

HUDSON ESTUARY TREES FOR TRIBS PROGRAM

Planting Project Overview

General Information:

The Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs Program offers free native trees and shrubs for qualifying projects on tributary streams in the Hudson River estuary watershed. We may also be able to assist you with plant selection, creating a planting plan, site preparation, advice on project installation, and other information to improve the odds of success for your project. We encourage you to engage local volunteers to help with planting and maintenance. Healthy buffers help protect water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

How to Apply:

Applications are available for download at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5098.html#Tribes

The application deadline is March 1 for a planting in spring and **August 1** for planting in the fall. We encourage you to apply before the application deadline (especially if you have a large site or specific plant species requests).

To apply, complete and submit your application to HudsonEstuaryTFT@dec.ny.gov, by mail, or by fax (see details on next page). Trees for Tribs staff will notify you if your site is selected or declined. In most cases, we will ask you to meet with us at the proposed site to confirm that the site is eligible and discuss the options for planting your specific site.

Eligible Projects:

An eligible project must be in a riparian area, adjacent to a waterbody. Preference will be given to sites that are directly along streams, but areas along lakes, ponds and wetlands will also be considered. Project sites must be within the Hudson River Estuary Grant Program boundary (see www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hregrantmap.pdf). If your project site is outside of this boundary you may be eligible for assistance under another Trees for Tribs program (see www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html).

Applicants are responsible for all site preparation, planting, and site maintenance. We encourage applicants to recruit local volunteers to help with planting and maintenance.

Priority will be given to projects that include:

- A larger planting area with a wider resulting buffer (we recommend 100 feet as the minimum buffer width to achieve multiple benefits).
- Projects that engage local communities, including education, outreach, and volunteer components.
- Coordination with local watershed groups and other environmental organizations.
- Planting in high profile, public, or highly visible areas, such as town parks.

Projects that are not eligible:

- A planting area that is adjacent to a stormwater pond, drainage ditch, or other man-made structure.
- A planting area that is separated from the waterbody by a road, structure, stormwater practice or other man-made feature.
- Large-scale projects involving stream channel realignment, major excavation work, or native vegetation removal.
- An area that is already enrolled in other state or federally funded riparian buffer program, which provide cost-share or funding for planting trees and shrubs.

Planting Dates:

Plants are generally available from late-April through May for spring planting, or late-September through October for fall planting. For larger planting events that include volunteers, Trees for Tribes staff may be able to deliver plants and assist volunteers during the planting event. Applicants with small plant requests will be asked to pick up plants at our office in New Paltz (see address below).

Technical Assistance:

Trees for Tribes staff can help you to choose plant species that are appropriate for your site and project goals. We can also provide guidance for plant placement, site preparation and maintenance. For larger planting events that include volunteers, staff may be available to provide additional assistance before and during the planting event. Planting day assistance may include plant delivery, tools for planting, a planting demonstration and guidance for volunteers.

Available Plants and Materials:

The species offered will be determined on a site-by-site basis depending on our plant availability and existing conditions of the planting area. The majority of the available plants are seedlings grown by New York State Tree Nursery (see www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html). Additional species may also be available in limited numbers. If you are hoping to secure specific species for your site, we encourage you to share your preference with us as early as possible **before** the application deadline.

Most plants are between 2-5 years old, but age and size will vary from year to year. We cannot reserve the largest or oldest plants for your site. All participants will be asked to accept a variety of plant sizes.

Trees for Tribes may provide tree shelters to protect trees and shrubs from deer browse and weed mats to improve planting success. Tree shelters and mats can boost tree growth and survival if properly installed, but they also require additional maintenance.

Maintenance:

Maintenance is essential to ensure the long-term success of your plants and the overall strength of your new stream buffer. For the first few years, you should allocate time each month to check on your trees and shrubs. They will require attention in the same way as garden plants.

Applicants receiving tree shelters agree to provide maintenance at least two times annually and to remove tubes only at an appropriate time for tree health.

For more detailed descriptions of maintenance required on a typical site, see our maintenance guide: www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrewcare16.pdf

For more information, contact:

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