

Staff Use Only:

Project Name: _____ Date received: _____

Conservation Area: _____ Received by: _____



Natural Resource Protection 2020 Final Application

Permanent land protection began in 2003, in response to citizen concerns about the loss of open space throughout Dakota County. Current program goals are to:

- Protect Quality Natural Areas
- Protect and Improve Water Quality
- Protect and Improve Wildlife Habitat

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

Step 1: Landowners should review the land protection information by visiting the Dakota County website at <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us>, click on [Environment at the top of the page](#), and then click on [Land Conservation](#). If you have questions about land conservation or are interested in receiving printed materials, contact Lisa West, in the Environmental Resources Department at (952) 891-7018.

Step 2: Complete and submit a 2020 Pre-Application form, and if your property is eligible for inclusion in the land conservation program, meet with County staff to discuss your project, the easement acquisition process and scoring criteria, and possibly conduct a preliminary property assessment.

Step 3: Complete this 2020 Final Application. The information you provide will be used by County staff to evaluate and score your project according to established prioritization criteria (provided at the meeting with County staff). Projects, with their respective scores, will be recommended to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners for its consideration.

Currently, you may submit this Final Application at any time.

Applications should be submitted to: Dakota County PDD – 3rd Floor
Attn: Lisa West
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Or to: lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us

Submission of this Natural Resource Protection final application does not bind the applicant to proceeding with a donation or sale of land or an easement. Likewise, the submission of this final application 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 all 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 and may exclude it from consideration.

Natural Area Protection ____ Wetland Restoration ____ Water Retention Project ____

I. Landowner Information

FULL name (First, Middle & Last): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone numbers: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____

Other Landowner(s) Information – please include information for ALL landowners, including your spouse, with an interest in all or a portion of the property included in this application

FULL name(s) (First, Middle Initial & Last), address(es), and phone number(s):

II. Contact Information **Who will be the primary contact person regarding this application?
Only complete if the contact person is different from the landowner.**

FULL name (First, Middle & Last): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone numbers: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Email address: _____

III. Overall Project Description

Please include a visual property description of all contiguous parcels and portions of parcels proposed for consideration in this final application. The **drawing/map should include:**

- Perimeter boundary of project with approximate acreages of all areas
- Labeled roads
- Location of significant property 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, homesteads, future building sites, etc. (Easements cannot include existing buildings of any kind.)

The property description can be a sketch drawn on a copy of a plat map, or drawn on maps from the Dakota County website at: www.co.dakota.mn.us

IV. Project Size

Please list the Property Identification Numbers (PINs) for each parcel 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			5		
2			6		
3			7		
4			8		
	Total Acres			Total Acres	

V. Financial Considerations

A. Donation. Average per acre easement values vary depending on many considerations. County staff will provide best estimates based on your unique project. This value estimate can then be used to estimate a total easement payment and help you consider donating a portion of that value. Donated land/easement value can provide a tax savings to you, and allows the County to extend its funding to protect additional land. The County advises you to talk to your financial planner, accountant, and/or attorney regarding the possible donation benefits.

Do you plan to donate a portion of the potential easement value to Dakota County? If so, what percent? ____

B. Building Rights. How many building rights currently exist on the property being submitted in this application? ____ **Written confirmation of the number of building rights is required from the township or city and must be included in this application or prior to project evaluation.**

If any building rights exist on the property, Dakota County must purchase at least one right, if applicable, relative to the acreage of the proposed easement. You may retain some or all of the remaining building rights. How many building rights will you convey to the County? ____ How many building rights will you retain? ____ Will you cluster some or all of your retained building rights? ____ **Written confirmation allowing you to transfer or cluster retained building rights is required from the township or city and must be included in this application or prior to project evaluation.**

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

VI. Financial Encumbrances

A. Are there existing mortgages or Contracts For Deed (CFD) on the proposed property? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, you must indicate prior to closing whether you intend to pay off the mortgage(s)/CFD(s) or subordinate your existing mortgage(s)/CFD(s); please list the bank(s)/person(s) holding your mortgage(s)/CFD(s).

B. Are you in bankruptcy proceedings? Yes ____ No ____ If yes at any point during this process, the County simply needs to be aware, because it could cause difficulties when attempting to close on your easement.

VII. Transactional Circumstances

Please describe any potential transaction difficulties such as: multiple and/or non-resident landowner interests, known title concerns, power of attorney issues, estate issues, schedule and timing, etc., OR indicate that there are none.

VIII. Environment, Natural Resource and Unique Features

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

IX. Other Environment or Land Use Issues

A. Is there any garbage, debris, old equipment, etc. located on the proposed property? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please describe:

An Environmental Site Assessment will be conducted by the County prior to acquisition by the County Board.

B. Is your septic system in proper working order? Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know ___ Not Applicable ___

C. Are there unused wells on the proposed easement property? Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know ___

D. Are there any pipeline, other utility, or access easements on the proposed property? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please list all existing easements and, if you know, whether they are confined to a legally defined corridor or are unconfined.

E. Have you or a past landowner of this property sold or allowed any government or other entity to reserve any property rights associated with this property (e.g., mineral or mining rights)? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please list all sold or reserved rights and the purchasing entity.

X. Unique Qualities/Characteristics

Please describe unique or special characteristics of the land or significance of protecting the land (e.g., adjacency to other protected land, century farm designation, threat of development, cultural significance, natural resource protection benefits).

XI. Public Access

Private ownership is retained if the County acquires an easement. However, there may be an interest or opportunities to provide limited public access for activities such as fishing, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, etc. Would you consider providing limited public access on the property? Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___ If yes, please describe.

XII. 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 ___ Maybe ___ If yes, please describe.

XIII. Commitment to Stewardship, Restoration and/or Maintenance

Restoration means going beyond generally accepted minimum stewardship practices to improve the natural resource features of the land. Examples include: restoring wetlands, grasslands and woodlands; re-meandering streams; planting native trees and shrubs; and, removing invasive species.

	Current			Future		
	Yes	No	Not Applicable	Yes	No	Not Applicable
Installing Buffers Along Waterways						
Erosion Control						
Wetland Restoration						
Retaining Water on the Landscape						
Grassland Restoration						
Woodland/Forest Restoration						
Planting Trees and Shrubs						
Stream Re-meandering						
Establishing Specie-specific Habitat(s)						
Removing Invasive Species						
Removing Fences						
Other – please describe below						

Please describe the natural area stewardship, restoration and/or maintenance practices you've implemented since owning the property and anything you're planning or would be willing to commit to implementing 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 _____ 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 Farmland and Natural Areas 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 Farmland and Natural Areas 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