



# Twin Cities Region Land Protection



Sue Steinwall

## Protect the land you love

Your land is more than just a place to you —it’s where your kids ran wild, a quiet retreat in your busy life, a family legacy. The Minnesota Land Trust can help you pass on those memories to the next generation by ensuring that the land that made it all possible will be here for them – forever.

The Minnesota Land Trust works with private landowners in the Twin Cities Region to protect critically important wildlife habitat, water quality, green space, and recreational opportunities.

We are currently seeking applications to our conservation easement program. Read on to find information about how to take the first step.

### Why apply?

- Protect Minnesota’s important wildlife habitat, water quality, and beautiful open spaces.
- Preserve your family’s legacy on the land.
- Join a community of more than 700 dedicated landowners who steward over 74,000 acres of important Minnesota places.
- Receive tax incentives or other compensation for a permanent conservation easement on your property.
- Receive a free habitat management plan, with the potential for financial and technical land management assistance.

### Application Deadline

**April 1, 2023**

If you would like to protect your land in the Twin Cities Region, please complete and return the included application.

### Questions?

Contact Lydia Fermanich at:  
(651) 240-7889 or  
lfermanich@mnland.org

### Apply Online:

[mnland.org/twin-cities](https://mnland.org/twin-cities)



**MINNESOTA LAND TRUST**  
2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240  
Saint Paul MN, 55114  
(651) 647-9590 • [mnland.org](https://mnland.org)





## You can protect Minnesota’s most important natural areas

A conservation easement safeguards the natural features of a property through voluntary, legally binding, and permanent land use restrictions. Lands protected by a conservation easement remain in the landowner’s private ownership. Public access is not required. The easement stays with the land when ownership changes, ensuring permanent preservation for generations to come.

### What are the terms?

Conservation easements are complex legal documents. Land Trust conservation easements generally:

- Permit low impact recreational uses, such as camping and hunting.
- Prohibit or limit agricultural uses, including wildlife food plots.
- Permit vegetation management in accordance with a habitat management plan approved by the Land Trust. The first plan is funded by the Land Trust.
- Prohibit division into separate ownerships. One conservation easement per owner.

## Easement Value and Compensation

On your application, you must specify a desired payment amount per acre. The amount you choose may affect whether your project is ranked and if it is ultimately chosen.

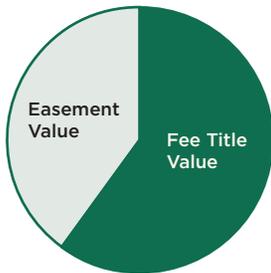
Applications to the program will be ranked on both the ecological value of the land and the payment amount desired. The Land Trust will evaluate all applications received and make selections.

If your application is selected, the Land Trust will use a certified appraiser to determine the value of the proposed conservation easement. Upon finalizing the conservation easement, you would receive a one-time payment, up to 100% of the appraised value. The Land Trust cannot pay more than the appraised value of the conservation easement.

## Benefits of Easement Donation

The Minnesota Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) public charity. As with other charitable contributions, the donation of a conservation easement may allow the landowner to claim a federal income tax deduction for the value of the easement. A gift of a conservation easement may also reduce estate taxes. Please consult your attorney.



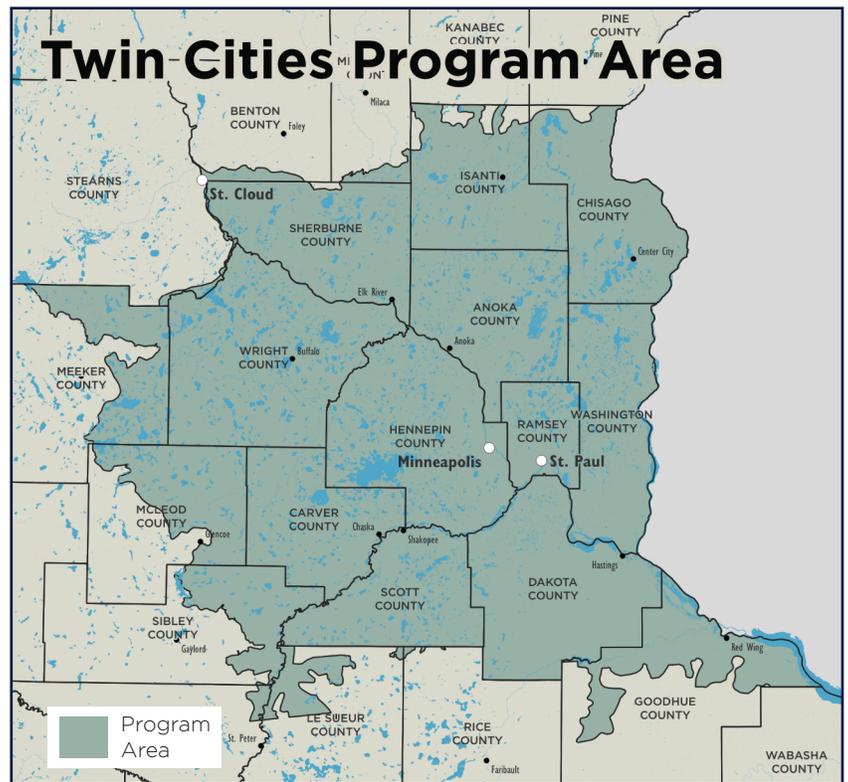


### Property Value Without Easement

The fee title and the entire value of the property is held by landowner.

### Property Value With Easement

The fee title is owned by the landowner. The conservation easement is held by the Land Trust.



## Requirements to apply

Property must:

- Be located within the Twin Cities Region (see map). If on the border or outside, contact the Land Trust.
- Be at least 30 acres in size
- Contain less than 10% of proposed easement area in cultivation or have the potential to restore currently cultivated land (in excess of 10%) to native vegetation.

## Selection Process

### Application Review

Applications will be reviewed, ranked, and prioritized after the deadline. **Deadline for consideration is April 1, 2023.** Funds are limited. Apply early.

Applications received after the deadline may not be reviewed for the current phase of this program, but may be considered later if funding is available.

Projects that are the best fit will be larger in size and will have high quality natural lands with little development.

Landowners must indicate their desired compensation—payment per acre—for the easement on their application. Please note that the Land Trust cannot pay more than the full

appraised value of the easement.

The Land Trust is able to conserve more land and may prioritize your property if you opt to donate some or all of the value of the conservation easement.

### Prioritization and Selection

Easements will be funded in order of assigned priority. The Land Trust will prioritize potential parcels using two sets of criteria:

#### Ecological Value

- Habitat quality and quantity
- Proximity to other natural and protected lands such as parks and wildlife refuges

#### Payment per acre

- Landowner's desired compensation on a per acre basis and willingness to donate some or all of the value of the easement



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## Conserve your land, legacy, and wildlife habitat with the Minnesota Land Trust

The Twin Cities Region is home to a unique array of natural habitats, from Big Woods forests to rolling prairies. The Minnesota and St. Croix rivers merge with the Mississippi here, creating important corridors for wildlife and migratory birds. The area also provides outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities for thousands of Minnesota residents.



The Minnesota Land Trust is seeking willing private landowners to help protect this important habitat through permanent conservation easements on their land. Properties will be chosen from submitted applications (see enclosed). Their selection will be based on property size, habitat quality, landscape context, and the landowner's desired price per acre.

**Applications are due April 1, 2023. Apply early as funds are limited.**

### Mission

The Minnesota Land Trust protects and restores Minnesota's most vital natural lands in order to provide wildlife habitat, clean water, outdoor experiences, and scenic beauty for generations to come.

### Contact

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.mnland.org](http://www.mnland.org)