



DeKalb County Soil and Water
Conservation District

VEGETATIVE FILTER STRIP



PLANTING PROGRAM

“It’s Your Watershed”

**LET US HELP YOU PROTECT IT
FROM THE RUNOFF OF POLLUTANTS**

What is a Vegetative Filter Strip?

A filter strip is an area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or other disturbed land and environmentally sensitive areas.

What is the Purpose of a Filter Strip?

Filter border strips are established to filter pollutants in runoff, create or restore sheet flow as part of a multi-zone riparian forest buffer, and provide wildlife habitat.

How do you determine the size of a Filter Strip?

Filter strips should be strategically located to intercept contaminants thereby enhancing the water quality of the watershed. The filter strip flow lengths are based on land slope, for example slope of .5% can have a minimum width of 36 feet and a maximum width of 72 feet.

What can I plant in the Filter Strip?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides a complete list of approved native and cool season grasses along with companion legumes that you may select from to plant in your filter strip.



SWCD Vegetative Filter Strip Planting Program

It has been shown that vegetative filter strips are very effective at controlling the runoff of pollutants into the rivers and streams and do an excellent job of absorbing contaminants contained in that runoff.

In an effort to support the establishment of vegetative filter strips, the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is offering a vegetative filter strip planting program. This program is meant to assist landowners who may not have the equipment, experience or time available to plant a vegetative filter strip on their property. This service will be provided by the DeKalb County SWCD at a nominal fee. The program is available to all landowners along the Union and Virgil Ditch Systems in Kane County and all of the DeKalb County stream and river systems.



Vegetative Filter Strip Planting Program

The SWCD Will:

- Conduct a site visit to evaluate the job site
- Provide seeding recommendations based on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Standards and Specifications
- Assist in measuring the site
- Provide equipment and manpower to plant vegetative filter strips on 3 acres or less

Landowners Responsibility:

- Sign-up for cost share assistance if applicable
- Purchase recommended seed and have it at the job site
- Prepare job site by tilling or applying burndown herbicide
- Remove any obstructions
- Maintain filter strips by controlling weeds by spot mowing or spraying