

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship and local partners are scaling up efforts to implement the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy to reduce nitrates lost through tile drainage. Saturated Buffers have been identified as one of the most cost effective methods to improve water quality.

We have secured funding to install Saturated Buffers at no cost to the landowners in the project area. Landowners will also receive a temporary construction easement payment of \$1,000 per qualified tile outlet.

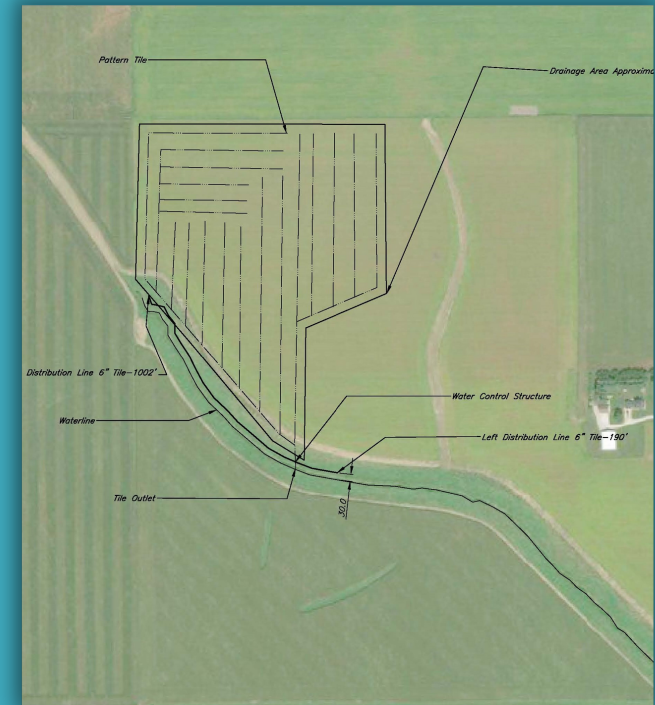
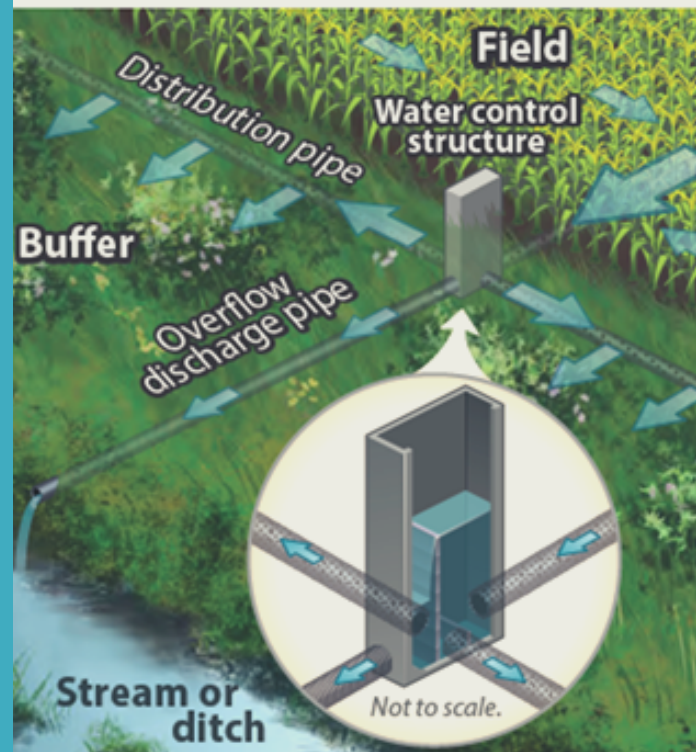
WHY SATURATED BUFFERS?

- Nitrate reduction (50% average reduction)
- May improve drainage
- Upgraded tile outlets
- No changes to current management
- No annual expense
- Designed to ensure proper field drainage

WHAT IS A SATURATED BUFFER?

Tile water is diverted to a lateral distribution line parallel to the stream. As water moves through the soil profile, nitrates are removed. In high flow conditions the water will bypass the lateral line and discharge directly into the stream to ensure that the field tiles continue to function appropriately.

Outlet with Saturated Buffer



SITE REQUIREMENTS

Fields with tile systems draining at least 25 acres with an outlet to a waterway or stream

AND

30' minimum grass buffer along stream or interest in adding a grass buffer (CRP rental payment available)

OUR PARTNERS

- City of Cedar Rapids
- Linn County
- Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Benton, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Grundy, Linn, & Tama County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Heartland Coop
- Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition



CONTACT US



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Cedar River
CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP



Saturated Buffers:
Accelerating Nutrient
Reduction in the Cedar
River

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