



Blue Earth County Buffers



Clean Water Funds: 2011

Clean Water Grant	\$136,842
Leveraged Funds*	\$53,000
Total Project Budget	\$189,842

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:
County/Watershed Wide

Project Sponsor:
Blue Earth County

Partners:
The main project partners are Blue Earth County and the Blue Earth County SWCD. Other partners include the DNR and NRCS.

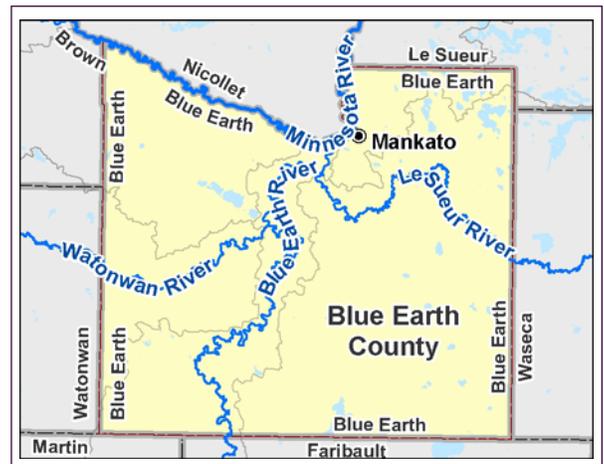
Grant Period:
January 2011 - December 2012

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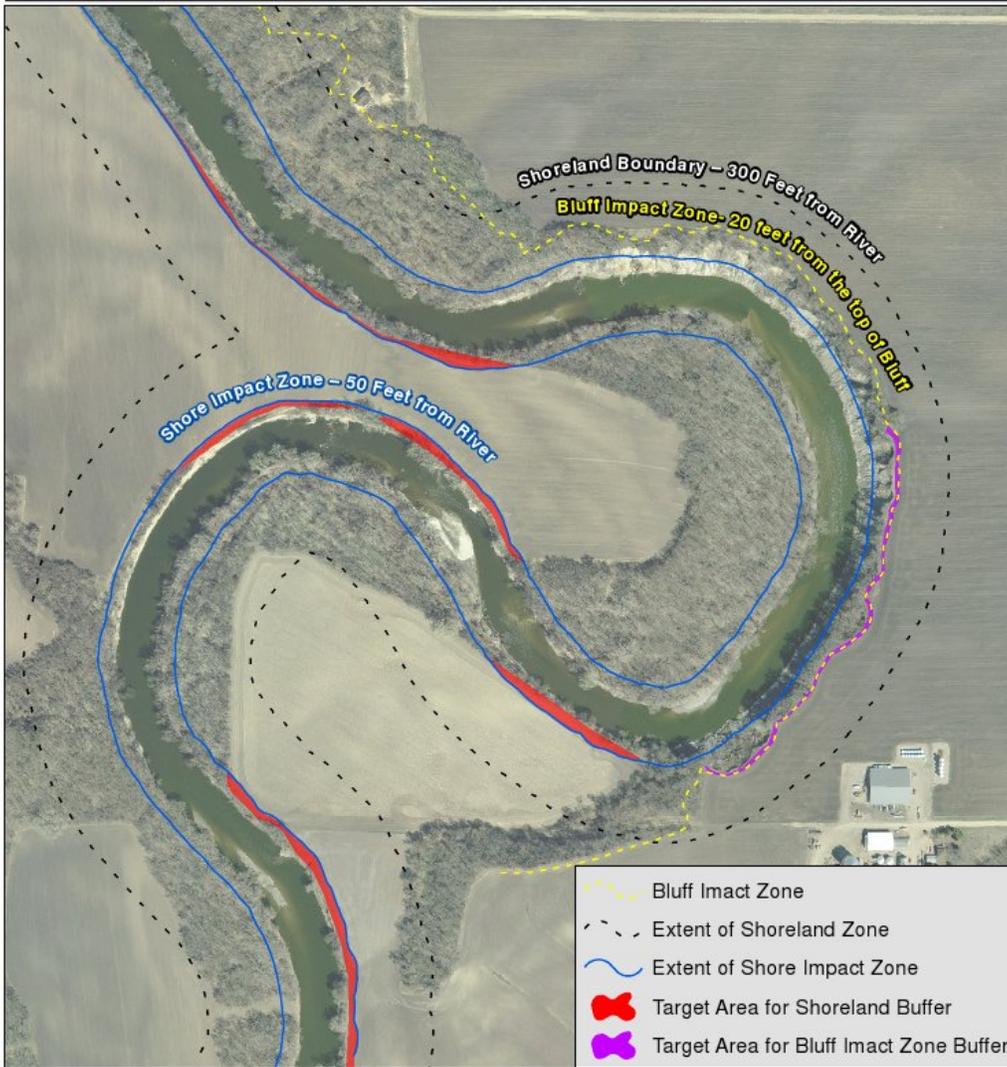


Project Narrative

Vegetated buffer and filter strips along waterways is a practice that addresses many surface water concerns. Establishing permanent vegetation along waterways is an implementation priority in the Blue Earth County Water Management Plan and required by local ordinance and Minnesota Rules. Minnesota Shoreland Rules, Chapter 6120 and the County Shoreland Ordinance contain standards for agricultural uses in shoreland. Agricultural uses are permitted in shoreland areas “if steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones are maintained in permanent vegetation.” These rules will be the basis for the project, and it will be the most targeted conservation effort ever implemented at the local level in Blue Earth County. The County will identify areas lacking permanent vegetation along all protected waters in accordance with local shoreland rules and will notify affected landowners. Through a working partnership with the County and the Blue Earth County SWCD, the SWCD will provide technical assistance to landowners. The SWCD will contact and meet with landowners to provide assistance, explaining the nature of the problem and recommending solutions and available cost share programs. Clean Water Funds will be used to provide restoration technical assistance to landowners.



Example Blue Earth County Shoreland Buffer Initiative



0 500 Feet



Minnesota Shoreland Administrative Rules Chapter 6120.3300 Zoning Provisions

A. The shore impact zone for parcels with permitted agricultural land uses is equal to a line parallel to and 50 feet from the ordinary high water level.

B. General cultivation farming, grazing, nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, sod farming, and wild crop harvesting are permitted uses if steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones are maintained in permanent vegetation or operated under an approved conservation plan (Resource Management Systems) consistent with the field office technical guides of the local soil and water conservation districts or the United States Soil Conservation Service.

6120.2500 Definitions. Subp. 1c. Bluff impact zone. "Bluff impact zone" means a bluff and land located within 20 feet from the top of a bluff.