



Anoka Sand Plain Protection Program



Roslynn Long

Conserve your forests, wetlands, and woodlands while still owning your land

Your land is important to you and has a unique character and history. As a landowner, you can be compensated for permanently protecting your property with a conservation easement.

The Minnesota Land Trust is currently accepting applications to participate in the Anoka Sand Plain Protection Program, a conservation initiative to permanently protect high quality wildlife habitat in the Anoka Sand Plain.

This brochure will help you decide if the program is right for you. Inside, find information about the program, conservation easements, project selection criteria, and an application.

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

If you would like to participate in the Anoka Sand Plain Protection Program, please complete and return the included application. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Questions?

Contact Leah Hall:
(651)-240-7878
lhall@mnland.org

Apply Online:

mnland.org/sandplain



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





What is a Conservation Easement?

Conservation easements are voluntary agreements through which landowners agree to limit the future use and development of their property to permanently preserve its natural features.

Lands protected by a conservation easement remain in a landowner's private ownership. The landowner retains the right to use and manage the land in line with the terms of the easement. Public access is not required.

When the land is transferred to a new owner, the easement stays with the land ensuring it is permanently preserved for generations to come.

Each conservation easement completed by the Minnesota Land Trust is individually crafted to reflect the special characteristics of the land and its uses. However, certain restrictions are required to protect the natural habitat and associated species.

Easement Value and Compensation

On your application to the Anoka Sand Plain Protection Program, 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 to be protected and the payment amount desired. **Indicating a lower desired payment per acre may result in a**

higher application rank. The Land Trust will evaluate all applications received and make selections from them.

If your application is selected, the Land Trust will use a certified appraiser to ascertain the value of the proposed conservation easement. This is done by determining the value of your land without the easement, and then the value of your land with the easement in place. The difference between the two is the easement value. The easement value ultimately stems from the property rights that have been restricted and the appraised value of those rights.

Upon finalizing the conservation easement, you would then receive a one-time payment for the amount indicated on this application, up to 100% of the appraised easement value. The Land Trust cannot pay more than the appraised value of the conservation easement.

The Minnesota Land Trust is a nonprofit organization and the donation of all or a part of a conservation easement may allow the landowner to claim a tax deduction. Please consult your attorney.

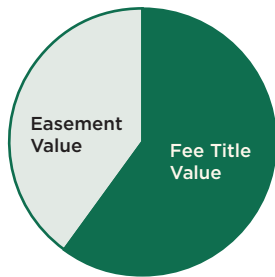


Total Property Value



Property Value Without Easement

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



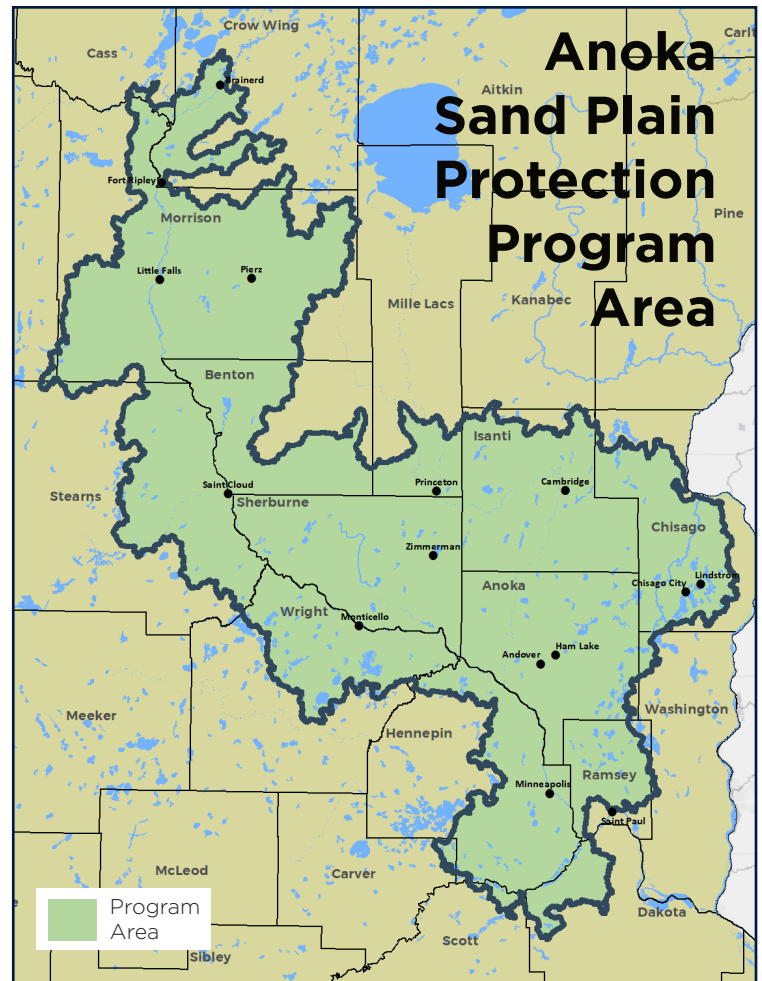
Property Value With Easement

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 Anoka Sand Plain Program area (see map). If uncertain, contact Carly Aulicky.
- Be at least 40 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 on a rolling basis. 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 for the Anoka Sand Plain Protection Program 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
- Context relative to other natural and protected lands such as parks, wildlife refuges, etc.

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 Anoka Sand Plain contains thousands of shallow wetlands, miles of scenic rivers and streams, and the largest concentration of critically imperiled oak savanna in the Midwest. The Anoka Sand Plain also serves as a critical filter for the aquifer that provides the Twin Cities and east-central Minnesota with most of its drinking water. It is a rich collection of natural resources, including two state Wild and Scenic Rivers and numerous state wildlife management areas.



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.

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

Leah Hall
Conservation Program
Manager
(651)-240-7878
caulicky@mnland.org

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Visit us on the web at
www.mnland.org