



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
SOUTHEAST BLUFFLANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Funds to protect high quality wildlife habitat across the Blufflands of Southeastern Minnesota have been made available through grants provided through Minnesota’s Outdoor Heritage Fund. Please contact Nick Bancks at nbancks@mnland.org or (651) 917-6282 with questions.

Completed applications will be prioritized by the Land Trust based on a competitive bid method which considers the ecological value and the amount a landowner would like to receive in compensation. Payment to a landowner for a purchased conservation easement is made upon finalizing a conservation easement with the Minnesota Land Trust.

To apply:

Please return to us:

- Southeast Blufflands Protection Program Application
- Landowner Questionnaire
- Current property tax statements
- Map or sketch of your property

Please send all materials to:

Nick Bancks
 Minnesota Land Trust
 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
 St. Paul, MN 55114
 or via email to nbancks@mnland.org

1st Batching & Ranking Period Deadline: 7/31/20 | 2nd Batching & Ranking Period Deadline: 12/31/20*

*If you wish to apply and the deadline has passed, please contact the Land Trust as there may be more funding available.

Owner Name <i>Must match landowner questionnaire</i>	
Date	

Cost Information

<p style="text-align: center;">Are you willing to donate all or some of the value of the conservation easement? <i>There are limited funds available to support compensation for conservation easements. Donating the value is not a requirement, but we are able to conserve more habitat across the region if landowners are able to donate some or all of the easement value.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - I am willing and able to donate <input type="checkbox"/> No - I am not willing or able to donate <input type="checkbox"/> Partial - I am willing to consider a partial donation
<p style="text-align: center;">What is your proposed payment per acre? <i>If not proposing to donate the full value of the easement, please share your payment per acre bid for compensation. We cannot pay more than the full appraised value of the conservation easement. Typically that will be 20% to 30% of the county-assessed value of the land.</i></p>	

Please read each of the following statements.

About the Program

- A conservation easement will place permanent restrictions on the land to benefit long-term conservation. The landowner may sell or transfer the property to any person or entity, but these restrictions will travel with the land and permanently encumber the land.
- Once completed, some information pertaining to the conservation easement project will be available to the public since State funds are being used.
- For this application to be eligible, the property must meet the *Requirements to Apply* listed on page 3 of the attached Southeast Blufflands Protection Program brochure.

Payments

- Payment for a conservation easement is contingent on funding from the sources listed in the program brochure and approval of the conservation easement by the Minnesota Land Trust's Board of Directors.
- The Land Trust cannot compensate landowners for more than the full appraised value of the conservation easement.
- Any payment received may have tax consequences. If the conservation easement or a portion of it is donated, the donation may be considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes.

Title & Legal Issues

- Good and marketable title to the land is required and any objectionable title defects must be corrected at the landowner's expense. Any outstanding mortgages or lines of credit will need to be subordinated to the conservation easement.
- Any payment received for a conservation easement may have tax consequences. If some or all of the value of the conservation easement is donated to the Land Trust, the donation may be considered a charitable contribution for tax purposes. Consult your attorney or tax accountant.
- The Land Trust will help guide landowners through the process of the conservation easement project, but it cannot provide any legal or tax advice. Landowners are encouraged to obtain legal advice. The cost of retaining an attorney or other advisors is the landowner's expense.

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to each of the above statements and all associated information in the Southeast Blufflands Protection Program brochure. I also certify that the information I provided above represents an accurate description of the property, and that all owners of the property are in agreement with this submitted application and bid. Finally, I certify that I have the authority to submit this bid on behalf of the owners of the property being put forward.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send all materials to:

Nick Bancks

Minnesota Land Trust

2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240

St. Paul, MN 55114

or via email to nbanks@mnland.org



**MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
LANDOWNER QUESTIONNAIRE**

Feel free to attach any maps, tax statements, or other documents that will help us understand your property.

Background Information

Person Completing Questionnaire	
Date	

Property Ownership and Contact Information

Owner's Name	
Owner's Address	
Owner's Email	
Owner Phone Number(s)	
Additional contact information, if different from above. <i>Please identify relationship with the Owner, if applicable.</i>	

Property Location

Property Address		
County		
Acreage	Total Owned	
	To be Protected	
Parcel or Tax ID Numbers		
Nearby Protected Lands <i>Includes federal and state lands, other nearby conservation easements, etc.</i>		

Land Cover & Description

<p>Vegetation and Habitat Types <i>Please describe the habitat on the property. For example: "80 acres of mixed oak forest, 5 acres cultivated fields, 20 acres of restored prairie."</i></p>	
<p>Wildlife <i>What sorts of animals live or visit your property? Have any unusual or rare species been seen by you or others?</i></p>	
<p>Water Features <i>Are there wetlands? Is there shoreline on a lake, river, or stream? If so, approximately how much?</i></p>	
<p>Existing Improvements <i>Please describe relevant buildings, roads, utilities, and other similar improvements.</i></p>	
<p>Current Land Uses <i>Please describe current land uses such as full-time residential, gardening, grazing, CRP, farming, hunting, forestry, etc. Please describe any use by the general public such as public trails.</i></p>	
<p>History <i>Please provide any known historical uses or relevant history of your property</i></p>	

Project Goals

<p>What are your motivations for working with the Land Trust to protect your land? <i>E.g., preserve legacy, conservation, financial reasons, other.</i></p>	
<p>Future Objectives <i>Please briefly describe your future objectives for the property, including future management or uses.</i></p>	
<p>Timeline Constraints <i>Are there any potential deadlines or time constraints for completion of this project?</i></p>	