

Maryland's 2025-2026

# Conservation Buffer Initiative

## Farmers & Landowners:

Turn marginal land next to streams  
or floodplains into a valuable asset  
for both your farm and local water  
quality.



Maryland's Conservation Buffer Initiative offers attractive incentive payments to plant trees next to streams, easy sign-up, and a full range of management options for farmers who want to improve the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Attractive incentive payments to plant riparian forest buffers are available again this year. These payments are on top of the **\$4,000 or \$4,500** per acre that you will receive to install the buffer. These incentives include:



- A one-time, **\$1,000 per acre** signing bonus to plant a streamside forest buffer.\*

- Receive up to **\$330 per acre**, per year to help cover maintenance costs for forest buffer health during the first 5 years of the contract.
- Please apply for this program at your local soil conservation district.

\*Tree Planting Only





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PRACTICE NAME	RI PRACTICE CODE	ADJACENT LAND USE	PAYMENT (NEW OR IMPROVED)	PAYMENT (EXISTING)	AGREEMENT TERM IN YEARS
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Narrow Grass 10 to 34 ft. width	RI-4a	Pasture	\$1,500/acre	None	5
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Grass 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-5	Pasture	\$2,500/acre	None	5
Watercourse Access Control with LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION FENCING: Trees 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-6	Pasture	\$4,500/acre + \$1,000/acre bonus for trees	None	10
Grass Buffer on Watercourse Narrow 10-34 ft. width	RI-7	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$1,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
Grass Buffer on Watercourse 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-8	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$2,000/acre	\$500/acre	5
Forest Buffer on Watercourse (Trees) 35 ft. + width (100 ft. maximum)	RI-10	Cropland, Highly Erodible Land, or Hydric Soils	\$4,000/acre + \$1,000/acre bonus for trees	None	10



### We're here to help.

For more information or assistance, please call 410-841-5864 or visit our website. We look forward to helping you make a positive environmental impact.

Scan the QR code with your mobile device for the latest sign-up details, or type in the web address below:



[bit.ly/MDA\\_Buffer](https://bit.ly/MDA_Buffer)



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

*Office of Resource Conservation*

**CONSERVATION BUFFER INITIATIVE**  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-841-5864