



Pollinator Habitat Conservation 2017 Application Form



*A Trees Forever Habitat Improvement Program for
Farmers, Landowners and Communities*



Planting a Healthier Environment

Pollinator Habitat Conservation

Trees Forever understands the interconnections of the natural world in creating a healthy future. We work with landowners and communities across Iowa and Illinois on projects that use native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers to provide a wide range of ecosystem services. Critically important to this functional landscape is habitat for pollinators of all kinds. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other insects are all pollinators that are directly responsible for approximately every third bite of food we consume.

For pollinators to thrive, they need food sources—native plants that bloom throughout the growing season with diverse colors and shapes—as well as nesting sites for laying eggs, minimal or no use of pesticides or disturbance, and greater contiguousness of habitat.

Trees Forever Cost Share Program:

Trees Forever offers a cost share/grant program to farmers, landowners, and communities to install or improve pollinator habitat on their land. Cost-share funds are available to program participants to help support their projects. Participants are reimbursed up to \$1,000 for 50% of their expenses to install or improve pollinator habitat.

Plant requirements:

- All plants - forbs (flowers), grasses, trees and shrubs must be native.
- Seed mixtures or plants should consist of 75% forbs (by species).
- There must be at least 3 species that bloom each season (spring, summer, fall).
- At least one species should be a legume.
- Tree and shrub species should be selected from Doug Tallamy's list of best species that support Lepidoptera. Work with your Trees Forever field coordinator to select appropriate species.

Application deadline is September 30, 2016. Program participants agree to allow their project serve as a demonstration site, where field days may be conducted to bring farmers, landowners, and communities together to showcase these efforts and to educate the public about the benefits of pollinator habitat.

For more information: Debbie Fluegel, 309.613.0095 or dfluegel@treesforever.org

This habitat improvement program is brought to you by Trees Forever and its members and these sponsors:



Funding Opportunities:

Are you enrolled or planning to enroll in CRP? no, not eligible Year coming out of CRP _____

Are you enrolled in CREP? no

Have you qualified for other cost share opportunities with USDA/SWCD Field Office Staff? (for example, EQIP, CSP, WHIP. Please list and describe):

Eligible for Prairie Partners program offered through the Iowa DNR. May also be eligible for EQIP through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Is there support from local conservation organizations? (Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc. Please describe):

Yes, the local pheasants forever chapter is very proactive in assisting landowners with habitat work on private property.

Are there other local funding opportunities?

no

Project Site and Goals:

1. Number of acres or square footage of project area: 1,100 linear ft/ 0.10 acres

2. Current land use/farming practices on project site (e.g., pasture, hay, corn, beans, timber, lawn, park, roadside, etc):

The project site is currently an old farm field that has been planted to a non-native cool season grass mix dominated by smooth brome. The site has been hayed throughout the years but to our knowledge has not been tilled since it was originally enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program in 1985. The land surrounding the site on the same property is wooded timber prodiminately hardwood species including oak spp., black walnut, and aspen.

3. Current land use/farming practices on **adjacent** lands:

All adjacent fields were originally apart of the same farm and have also been planted into a cool season non-native grass mixture dominated by smooth brome at the beginning of the CRP. Adjacent landowner either mows or burns the adjacent fields each year.

4. Describe any problem areas or unique characteristics:

Erosion issues may be a factor since half the planting site is located on C or D slopes. High deer numbers in the area may lead to heavy deer browse during establishment.

5. Describe why you are doing this project. What are your goals?

We are doing this planting to add diversity to the property while creating high quality habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. The goals of the project are:

1. Create a natural fence/hedgerow between adjacent property.
2. Provide high quality habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.
3. Add diversity to the property.

6. Native plants require management. How do you plan to take care of this planting?

The site will be burned in the spring of 2017 to reduce thatch buildup from mowing events. The site will then be sprayed with a glyphosate based product to create a clean seed bed. Once planted, the site will be routinely mowed and/or spot sprayed throughout the growing season to reduce competition from weeds.

7. Do you have a planting plan already developed? yes X no. If yes, please attach.

Additional Attachments: Have been working with Meredith Borchardt in developing planting plan.

Please include an aerial map and/or a sketch of the area showing the proposed work to be done. Please be as detailed as possible. Also include any photos you may have of specific problem areas on the site as described in question 4 above.

Return completed forms by September 30, 2016 to: Trees Forever, Attn. Deb Roman, 770 7th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302, or fax to (319) 373-0528 or email - droman@treesforever.org. Call Trees Forever at 1-800-369-1269 x110 with any questions.