



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY BY REFORESTING NEW YORK'S TRIBUTARIES

Trees for Tribs provides free trees and shrubs to landowners with waterways on their property

PROJECT GOALS

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Trees for Tribs program is a statewide program designed to reforest New York's tributaries. The program's goal is to plant trees and shrubs along streams to create a forested riparian buffer that helps decrease erosion, reduce damage from flooding, improve wildlife and stream habitat, and protect water quality.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Planting trees and shrubs along a stream increases soil stabilization, which decreases the impact of flooding waters and reduces streambank erosion locally and downstream.
- Reducing erosion and slowing floodwaters reduces threats to property and public safety, which, in turn, reduces the community's repair costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Planting forested riparian buffers along the streambank reduces stormwater runoff and erosion in the stream corridor.
- Trees and shrubs increase air and water quality by serving as both a natural filter for excess nutrients and a carbon sink.
- Planting native trees and shrubs decreases nutrient pollution in the stream, which ultimately reduces the amount of pollutants entering the Bay.
- Planting trees along the streamside creates upland wildlife habitat and provides shade and cooler water temperatures for aquatic life.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS INSTALLED

- Riparian forest buffer.



Kathleen Peters and her husband Timothy Peters stand on their property in Schuyler Lake, New York. The couple have protected their 23 acres with a conservation easement through the Otsego Land Trust, and have planted over 100 trees to reduce erosion and support wildlife along Herkimer Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River, with support from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Trees for Tribs program. *(Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)*

• PROJECT SUMMARY

The Trees for Tribs program works to restore streamside vegetation on public and private lands. By supporting plantings along tributaries (“tribs”), the program creates healthier, more climate-resilient communities.

The Trees for Tribs program consists of three initiatives, including:

- *Buffer in a Bag* - NYSDEC’s Trees for Tribs and the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery provide landowners with a free bag of bare-root tree and shrub seedlings to enhance the streamside area on their property.
- *Grant Program* - Grant funds are available through the Environmental Protection Fund and are managed and allocated by the Trees for Tribs Program. Project proposals are evaluated for cost effectiveness, use of recommended standards in implementation, local support, and regional impact.
- *Watch the Forest Grow* - NYDEC’s tool used to demonstrate site recovery at streamside planting and timber management areas. Native trees and shrubs are planted at these sites to improve wildlife habitat, water quality and storm resilience.
- Since 2007, Trees for Tribs has engaged more than 8,700 volunteers in planting more than 101,400 trees and shrubs at 600+ sites across New York State.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Maintenance is needed in the forested buffer while the native trees and shrubs become established.
- Knowledge of appropriate planting techniques is needed.

THE PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery
- New York State Environmental Protection Fund
- Hudson River Estuary Program
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- Watershed Agricultural Council

CONTACT

👤 Trees for Tribs, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

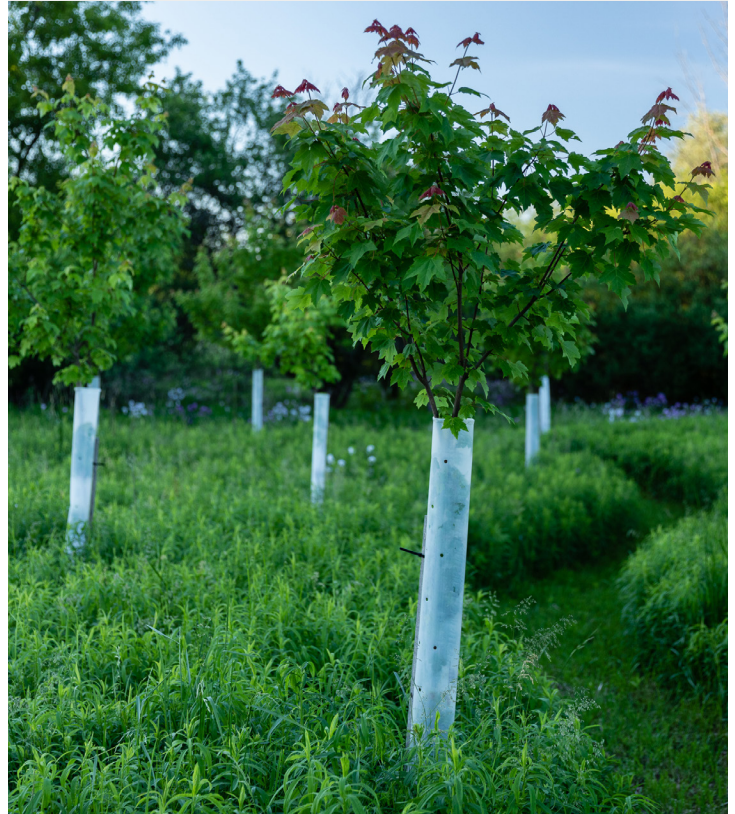
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“Trees for Tributaries is a locally led, voluntary, and very accessible program for all landowners and volunteers that want to be engaged in benefiting water and habitat quality along our streams and rivers.”

- Lydia Brinkley

Buffer Coordinator, Upper Susquehanna Coalition



Plastic tree guards protect young trees from mowers, deer and rodents. The guards are placed on the trees when they are vulnerable after a new planting and will be removed once the trees are mature. (Photo by Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program)



Chesapeake Bay Program
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