

Staff Use Only: Project Name:
Conservation Focus Area:

Date Received:
Received By: Alex Scurto



Land Conservation and Natural Resource Protection Final Application Form

In response to citizen concerns about the loss of open space throughout the County, the County developed a land protection plan and program in 2003 and has protected nearly 12,000 acres since then. In 2020, a **Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County** was adopted with the following natural resource protection goals:

1. Ecologically important areas are prioritized for protection.
2. Water quality and quantity are enhanced and protected.
3. Natural resource quality is improved and sustained.
4. Biodiversity is restored and sustained.
5. The public supports and is involved in natural resource protection and management.
6. Recreational access to conservation lands is enhanced.

County landowners are encouraged to consider participating in this voluntary program.

Step 1: Review land conservation information by visiting the Dakota County website at www.co.dakota.mn.us, click on Environmental at the top of the page and then click on Land Conservation. If you have questions or are interested in receiving printed materials, contact Lisa West, in the Environmental Resources Department at (952) 891-7018 or via email at lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us.

Step 2: Complete and submit a Pre-Application Form. If your property is eligible for inclusion in the Land Conservation Program, you'll meet with County staff to discuss your conservation goals and proposed project, the project evaluation and selection process, and conservation easements and the acquisition process easement. County staff will conduct a preliminary natural resource assessment of your property at no cost to you.

Step 3: Complete this Final Application Form. The information you provide will be used by a Technical Committee to evaluate and score your project based on criteria provided at the meeting with County staff. The highest ranked projects will be reviewed and approved for advancement.

Final Applications are accepted at any time.

Applications should be submitted to:	Dakota County Parks – 3rd Floor Attn: Alex Scurto 14955 Galaxie Avenue Apple Valley, MN 55124 Or to: alex.scurto@co.dakota.mn.us
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Submission of this final application form does not bind the applicant to proceeding with the sale or donation of land or an easement. Likewise, accepting this final application form does not bind Dakota County to accept or purchase land or an easement.

Public Information: Information contained in this application is subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13. Unless otherwise classified, all data contained in this application is considered public data.

Note: Please expand this form and/or use extra sheets of paper if the requested information does not fit in the space provided.

Please answer ALL of the questions on this application. Failure to do so will delay the processing of your application which could result in the project being delayed until the next application round or exclusion from further consideration.

PROJECT TYPE:	Natural Area Protection		Wetland Protection		Water Retention	
PROJECT LOCATION:	Within a CFA*		Partially Within a CFA		Outside a CFA	

* CFA means Conservation Focus Area

1. Landowner Information

ALL landowners with an interest in the portion of the property included in this application should be listed below.

Name:	First: Middle: Last:
Mailing address:	
Phone number(s):	Home: Cell:
Email:	
Name:	First: Middle: Last:
Mailing address:	
Phone number(s):	Home: Cell:
Email:	
Name:	First: Middle: Last:
Mailing address:	
Phone number(s):	Home: Cell:
Email:	
Name:	First: Middle: Last:
Mailing address:	
Phone number(s):	Home: Cell:
Email:	

Primary Contact:	
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2. Overall Project Description

Please include a visual property description of all contiguous parcels and portions of parcels proposed for inclusion in this project. The description can be a sketch drawn on a copy of an available map, or drawn on maps from the Dakota County website at: www.co.dakota.mn.us

The **graphic should include:**

- Property boundary and project perimeter boundary with approximate acreages of all areas
- Labeled roads
- Location of significant natural resource features including streams, wetlands, etc.
- Any existing pipelines, other utilities or easements
- Areas to be excluded from the proposed project, including current buildings and facilities, crop fields, future building sites, etc. (Easements cannot include existing buildings of any kind.)

3. Project Size

Please list the Property Identification Numbers (PINs) and the approximate acreage of each parcel. [PINs are listed on yearly tax statements, or can be obtained at the Dakota County website at: http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/assessor/real_estate_inquiry.htm, by calling the Dakota County Assessor’s office at (651) 438-4200 or 1-800-247-1056 (non-metro), or via email to: assessing.services@co.dakota.mn.us]

Parcel	PIN Number	Acres	Parcel	PIN Number	Acres
1			4		
2			5		
3			6		
	Total Acres			Total Acres	

4. Financial Considerations

A. Donation. Willingness to consider donating a portion of easement/land value can result in net financial savings and allows the County to extend its funding to protect additional land.

Land and easement values vary depending on many factors. County staff, based on your unique project, previously estimated the value of the land or easement is \$ _____ per acre. Note: **This value is only an estimate. The appraised value could be higher or lower, depending on current comparable sales** used in the analysis. Please use this estimated per acre value to determine a total value which would provide the basis for determining a potential donated value amount. The County advises you to talk to your financial planner/ accountant/attorney regarding possible donation benefits.

If you are considering a donation of easement or land value, what percent ____% or amount \$ _____ are you considering? Note: More points are awarded for higher donation amounts.

B. Building Rights. **Written confirmation of the number of building rights is required from the township/city and must be included in this application or prior to project evaluation.**

If available building rights exist on the property, the County must purchase at least one, relative to the total acreage and location of the proposed easement. You would retain some or all of the remaining building rights.

How many building rights currently exist on the property?	
How many building rights will you convey to the County?	
How many building rights will you retain?	

Transferring or clustering retained building rights is regulated by the township/city and confirmation by the appropriate local government must be indicated in this application or prior to project evaluation.

Is building right transfer allowed?	
If yes, where do you propose to transfer available rights?	
Is clustering allowed?	
If yes, where do you propose to transfer available rights?	

C. Other Project Funding. Please describe any known or potential funding partners for your proposed project and estimated funding amounts, or other cost considerations.

5. Financial Encumbrances

A. Are there existing mortgages or Contracts for Deed (CFD) on the proposed property?	
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If yes, you must indicate prior to closing whether you intend to pay-off the mortgage(s)/CFD(s) or subordinate existing mortgage(s)/CFD(s). Please list the bank(s)/person(s) holding your mortgage(s)/CFD(s).

B. Are you in bankruptcy, probate or other legal proceedings that could affect this project?	
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If yes at any point during this process, the County needs to be aware because it could cause difficulties during the acquisition process or schedule.

6. Transaction Considerations/Circumstances

Please mark potential transaction considerations/circumstances:

None		Power of Attorney Issues	
Multiple Landowner Interests		Estate Issues	
Non-resident Landowner Interests		Schedule or Timing Issues	
Known Title Concerns		Other:	

7. Environment, Natural Resource and Unique Features

Please describe the environmental significance of this property, in terms of water, soils, and/or geologic features; important plant and animal species or other unique considerations.

8. Other Environment Issues

A. Are any of these items located within the proposed project site?

Solid waste		Debris (e.g., concrete, brush piles, old lumber)		Other:	
Cars/trucks		Campers/RVs		Other:	
None		Equipment/Machinery		Other:	

If yes, please describe where these items are generally located.

Note: An Environmental Assessment/Inspection will be conducted within the project boundary by the County prior to any acquisition.

B. If you have a septic system, is it in proper working order?	Yes		No	Don't Know	
C. Are there unused wells within the project site?	Yes		No	Don't Know	
D. Are there pipeline, other utility, or access easements on the property?	Yes		No	Don't Know	

If **yes**, please list and describe all existing easements and, if you know, whether they are confined to a legally defined corridor or are unconfined.

E. Have any property rights such as mineral or mining rights been sold or reserved?	Yes		No	Don't Know	
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If **yes**, please list all sold or reserved rights and the purchasing entity:

9. Locational and Land Use Significance

Please indicate if there are unique or special characteristics of the land or significance of protecting the land:

Adjacent to other protected land	Threat of Development/adjacent housing
Located within an open space corridor	Cultural Significance:
None	Other:

10. Public Access

Private ownership is retained if the County acquires an easement. However, there may be an interest or opportunities to provide full or limited public access for a variety of activities. Using the table below, please indicate if you would consider allowing the General Public (GP) or Special Groups (SG) (e.g., education; youth; scouts; adults; veterans; disabled) to access your property for the listed activities and when:

Type of Access (use GP or SG)?	Low Impact Uses	Est. Percent of Area (e.g., 100%, 50%, 20%)?	Year-round or Occasional w/Permission?
	Hiking		
	Cross-Country Skiing		
	Biking		
	Hunting		
	Fishing		
	Nature Study		
	Other:		

11. Township/City Involvement

Has this property been identified in any official township/city plans, or been the subject of land use, zoning, or plan review or approval?	Yes		No	Don't Know	
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If **yes**, please describe:

12. Stewardship, Restoration and/or Maintenance

Please describe the types of stewardship activities you have undertaken to maintain the natural resource found on the property:

Restoration means going beyond generally accepted minimum stewardship practices to improve the natural resource features of the land. In the table below, please indicate any restoration activities you have performed in the past or currently, and what, if any, activities you are interested in continuing/accomplishing in the future.

Past/Current Restoration: Future Restoration:

Restoration Activity:	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Removing Invasive Species						
Planting Trees and Shrubs						
Establishing Specie-specific Habitat (e.g., pollinator)						
Controlling Erosion						
Installing wider Shoreline Buffers						
Restoring Grasslands						
Restoring Woodland/Forest						
Restoring Wetlands						
Creating Ponds/Basins						
Re-meandering Stream						
Removing Fences						
Other – please describe below						

Briefly describe why you believe stewardship, restoration and maintenance is important and what you would like the property to become in the future.

Is there any question on this final application for which you believe the information you provided is security data that should be protected pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 13.37?	Yes		No	
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If yes, which question(s) do you believe requests security data information?

By signing this form, each signatory indicates their approval of the submission of this application to Dakota County for funding consideration through the Land Conservation Program.

Name	Date
Name	Date

See Following Page 

Please read and sign below.

Tennessen Notice Data Privacy Acknowledgment

In accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act; Minn. Stat. § 13.04 and § 13.591, Dakota County is required to inform you of your rights as they pertain to private or non-public information collected from you. **Unless otherwise classified, all data in this application will be considered public data.** "Private or non-public data" is information that is available to you, but not to the public.

NEED FOR INFORMATION: The information we collect or have collected from you or from other sources authorized by you is needed for evaluation of applications received by Dakota County for lands to be potentially included in the Dakota County Land Conservation Program.

REFUSAL: You are not legally required to supply the requested data by Dakota County. You have the right to refuse to supply the information we request. However, without this information, we may be unable to properly evaluate your application and may not be able to accept your land for inclusion in the County program.

ACCESS TO DATA: Public data may be shared or inspected on demand. Private or non-public information we collect from you may be shared, as a matter of program or service necessity, with the Citizen Advisory Committee or other consultants hired by Dakota County to evaluate and score applications.

You, as the subject of collected data, unless otherwise specified by law or court order, may view the information we have concerning you and may make written comments as to the accuracy of the information. Copies of information we have concerning your application may be made, for a reasonable fee, upon your request.

RETENTION: All information on you will be kept until federal, state and/or county retention requirements have been met, at which time the information will be destroyed. Unless otherwise noted, this consent will only be effective for a period of three (3) years from the date of signature.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 13.04, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF AND UNDERSTAND MY RIGHTS AS SUBJECT OF DATA.

Name	Date
Name	Date