



# Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program

Wheatland County established this program to offer support for landowners to plant trees and shrubs throughout the municipality. Wheatland County recognizes the benefits of planting trees and shrubs, including their ability to increase energy efficiency by buffering the impacts of weather on homes and farm buildings, add aesthetic value to the community and beautification of the prairie landscape, provide wildlife and pollinator habitat, decrease soil erosion and crop damage by slowing wind, reduce standing water through plant root use, and capture snow to prevent drifting and improve moisture retention.

**\$2.50/plant  
Up to \$1000**

For Purchase of Tree and Shrub Seedlings

**50% up to \$500**

For Drip Irrigation and Wood or Plastic Mulch

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Applicants may receive a funding maximum of \$1500 in a three-year period through this program.
- Wheatland County will pay \$2.50 per plant purchased, to a maximum of \$1000 for seedlings, and 50% to a maximum of \$500 for drip irrigation or mulch materials. GST and shipping costs are not eligible for funding.
- Planting must occur on land within Wheatland County.
- Wheatland County ratepayers are eligible for funding for personal, residential or farm use. Commercial or industrial businesses are not eligible for funding. Plants or materials purchased through the program may not be used for commercial resale.
- Applications will be approved by the Wheatland County Agriculture and Environment department.
- Funding is limited to an annual budget that is subject to change without notice.
- An application must be received in the same year that seedlings are planted. Receipts may not be dated earlier than September of the year prior to the application.
- Wheatland County's Land Use Bylaw contains setbacks for shelterbelts. The applicant is responsible for following the most current setback regulations.
- The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with a project. Wheatland County, through this program, will reimburse applicants up to pre-approved funding maximums on a project-by-project basis as budget allows.
- The applicant must supply receipts by June 30<sup>th</sup> to secure funding. Receipts must clearly show what was purchased.
- Applicants must submit photos of the finished project by July 31<sup>st</sup> each year to receive reimbursement.
- 5 species are prohibited: Autumn and Russian Olive, Common Barberry, Common Buckthorn, and Saltcedar.

## HOW TO ACCESS FUNDING

1. Submit an application to Wheatland County and receive approval from the Agriculture and Environment department.
2. Purchase seedlings, drip irrigation equipment, and/or mulch from a nursery or supplier of your choice and submit receipts to Wheatland County by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Plant seedlings and install drip irrigation and mulch. A tree planter is available for rent from Wheatland County.
4. Submit pictures of newly planted seedlings by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Wheatland County will then issue a rebate for your project in accordance with program guidelines.

**Program Contact: Administrative Assistant to Agriculture and Environment, Gay Mowat**

24006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4 • agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca • 403-361-2166

# LAND USE BYLAW SHELTERBELT REGULATIONS

The following Land Use Bylaw regulations for shelterbelts are from Wheatland County's Land Use Bylaw, current at time of writing on December 16, 2020. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the most current Land Use Bylaw regulations are followed when planting shelterbelts and ecobuffers.

## Section 2 Definitions

**Shelterbelt** means a row or rows of plantings made up of trees and/or shrubs that are positioned in such a manner as to provide shelter from the wind, snow, and to protect soil from erosion.

## Section 4.2 Development Permits Not Required

4.2.1 The developments listed within this section are Exempt from requiring a Development Permit.

### Exempted Developments

4.2.21 Shelterbelts:

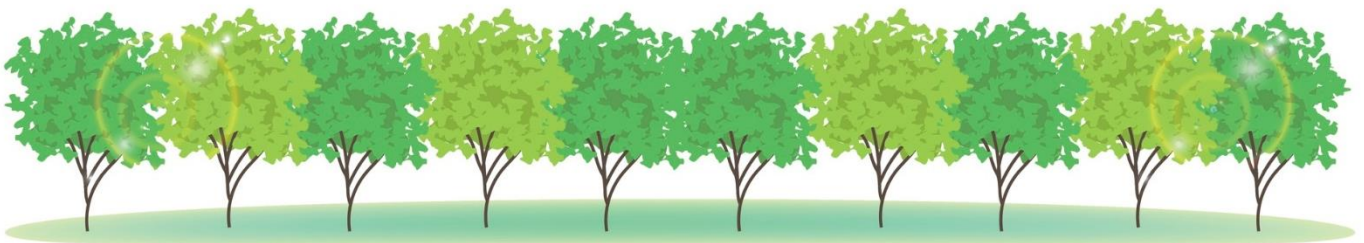
a) The creation and maintenance of all shelterbelts. See Landscaping Section for further information.

## Section 7 General Regulations

7.12.5 Shelterbelt Setbacks from Roads:

a) Outside a hamlet, notwithstanding any other provision contained in this Bylaw, no shrub, tree, shelterbelt, or any other obstruction shall be erected or placed within:

- i. 15.24 m (50.0 ft) from the nearest limit of a public road right-of-way.
- ii. 22.86 m (75.0 ft) from an intersection of two or more road rights-of-way.



# Wheatland County Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program

## APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## PROJECT DETAILS

Project Location (Rural Address or Legal Description): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Project:

Field Shelterbelt  Acreage Shelterbelt  Farmstead Shelterbelt  Roadside Shelterbelt  Ecobuffer

Length of Shelterbelt or area of ecobuffer (m/m<sup>2</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Rows: \_\_\_\_\_

I am the registered landowner

I am not the registered landowner. I have permission from the landowner to complete this project:

Name of Landowner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I intend on purchasing trees and/or shrubs for planting:  Yes  No

I intend on purchasing drip irrigation and/or mulch materials:  Yes  No

Additional funding may be available through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) programs for projects on agricultural land. More information about these programs, and support for ecobuffer design, may be obtained from our Agricultural Conservation Coordinator at 403-361-2027 or Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca.



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## PROJECT AGREEMENT

In signing this contract, I agree to acquire all permits, approvals, or permissions required for this project. I understand that I am responsible for all costs associated with the project, except for those reimbursed by Wheatland County under this agreement, at the rates applicable to each project type. I accept responsibility for planting and maintaining the project, and for ongoing project maintenance costs. I will submit receipts to Wheatland County by June 30<sup>th</sup>, or I understand that my funding is not confirmed, and my application will be placed at the end of the que for funding. I understand that receipts or invoices must clearly show what has been purchased. I agree to inclusion of information about my project in advertisements or publications about the program and will submit photos of the completed project before funding is dispersed to me.

The personal information in this form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and is used solely for collecting information regarding your Wheatland County Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Program application. Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 or admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that the information given on this form is full and complete and is, to the best of my knowledge, a true statement of facts relating to this application.

*The applicant hereby waives and releases Wheatland County and its employees, agents, and representatives, and indemnifies and holds harmless the County from any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, actions or proceedings related to or arising from this agreement and project.*

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROJECT APPROVAL

### FOR WHEATLAND COUNTY USE ONLY:

#### PRIOR TO PROJECT INITIATION:

Project Approval (Agriculture & Environment Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Project Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Has Applicant received funding in the last three years?      Yes      No

Maximum amount of eligible funding: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PROJECT COMPLETION:

Date on receipts provided is after September of previous year?      Yes      No

Amount of funding to be dispensed: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager of Agricultural Services (or designate): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_