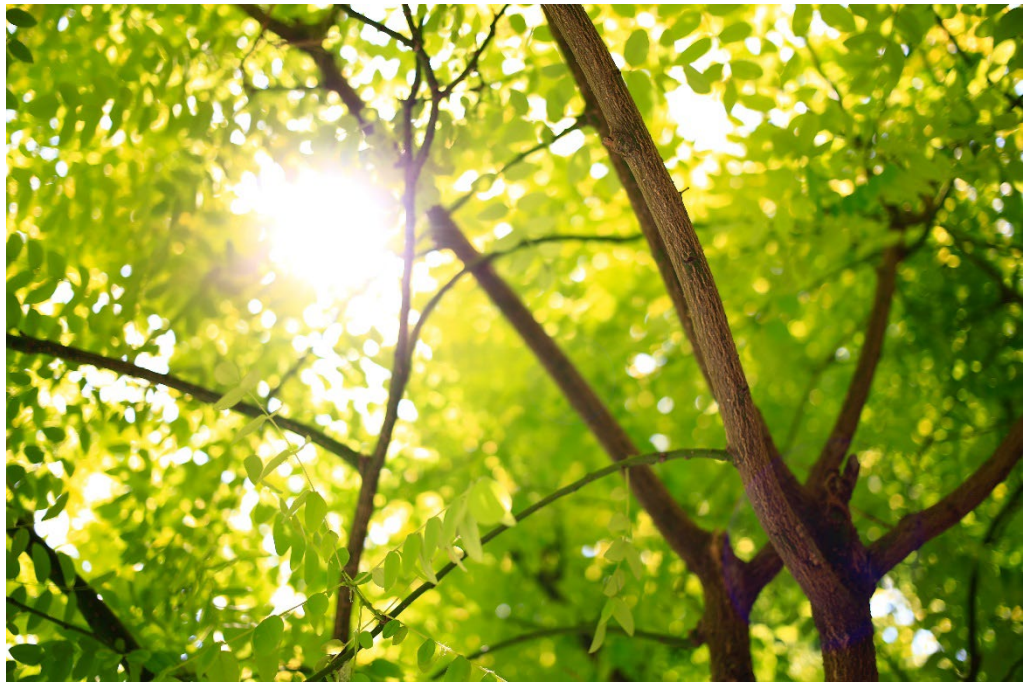


PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE



Habitat Planting Project

Program description, eligibility, application, terms and conditions.

Updated 10/17/2024



PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

HABITAT PLANTING PROJECT

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Trees and forests are an important resource, providing watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and protection for crops, soil and livestock. Currently about 800,000 acres – or 1.8 percent – of North Dakota’s total land area is forested, but about 70 percent of North Dakota’s forest land is privately owned. Planting for the Future’s goal is to work with industry, wildlife groups, and private landowners to create large-scale tree and shrub plantings on private land that will serve as habitat for future generations.

The program will achieve this by providing trees to the landowner at no cost. Landowners will only be asked to provide in-kind assistance with site preparation, equipment usage, planting, and care and maintenance of plants.¹ Tree specialists will provide the tree planting equipment and will be available to assist with project planning and supervision during planting.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to any conservation-minded landowners within the state of North Dakota who want to develop and improve habitat on their land. Projects will be tailored to meet the preferences and priorities of each landowner; however, projects must meet the following conditions:

- Project must be primarily built for habitat. Plantings that serve only as shelter or privacy for homes will not be accepted. Single-row tree rows or shelterbelts are not eligible.
- Project should consist of 600 trees or more. Exceptions may apply where multiple smaller plantings are within a reasonable distance from one another.
- Trees must stay in place for a minimum of ten years.
- Grazing is not permitted within the project borders. Any necessary fencing of project is at the landowner’s expense.
- The landowner must agree to provide labor, equipment and/or monetary support for the project as outlined in the Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions agreement.

CONTRACTOR OPTIONS

Planting for the Future has options for you to work with our contractors, your county Soil Conservation District, or to get trees to plant yourself.

¹ Some exceptions apply, including use of weed barrier. See terms and conditions for more information.

Self-Planting

Simply contact the Program Coordinator to request the quantity and species of trees you would like and how much fabric you would require. Self-planters are responsible for picking up their trees and fabric and providing their own equipment.

PFTF Contractor

The Planting for the Future has several contractors who can help you plan your project, give instructions for preparation and provide the tractor, planter and fabric machine. You, however, are still responsible for finding individuals to help plant the trees and apply the fabric. A minimum of 5 people are needed to plant trees and it is recommended to have at least seven individuals helping to apply fabric. Duties include:

- Driver: One person to drive the tractor;
- Planters: Two people to ride the planter and place trees;
- Suppliers: One-two people to keep planters supplied with trees
- Packers: One to two people to follow behind the planter and ensure soil is both adequately packed and no air bubbles exist.

Fabric is applied after the trees are planted. Duties for laying fabric include:

- Driver: One person to drive the tractor;
- Marker: One person who rides on the fabric machine and marks the fabric where trees are;
- Slicers: One to two people who will slice the fabric at the mark and pull the trees through
- Suppliers: One to two people to bring new rolls of fabric and help load them.

These duties can be fairly strenuous, so having more individuals to swap out and take breaks can be helpful.

Failure to have workers present at the agreed upon time on the workday will result in cancellation of the project.

Soil Conservation District Partnership

Planting for the Future is partnering with some county SCDs to complete projects on a 75-25% cost-share. Projects must not be able to qualify for other USDA or NRCS cost-share programs. Landowners must work with the County SCD on the project and ask the county to send the project plan to the PFTF Program Coordinator for tracking, budgeting and planning purposes. The County SCD is responsible for ordering trees and fabric needed. After the project is completed, the County SCD may provide a final report on what was planted and invoice the ND Petroleum Foundation for 75% of the cost of the program and the landowner must pay the remaining 25% of the project. This is a great option for landowners who can't or don't want to find volunteers to help with the planting and fabric application.

PLANTING METHODS

Planting for the Future will offer two methods of tree planting that landowners may consider for their project.

Preparation

Both methods will require the site to be prepared ahead of time, which is the responsibility of the landowner. The area should be treated twice with Round-Up to kill grass and weeds. Additional preparation may be needed and recommendations will be given upon project approval.

No-Till Knifing

No-till knifing is a mechanical process whereby the planter slices or “knifes” the earth. A tree is deposited into the slice, and packing wheels close the furrow. Fabric may be installed depending on the landowner’s preference. No-till helps keep soil from losing moisture. A video of the process may be viewed at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQwGE5hPNP0&list=PLoTdtDDory5v2hHDyhcn8Vd-Yw817_pG. An article outlining no-till planting can be found here:

<https://cattlebusinessweekly.com/Content/Headlines/Headlines/Article/Consider-no-till-tree-preparation/1/1/809>.

No-Till Knifing with Plastic

After the trees have been planted, plastic may be laid over the trees. This involves a barrier machine. A demonstration of this equipment may be found at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srJg_cr65ks&index=2&list=PLoTdtDDory5v2hHDyhcn8Vd-Yw817_pG.

Scalping

Scalping is a mechanical process whereby the soil is peeled back in a wide (30-36”) shallow (6-8”) furrow. Trees are then placed within the furrow and packing wheels close the furrow. The preparation process is simplified since the scalping blade removes forest litter and competitive vegetation from the planting site and does not require ripping or disking before planting takes place. Fabric is not used, but subsequent chemical treatments may be necessary.

Because scalping peels back the upper layer of soil where a large portion of annual weed seed bank resides, competition is controlled in the first growing season. Additional benefits include improved moisture, reduced pressure from certain root pathogens such as fungi, and reduced insect damage. Up to 3,000 trees per day can be planted with the scalping method barring any inclement weather or difficulty with terrain or equipment. For more information about the scalping method, visit <https://www.longleafalliance.org/what-we-do/restoration-management/restoration/preparing-the-site-for-restoration/preparing-the-site-for-restoration-situation-2-abandoned-agricultural-fields-pastures/check-2-determine-the-site-preparation-that-fits-the-situation/additional-information-on-scalping>.



Figure 2: Knifing involves slicing the earth and a tree is deposited into the furrow, which is then packed by wheels. Fabric is placed after and a volunteer will cut slits where each tree is and another volunteer must pull the tree through. Each edge of fabric should be stapled and packed under the earth.



Figure 1: Scalping will leave a furrow with sod along the side similar to that shown above. Fabric is not needed and weeds are typically prevented within the trench because of the stripping of the sod, but application of spray for weed control on either side of the trench is recommended.

USEFUL TOOLS FOR PLANNING YOUR PROJECT

Earthpoint

Earthpoint can help you find the legal location of your property by Section, Township and Range.

<http://www.earthpoint.us>

Web Soil Survey:

Use this tool to help determine the type of soil in your area. This site will allow you to map your soil and download the data, which is not required with your application, but will be helpful in planning your project.

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Google Maps or Google Earth:

Both tools will allow you to find your location and draw your plots for trees on it and measure the distance in linear feet.

www.googlemaps.com

www.google.com/earth/

SAMPLE DIAGRAM 1:



Property Description:

Planting will be on a grass field that sits above a grassy draw with a small creek and dam. Soils at location consist largely of sandy or silty loam.

Project Description:

Project would involve a single feeder row leading into eight tree rows consisting of lilacs, cedars and ponderosa pines that would encircle grasslands for a total of 6 linear miles. An additional block planting of willows would be located at the bottom of the draw.

(Please note that the diagram can be hand drawn and does not necessarily need to be drawn to scale so long as the area that will be developed can be easily discerned. A diagram should include an estimation of the number linear miles and/or acres that will be planted and provide a general description of the land. Specific information such as soil type and trees that you want planted are not required, but they are helpful in planning the project.)

SAMPLE DIAGRAM 1:



Jane Doe
1234 Mulberry Rd
Mayberry, ND 57891

Section 12
Township 345 North
Range 67 West