Our Prairie Habitat is nearing crisis. Experts estimate that two-thirds of Minnesota’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts that expired over the last few years have been lost.

“The loss of CRP will have devastating impacts on prairie wildlife,” according to Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. A critical component of the federal CRP program that supports the kind of positive land management that benefits water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic views.

Updates & News from the Minnesota Land Trust

**Ken and Terry Visger Host Conservation Wall Ceasefire Potluck**

News:

Ken and Terry Visger hosted a Conservation Wall Ceasefire Potluck to honor 1st District Congressman Tim Walz. The event, which benefits the Land Trust's ongoing efforts to protect wildlife habitat, scenic views and water resources, was coordinated with the assistance of Congressman Walz.

Who will take care of your land?

Today, the Johnson Farm looks much like it did 131 years ago, with carefully restored prairie and wetlands. The map like it did 131 years ago, with carefully restored prairie and wetlands. The map

Leaving a lasting legacy

What better way to reflect our love of Minnesota's natural and scenic resources than by leaving a lasting legacy? The Minnesota Land Trust encourages landowners to consider making a gift to the Land Trust.

Going to mnland.org for more information.

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**COMING FULL CIRCLE: A FARM IS TRANSFORMED TO PRAIRIE**

**The Public Benefits of Private Land Conservation**

The public benefits of private land conservation are numerous:

- **Ecosystem Health:** Restored wetlands, prairies, and forests provide critical habitat for wildlife.
- **Water Quality:** Reduced erosion, improved water filtration, and increased groundwater recharge.
- **Carbon Storage:** Trees and other vegetation absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate climate change.
- **Aesthetic Value:** Natural landscapes enhance the beauty of our landscape and provide recreational opportunities.
- **Recreation Opportunities:** Hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing are just a few examples of the activities available on conserved land.

**Without fail, each and every one of Minnesota’s 16 Land Trusts (and counting) Conservation Easements stand as a testament to the enduring vision of landowners and conservationists across the state.**

**Conservation Easements are our best hope for securing the future of Minnesota’s natural landscapes.**

**The Minnesota Land Trust**

**Doing the right thing. For the right reasons.**

**What to do next:**

- Visit mnland.org to learn more about conservation easements and how they work.
- Contact us at 651-917-6289 to talk to a conservation planning professional.
- Follow us on social media to stay informed about our work and how you can be a part of it.

**Who is the Minnesota Land Trust?**

The Minnesota Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Minnesota’s natural and scenic resources through the use of conservation easements. We work with landowners to protect their land in perpetuity, ensuring that it remains in its natural state for future generations.

**What is a conservation easement?**

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization that permanently limits development on a property in order to protect its natural values.

**Why are conservation easements important?**

Conservation easements are important because they:

- Protect vulnerable lands from development.
- Enable landowners to continue to use their property as they wish.
- Provide a way for landowners to pass their land on to future generations in perpetuity.
- Protect habitat for wildlife and other species.
- Protect water quality and quantity.
- Protect recreational opportunities.

**How do conservation easements work?**

Conservation easements work by identifying and protecting the values of a property that are important to the landowner and the public. These values could include wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic views, and recreation opportunities. Once a conservation easement is in place, the landowner still owns the property, but the conservation organization holds the easement and enforces the terms of the agreement.

**How can I learn more about conservation easements?**

You can learn more about conservation easements by visiting the Minnesota Land Trust’s website at mnland.org or by contacting us at 651-917-6289.

**What are the benefits of conserving land?**

Conserving land provides numerous benefits, including:

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Wild Rice: What’s cooking these days?

Minnesota Land Trust Director of Restoration Programs Daryl Peterson is cooking up ideas for wild rice, but he’s working on recipes for seed success, not hot dishes. Wild rice was once an important food source for humans as well as migratory birds, and the St. Louis River Estuary was a nexus of production in the Upper Midwest. Working in partnership with the Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs, Wild Treaty Authority, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Minnesota Land Trust has 120 acres in active restoration, and another 50 acres being prepped and planted for the first time this fall. Successful wild rice beds will require 3-5 years of reseeding, but must withstand a range of potential threats such as hungry geese and elk. To improve results, Daryl and his team are experimenting with a variety of tactics that keep these competitors at bay. Will share the results with partners in the hopes that wild rice cultivation practices will improve statewide.

Once the wild rice plants have become established, they become excellent self-sustaining habitat for migratory birds, observed Daryl Peterson, “as well as visible indicators of clean and healthy water.”

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