

**The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** is a voluntary program offering financial incentives for the installation and maintenance of conservation practices on agricultural land.

**Where is CREP available?**

CREP enrollment is offered in priority watersheds across Michigan and the United States. The three priority watersheds in Michigan are the Macatawa, Saginaw Bay, and River Raisin watersheds.

Most agricultural land in these areas will be eligible for enrollment.

**For more information** about CREP, contact:

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*"The Gateway to Natural Resource Management"*



**Allegan  
Conservation  
District**

**Conservation  
Practices  
Available Through the**



**Michigan  
Conservation  
Reserve  
Enhancement  
Program**



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Conservation Practices

## Wetland Restoration:

Wetland Restorations are applicable in areas that used to be wetlands, but have been converted to agricultural uses. Wetlands in Michigan include open water, marsh, meadow, shrub and forested habitats. An important component of wetland restorations is to also restore the upland areas surrounding the wetland to provide a “buffer”. Restoring wetlands and the adjacent buffers provides soil erosion protection and water quality enhancement, as well as habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl, upland game birds and songbirds.



Above: Sediment Retention Control Structure  
Below: Native Grass Filter Strip



## Filter Strip:

A filter strip is a narrow band of grasses, legumes, and forbs used to limit sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from entering water bodies. In addition, filter strips can provide valuable wildlife habitat.

Filter strips are typically located on cropland which is directly adjacent and parallel to streams, lakes, ponds, ditches, wetlands, or groundwater recharge areas.

## Sediment Retention Control Structure:

Sediment retention control structures are earth embankments or a combination ridge and channel generally constructed across the slope and minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and temporary water detention



Right: Row of  
Conifers as part of a  
Field Windbreak



Left: Wetland  
Restoration

Right: Native  
Wildflowers

## Riparian Forest Buffer:

A riparian forest buffer is an area of trees and shrubs located adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds, sinkholes, or wetlands. Riparian forest buffers intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides, and other materials in surface runoff and reduce nutrients and other pollutants in shallow subsurface water flow. Woody vegetation in buffers provides food and cover for wildlife, helps lower water temperature, stabilizes stream banks, and slows out-of-bank flood flows. Some trees established or managed in a riparian forest buffer can also provide timber, wood fiber, and/or horticultural products after the CREP contract expires.

## Field Windbreak:

Field windbreaks are linear plantings of single or multiple rows of trees & shrubs established to reduce wind erosion, protect growing plants, manage snow, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve aesthetics.

Windbreaks intercept undesirable winds, preventing soil erosion and damage to plants. They also slow the velocity of wind, allowing the settling out of suspended snow and soil particles.

## Native or Introduced Grass Plantings:

Native grasses and wildflowers or introduced grasses and forbs may be established to provide soil erosion protection as well as excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially upland game birds and songbirds.

