

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM

**“TREES FOR TRIBS” INITIATIVE – Project Overview**

Riparian (streamside) buffers are a major component to maintaining healthy streams and water. These buffers, composed of trees, shrubs, and grasses help to reduce pollution entering waterways by slowing down and filtering runoff. Buffers also help to reduce flooding and erosion by stabilizing shorelines and absorbing high velocity flows. In addition, they serve an important role for wildlife as a shoreline transition zone and travel corridor, not to mention increasing overall biodiversity and improving in-stream health.

The Hudson River Estuary Program’s “Trees for Tribs” initiative offers free native trees and shrubs for qualifying projects in the Hudson River Estuary watershed (see the map on page 2). The Riparian Buffer Coordinator can assist with plant selection, designing a planting plan, site preparation, project installation, and other technical information to improve the odds of success for your project. Applications are available at:

**For a planting in:**      **Application deadline is:** (applications may be accepted after deadlines, but are at a disadvantage)  
Spring                      March 1 – reserving plants early is advisable  
Fall                            August 1– reserving plants early is advisable

**Applications will be filled according to the following priorities:**

1. Local non-profit watershed groups, land trusts, and other environmental organizations will be given preference.
2. Project sites located in high profile, public or highly visible areas, such as town parks will be given preference.
3. Groups agreeing to assist with the vegetation monitoring of their buffer planting will be given preference.
4. “Trees for Tribs” planting projects are typically carried out by volunteers, thus applicants must be able to recruit an adequate number of volunteers to assist on the day of the planting. A good rule of thumb is at least 10 volunteers per 100 plants.

Sorry, plants are **not** available for: 1) large projects where proposals should have included buffer restoration costs from the outset, particularly projects involving channel realignment or other major excavation work; 2) new sites enrolled in CREP.

**Species available:**

Native tree and shrub species will be determined based on availability and existing conditions. Generally plantings are comprised of 60% shrubs and 40% trees. A large percentage of the seedlings used are grown by New York State Tree Nursery. Additional plants are available for purchase from the nursery at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html> .

**Applicant and Landowner requirements:**

**In accepting plants, all recipient groups agree to the following conditions of the program:**

1. Prior to site preparation and planting, recipient should contact **Dig Safely New York** ([www.digsafelynewyork.com](http://www.digsafelynewyork.com)) at **1-800-962-7962** to verify the presence of any underground utilities within the planned project location.
2. Plants are offered to organizations/individuals for riparian buffer projects in the Hudson River Estuary’s Watershed and are to be used for the proposed project only.
3. Recipients agree to provide the Estuary Program with site information on where plants are used. Recipients will provide a **fully completed** Application for each project where trees and shrubs will be used. **Failure to provide this information will result in your being invoiced for plants.**
4. Recipients are required to recruit and organize an adequate number of volunteers to assist on the day of the planting.
5. Recipients are responsible for maintenance of the plants and materials.
  - o Landowner and/or Applicant shall not cut, remove, mow or otherwise disturb vegetation, including but not limited to trees and shrubs, planted or naturally growing in the project area, unless deemed necessary by the Riparian Buffer Coordinator.
  - o During times of drought, Landowner and/or Applicant shall water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed.
  - o Tree shelters shall be properly installed and maintained (see the Tree Shelter section on the next page)
6. Yearly water quality and plant material monitoring may be a required component of buffer project. The Riparian Buffer Coordinator will discuss this component with you.
7. Recipients shall coordinate with the Riparian Buffer Coordinator in regards to returning plant containers, tree tubes, and stakes.
8. The Riparian Buffer Coordinator shall be granted access to project site to periodically inspect and monitor plant material, as well as, stream conditions.
9. It is strongly encouraged that participants contact adjacent landowners to discuss the proposed planting project, prior to site prep.

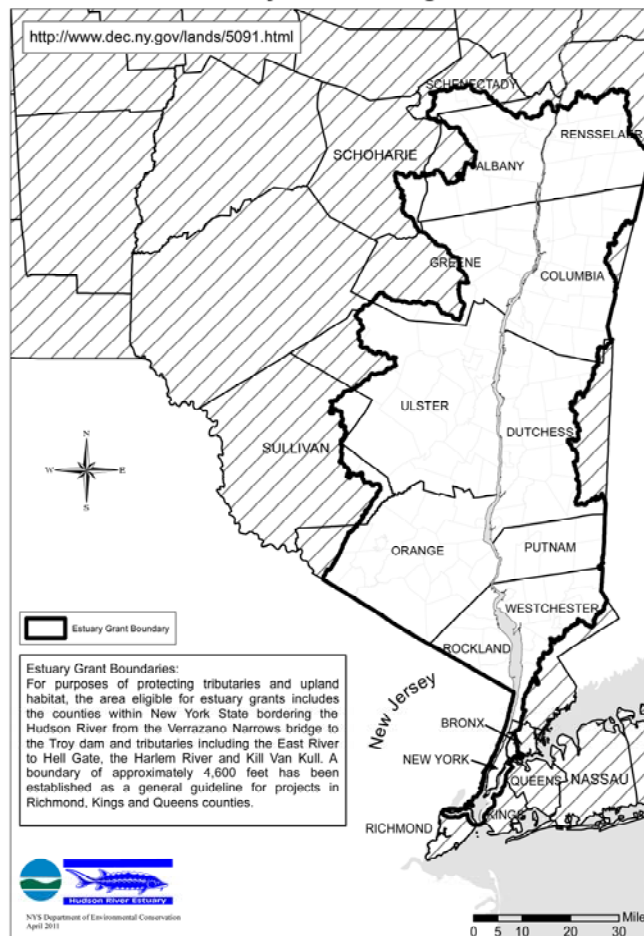
## Tree Shelters:

Tree shelters can boost tree growth and survival if properly installed, maintained, and eventually removed.

### Tree Shelter Installation & Maintenance Guidelines:

1. A pressure-treated yellow pine stake or heartwood white oak stake (treated or not) or locust stake (treated or not) is required. Use of other materials (fiberglass or rebar etc.) can be discussed.
2. Groups receiving tree shelters agree to provide maintenance of tree shelters including their eventual removal at an appropriate time for tree health. Upon removal they shall be returned to the Riparian Buffer Coordinator, unless otherwise instructed.
3. Shelters shall be properly installed per manufacturer guidance, with a stake driven to a depth of 12" to the windward (northwest side) to keep shelter upright.
4. Shelters shall be monitored at least twice annually (early spring before growth spurt and summer after much growth is ideal) with attention to the following:
  - a. Stakes needing to be re-hammered (lifted by frost heave, loosened by wind, etc.)
  - b. Other damage, needs, etc. including need for control of competing plants, invasive species and noxious weeds
  - c. Removal of bird nets, if used, as trees approach the tops of the tree tubes.
5. Shelters shall be removed at an appropriate time. Generally this is when diameter is approximately 1.5". Late removal may lead to fungus and canker from humid conditions. Early removal may lead to increased risk of vole damage, deer damage, insufficient girth on tree and simple reduction of benefits of the shelter overall.

### Hudson River Estuary Grants Program Boundaries



### For assistance, project information form, and project data sheet please contact:

Beth Roessler, Riparian Buffer Coordinator  
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21 South Putt Corners Rd.  
New Paltz, NY 12446  
Phone: (845)-256-2253  
Email: [baroessl@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:baroessl@gw.dec.state.ny.us)  
[www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html)



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Hudson Estuary