	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Grassed Waterways	Filter Strip	Field Border
NRCS Lifespan/Contract Duration	5 years	10 years	10 years	10 years
Definition	Grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns, legumes, and forbs tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils, established or managed as the dominant vegetation in the transitional zone between upland and aquatic habitats.	A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.	A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.	A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.
Conditions Where Practice Applies	• Areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent watercourses or water bodies where the natural plant community is dominated by herbaceous vegetation that is tolerant of periodic flooding or saturated soils. For seasonal or ephemeral watercourses and water bodies, this zone extends to the center of the channel or basin. • Where channel and stream bank stability is adequate to support this practice. • Where the riparian area has been altered and the potential natural plant community has changed.	Design criteria – **design to peak runoff from 10 yr – 24 hr storm event.** Designs check capacity and stability (looking at soil tractive stress based on that location's soil erodibility class) for the design storm event. Designs are based on vegetal parameters that are dependent on some O&M. For example, capacity is checked at the max height vegetation will reach before being mowed (when vegetation amount takes up space in the channel and therefore reduces capacity). Stability is checked at the mowed condition when there would be the least resistance to erosion. We don't plug in specific numbers, but we do have 5 categories that correlate to mowed conditions. Typically, in PA, we are checking capacity when mowing only occurs once or twice per year, so it's not a high level of management.	Filter strips are established where environmentally sensitive areas need to be protected from sediment, other suspended solids, and dissolved contaminants in runoff.	This practice is applied around the inside perimeter of fields. Its use can support or connect other buffer practices within and between fields. This practice applies to cropland and pasture fields.

Purpose	• Provide or improve food and cover for fish, wildlife and livestock, • Improve and maintain water quality. • Establish and maintain habitat corridors. • Increase water storage on floodplains. • Reduce erosion and improve stability to stream banks and shorelines. • Increase net carbon storage in the biomass and soil. • Enhance pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat for pollinators. • Restore, improve or maintain the desired plant communities. • Dissipate stream energy and trap sediment. • Enhance stream bank protection as part of stream bank soil bioengineering practices.	• To move water from one location to another via a vegetated channel. • To address erosion by creating a shaped and vegetated channel to convey water where that flow has created the erosion issue. If in a field, this usually means taking an amount of the field out of production to construct and maintain the grassed waterway.	• Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff and excessive sediment in surface waters. • Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff. • Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation tailwater and excessive sediment in surface waters.	• Reduce erosion from wind and water and reduce excessive sediment to surface waters (soil erosion). • Reduce sedimentation offsite and protect water quality and nutrients in surface and ground waters (water quality degradation). • Provide food and cover for wildlife and pollinators or other beneficial organisms (inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife). • Reduce greenhouse gases and increase carbon storage (air quality impact). • Reduce emissions of particulate matter (air quality impact).