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The Town of Essex has adopted the Best Management Practices guide for buffer strips to help educate our property owners and agricultural operators by provide information on the benefits of buffer strips within the agricultural and rural community.

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For more information:

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

 1-877-424-1300

 ag.info@omaf.gov.on.ca

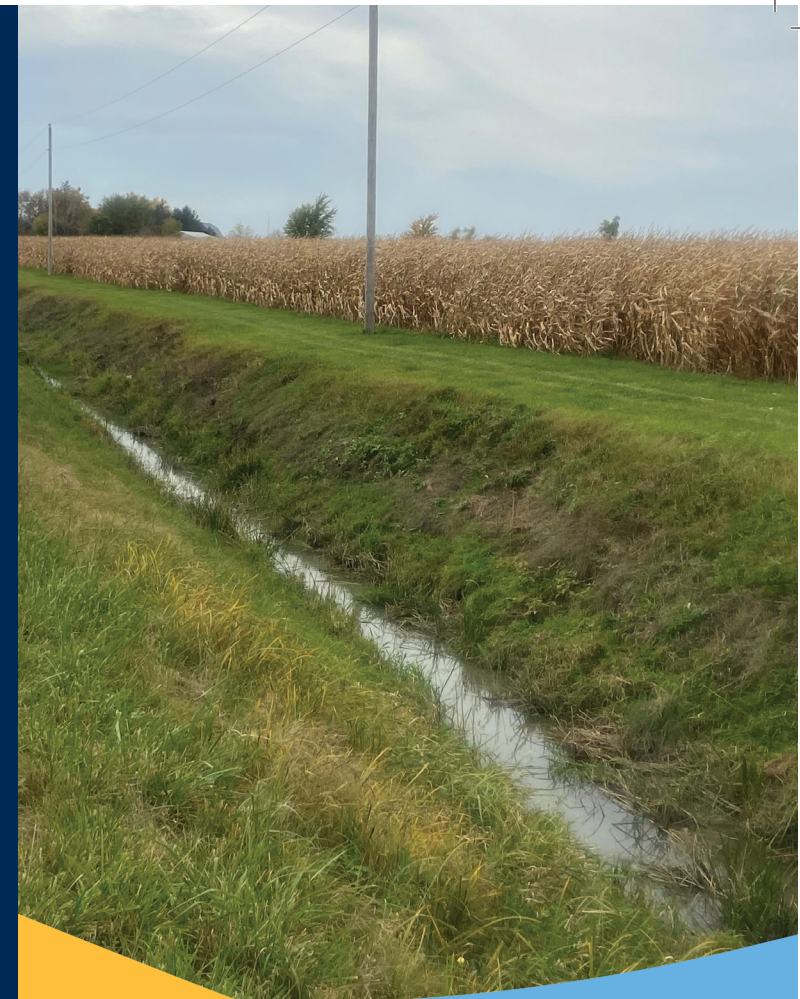
 gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/index.html

Town of Essex

 519-776-7336

 drainagedept@essex.ca

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BUFFER STRIPS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



WHAT IS A BUFFER STRIP?

A buffer strip is a strip of vegetation, usually a mix of trees, shrubs, and grasses planted alongside natural areas.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BUFFER STRIPS?

- Act as living filters, trapping and treating sediments, and other materials from upland activities.
- Stabilize streambanks, helping to prevent erosion.
- Increase soil's water-holding capacity, reducing the impacts of flooding and drought.
- Provide fish and wildlife habitat through added shade, cleaner and cooler water, and greater plant diversity.
- Decrease cost associated with drain cleanouts.
- Decrease the occurrence of water-related health issues (such as foot rot) in livestock.

One of the key benefits for landowners who establish buffer strips adjacent to municipal drains is reduced drain maintenance. Soil erosion from agricultural lands is the number one cause for sediment build up in municipal drains. Not only does soil erosion cause drain build up it also causes blockages at its point of entry forcing water to rush around the sediment build up deteriorating the drain banks and exposing the drain to bank failures and property loss. Property losses are paid for by benefiting drain owners.

EXAMPLES OF BUFFER STRIPS

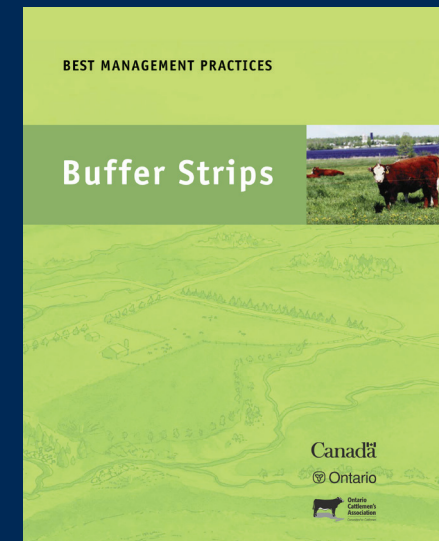
Below are examples of buffer strips located alongside natural areas.



HOW TO OBTAIN A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MANUAL

If you're an Ontario farmer, single copies of each title are available at no cost at your local office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

- For an on-line order form, visit: <http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/products/best.html>
- For a free digital copy visit: <https://bmpbooks.com/publications/buffer-strips/>



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