How buffers protect water

**Trees**
- Hold soil in place
- Use up nutrients
- Shade the water
- Provide habitat

Roots stabilize soil and absorb nutrients

**Tall native grasses**
- Prevent erosion
- Filter pollutants in runoff
- Provide habitat

**Perennial buffers** help maintain ditches by preventing erosion and fill-in

Ditch, stream, or river

Cropland