buffers in place on all public drainage systems.

Benton Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) aims to assist landowners in determining compliance status and moving towards the direction of 100% voluntary compliance with the new buffer law and existing State Rule and County Shoreland Ordinance. The Benton SWCD will provide technical and financial assistance options to landowners for the design and implementation of required buffers.

More information:

- ⇒ **Buffer Program** - <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/>
- ⇒ **MN DNR Buffer Protection Map** - <http://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/gis/buffersviewer/>

For more information please contact Benton SWCD office at (320) 968-5300 ext. 3



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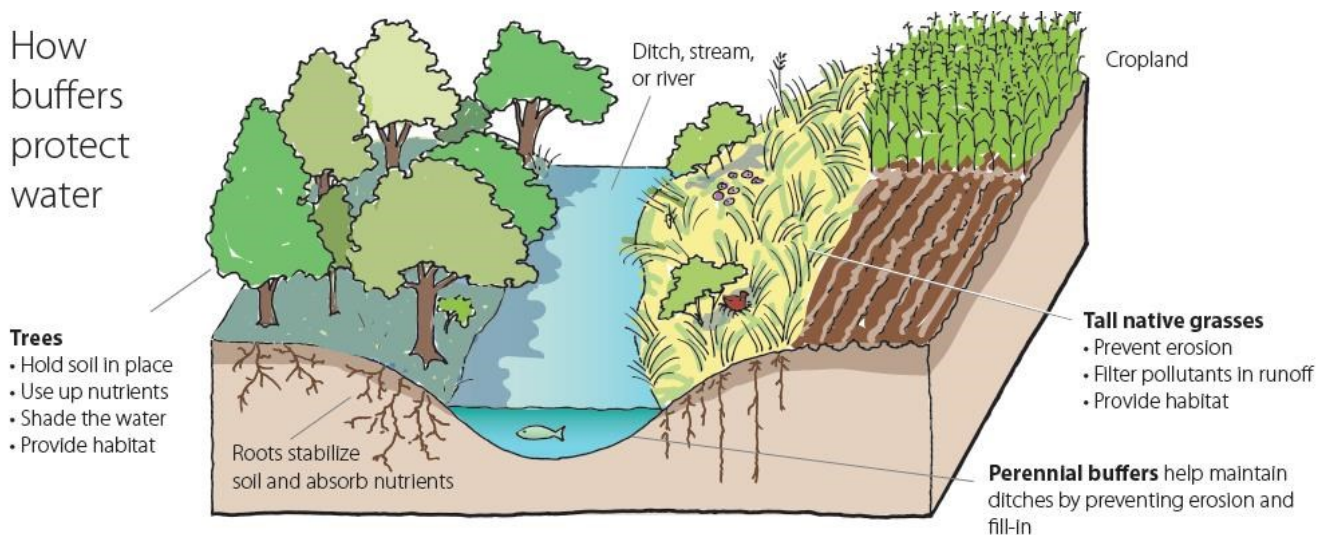


Landowner's options to come into compliance

Buffer Strips are planted strategically between fields and surface waters (rivers, streams, lakes, and drainage ditches). They provide a wide variety of environmental benefits ranging from protecting water quality, soil conservation, to wildlife habitat.

⇒ **Conservation Programs** offer financial and technical assistance to compensate landowners for taking sensitive agricultural land out of production. Contact your local SWCD/NRCS office to learn more about eligible programs.

⇒ **To establish the required buffer on your own, contact your local SWCD office.** Local SWCD technicians can come out, and mark/flag the area that maybe out of compliance. The new law and existing ordinance requires that the 50 ft. buffer along public waters must be maintained in permanent perennial vegetation. The buffer can be planted to native prairie grasses, cool season grasses, pasture mixes, and/or trees. These areas can be grazed/hayed.



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