



SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

**SILT**

PROTECTING LAND TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD

# SILT Working Buffers

A new (to Iowa) voluntary, private sector solution to water quality - and a host of other issues.

**And it's permanent.**



## The Problem

- Conservation contracts last 15 years tops.
- The water quality issue polarizes Iowans.
- Iowa waters still impaired.
- No political will for regulation.



**Long-term problems require  
long-term solutions.**





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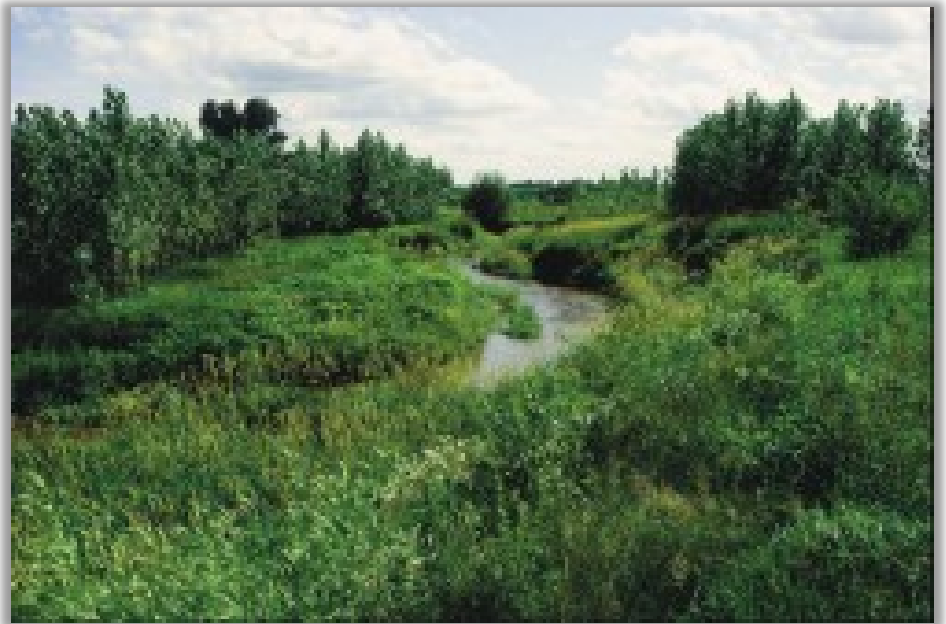
# Current Solutions

- Grass waterways
- Saturated buffers
- Riparian buffers
- Filter strips
- Prairie STRIPS

**Enlist Farmer. Farmer Retires. Start over.**



**And these solutions  
take land out of  
production.**





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What IF ...

we could  
stack the  
benefits of a buffer  
and keep land  
in production?



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FIRST

Build it.



# Farmville... style!

Two conventional farms on either side of a river.

But this one has planted grasses (bio-fuel or prairie)...*as a crop*.

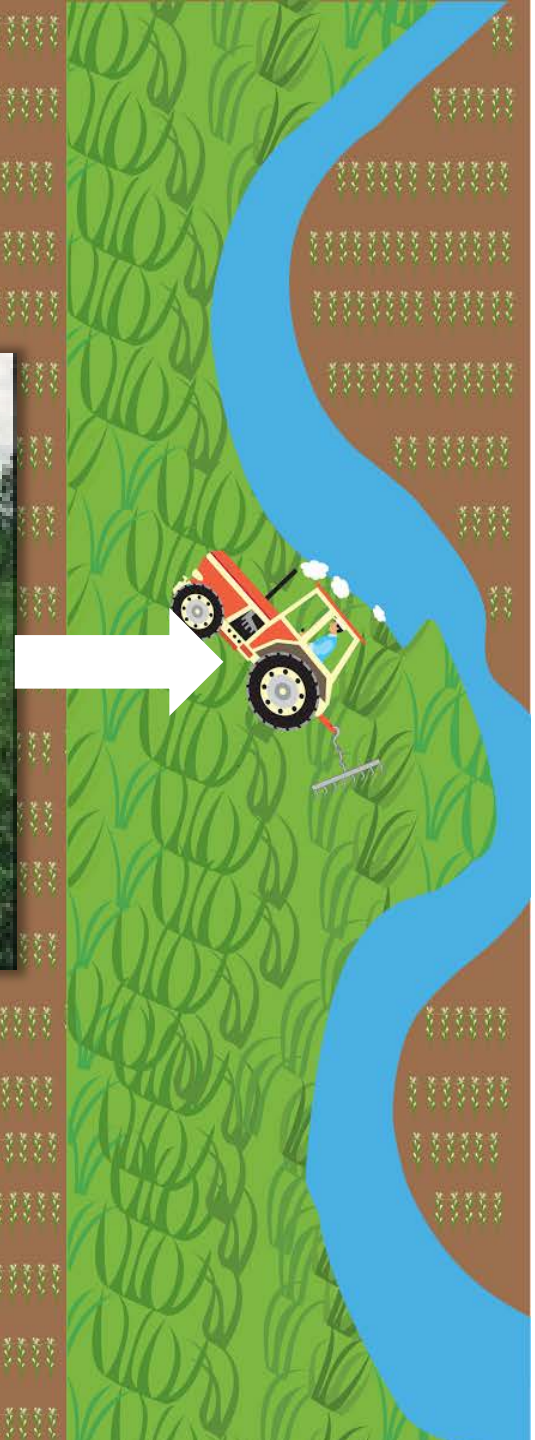




# More than pollinator habitat

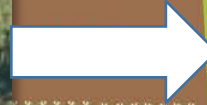


He plans to harvest  
renewable fuel, seed or  
flowers for various markets.





# More than a riparian buffer



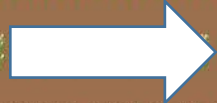
Then he planted  
fruit and nut  
trees. (upland)

Chestnuts = \$6,000 /acre



**But our corn/bean farmer  
doesn't want to farm this.**

**So he invited  
young farmers in.  
Let them cash  
flow it with  
diverse annual  
food crops.**





# This farming requires attention.

Farmers  
need a  
home...



And  
natural  
fertilizer.





# A multi-generational solution.

Value of his land  
surrounding this farm  
rose when developers  
came calling.





# Stacked benefits.

**This whole-system farm  
now makes this land a  
job-creating,  
food-producing buffer.**





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Then

Protect It.



## An ag conservation easement

1. Reduces farm value for estate planning
2. Leaves a legacy of affordable farmland
3. Retain ownership and control of property
4. Tax incentives = 100% of AGI/16 yrs federal and state tax credit up to \$100,000 /20 yrs plus



## A Comprehensive Solution

- Retiring farmer land transfer w/diversified income
- New farmer land access
- Diversified agricultural economy
- More fresh, healthy food in the region
- Third-party monitoring of land in perpetuity
- Reduces risk, monetizes benefit for landowner
- Increases surrounding land values
- Cleaner water, reduced soil erosion



## The Challenge

Labor intensive to –

- a. Identify interested farmers/landowners
- b. Assist in the easement transaction
- c. Manage the relationship



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# With your support

- Landowner referrals
- Program assistance
- Funding partnerships
- Donations

## SILT can get this done.



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# Thank you! Questions?

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