

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE



Habitat Planting Project

Program description, eligibility, application, terms and conditions.



ONEOK



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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.

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

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=PLoTdtDDory5v2hHDyhcKn8Vd-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=PLoTdtDDory5v2hHDyhcKn8Vd-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 1: Knifing involves slicing the earth and a tree is deposited into the furrow, which is then packed by wheels.



Figure 2: Scalping will leave a furrow with sod along the side similar to that shown above. The machine in use for tree planting, however, will also include a tree being planted with one pass of the machine.

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:



Jane Doe
1234 Mulberry Rd
Mayberry, ND 57891

Section 12
Township 345 North
Range 67 West