



**PROTECTING & RESTORING
TALLGRASS ASPEN PARKLANDS
APPLICATION**

Audubon Minnesota and Minnesota Land Trust’s Protecting and Restoring the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Program conserves high-quality wildlife habitat in Minnesota’s tallgrass aspen parklands region. The funds for this Program have been made available through grants provided through Minnesota’s Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Completed applications will be prioritized through a competitive bid method which considers the ecological value of the land 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 permanent conservation easement with the Minnesota Land Trust, the holder of the easement. ***Please contact Alex Wardwell at awardwell@audubon.org or (218) 687-2229 (extension 11) with any questions.***

To apply:

Please return to us:

- Protecting & Restoring Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Application
- Landowner Questionnaire
- Current property tax statements
- Map or sketch of your property showing the area you are considering for easement

Please send all materials to:

Alex Wardwell, Audubon Minnesota
 17788 349th St. SE
 Erskine, MN 56535
 or via email to awardwell@audubon.org

Application Deadline: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.*

*Funds to compensate landowners are not reserved or distributed proportionately over time.

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

Cost Information

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>	<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
What is your proposed payment per acre? <i>If you are 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 appraised value of the conservation easement. Typically that will be 30% to 70% of the full assessed value of the land.</i>	

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, limited 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 Protecting & Restoring the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands 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.
- Audubon Minnesota and 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

- A 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.
- Audubon Minnesota and the Land Trust will help guide landowners through the process of the conservation easement project, but cannot provide any legal or tax advice. Landowners are encouraged to obtain legal advice. The cost of retaining an attorney or other advisors is at 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 Protecting & Restoring the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands 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:

Alex Wardwell, Audubon Minnesota
17788 349th St. SE
Erskine, MN 56535
or via email to awardwell@audubon.org