

HUDSON ESTUARY TREES FOR TRIBS PROGRAM

Planting Project Guidelines

General Information:

Healthy stream buffers help protect water quality and improve fish and wildlife habitat. 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, plans for plantings, site preparation, advice on project installation, and other information to improve the odds of success. Applicants are responsible for all site preparation, planting, and site maintenance. We encourage you to engage local volunteers to help with planting and maintenance.

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, or by mail or fax (see contact information on the next page). Trees for Tribs staff will notify you if your site is selected or declined. In most cases, we will contact you to arrange a visit to the proposed site to confirm that the site is eligible, take photos and measurements and discuss the options for planting at 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 sites on lakes, ponds and wetlands will also be considered. The project must be within the Hudson River Estuary Grant Program boundary (www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hregantmap.pdf). Project sites must be at least 20 ft wide and be large enough to plant at least 60 plants (this generally equates to a minimum area of 2,250 sq ft for shrubs and 6,000 sq ft for trees).

This is a competitive application process. We will rank projects based on the applications that we receive and the program's priorities. We may not be able to supply plants to all eligible projects. If your project site is too small or outside of the boundary, you may be eligible for assistance under another Trees for Tribs program (see www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html).

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)
- Engagement with 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 with stream channel realignment, major excavation work, or native plant removal.
- An area that is already enrolled in another state or federally funded riparian buffer program, which provides cost-share or funding for planting trees and shrubs.

Planting Dates:

Plants are generally available in May for spring planting, or late-September through October for fall planting. For larger planting events that include volunteers, Trees for Tribs staff may be able to deliver plants and assist volunteers during the planting event.

Technical Assistance:

Trees for Tribs staff can help you to choose plant species that are appropriate for your site and project goals and we can provide guidance for plant placement, site preparation and maintenance. For larger planting events that include volunteers, staff may also be available to provide 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 that we can offer will be determined on a site-by-site basis depending on our plant inventory and the existing conditions of the planting area. The majority of our plants come from the New York State Tree Nursery (see www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html). We can sometime provide a limited number of plants from other sources. 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 of our plants are between 2-5 years old, but age and size will vary from year to year. Participants will receive a variety of plant sizes. We cannot reserve the largest or oldest plants for your site.

Trees for Tribs 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. If you receive tree shelters, you must agree to provide maintenance at least two times annually.

Maintenance:

Maintenance is essential to ensure the long-term success of your plants and the overall health 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.

For a more detailed description of the maintenance required on a typical site, see our maintenance guide at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/tftcalchecklist.pdf and maintenance calendar at www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/hrewcare16.pdf

For more information, contact:

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