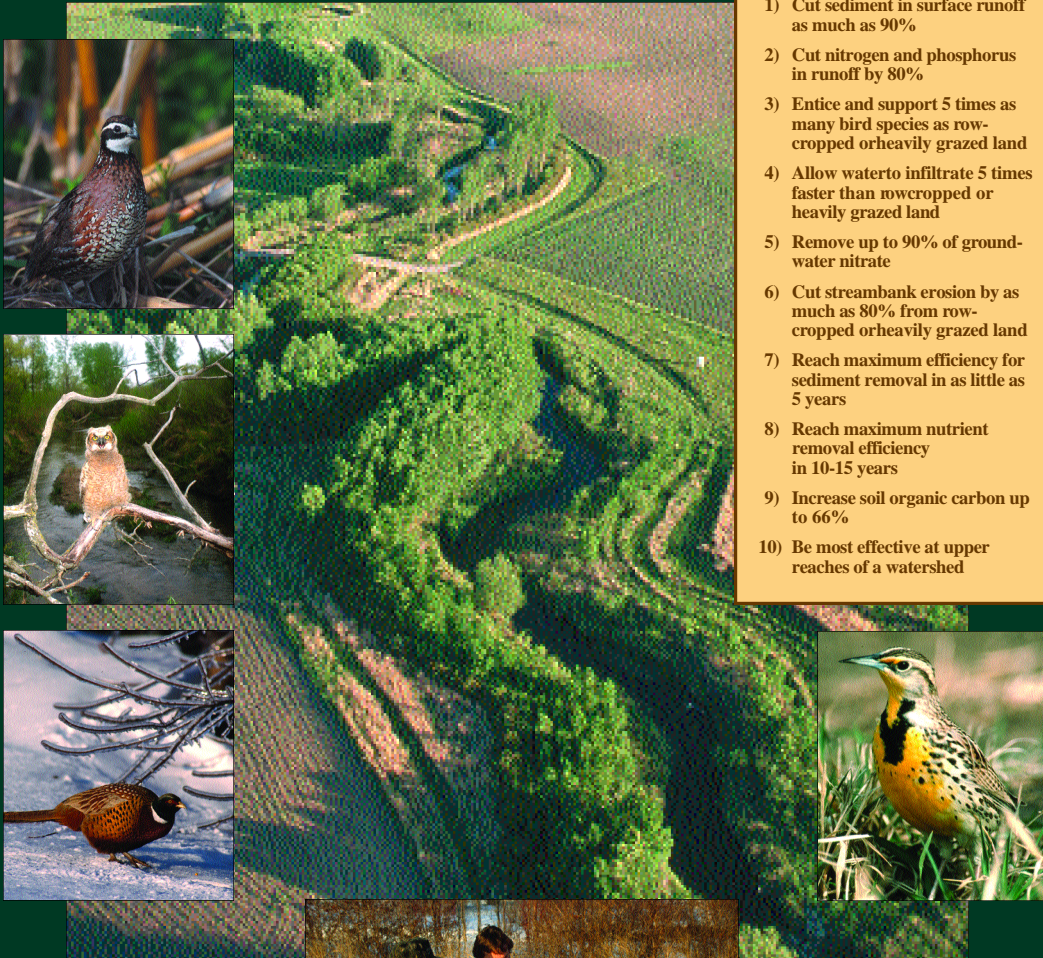


Lessons Learned from Bear Creek



Buffers Can:

- 1) Cut sediment in surface runoff as much as 90%
- 2) Cut nitrogen and phosphorus in runoff by 80%
- 3) Entice and support 5 times as many bird species as row-cropped or heavily grazed land
- 4) Allow water to infiltrate 5 times faster than row-cropped or heavily grazed land
- 5) Remove up to 90% of ground-water nitrate
- 6) Cut streambank erosion by as much as 80% from row-cropped or heavily grazed land
- 7) Reach maximum efficiency for sediment removal in as little as 5 years
- 8) Reach maximum nutrient removal efficiency in 10-15 years
- 9) Increase soil organic carbon up to 66%
- 10) Be most effective at upper reaches of a watershed

A riparian buffer established in Story County, Iowa in 1990 has been thoroughly monitored by scientists at Iowa State University and the ISU Agroecology Issues Team of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. The lessons from Bear Creek come from their monitoring and research. More information on the web at www.buffer.forestry.iastate.edu



Tried buffers yet?

Call or visit your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.



The USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.