

Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund 2004

Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department- Vegetative Stream Buffers

In 2004, the Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department received funding for the Onion River Restoration Project. A grant for \$14,325 was awarded to help with the installation of vegetated grass buffers along critical sites within the Onion River Watershed. Specifically, five sites that encompass 14 acres, protect 12850 feet of stream bank and reduce soil loss and sedimentation by at least 70 tons per year were included in this project. They also hope to create an educational field demonstration site at the Hesselink Farm in the Town on Lima. This farm is going to be hosting the Wisconsin's Farm Technology Show in 2006, and will provide the opportunity to show the environmental benefits of having vegetated grass buffers along our fluvial systems.

The benefits of vegetated buffers include: 1) Protecting water quality by filtering and removing sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, adsorption, plant uptake and other process. 2) Protect and stabilize stream banks and reduce the velocity of flood waters, 3) as well as protecting habitat for wildlife and providing a corridor for the movement of a wide range of species.

The buffers will help in the goal of restoring the Onion River to a high quality trout stream. The improvement in water quality, flow, and habitat should lead to a self-sustaining trout population.

