

Tallgrass Aspen Parklands

Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's Important Bird Areas

AUDUBON MINNESOTA & MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

WHAT IS THE TAP PROGRAM?

The goal of this Program is to preserve high quality prairie and wetland habitat in northwestern Minnesota within the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands (TAP) region. Audubon Minnesota and Minnesota Land Trust will work with landowners to permanently protect outstanding habitat through a ranking system and fair market approach for purchasing conservation easements.

HOW ARE PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR THIS PROGRAM?

The application period for this Program is **May 1, 2016 - July 1, 2016**. Applications will initially be ranked based on the habitat qualities of the land, including the size of the parcel, ecological features, and location relative to other protected lands.

Landowners will indicate on their application an amount they would like to receive per acre (to be compared later to an independent appraisal). The projects will be further analyzed looking at the highest habitat scores and the price bid per acre. **Landowners who graze or hay their land are encouraged to apply.**

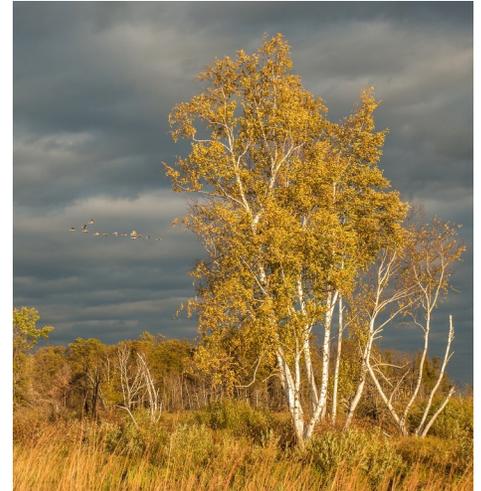
WHAT ARE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS?

Conservation easements are legally binding land use restrictions through which landowners voluntarily limit the use and development of their lands to permanently preserve its natural features. These perpetual easements, which remain in private ownership, contain provisions to assure prairies, wetlands, lakes, streams, and other natural habitats are protected.

EASEMENT LAND ELIGIBILITY:

In order to protect these targeted habitat complexes, certain minimum criteria must be met:

- * Located within the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Province (shown on map on the reverse side), **and** located within one or more of the following: an Important Bird Area, a Prairie Core, Prairie Corridors, or the Prairie Strategic Habitat Complexes, as defined in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.
- * Tracts 80 acres or more will receive a higher priority over smaller tracts.
- * Land comprised of prairie and/or wetland habitat.
- * Agricultural land consisting of row crops, tree farms, etc. may not comprise more than 10% of the property. This acreage will not be eligible for payment.
- * Acres already enrolled in preservation programs, such as term-RIM, CRP, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's conservation easements may be eligible, depending on the level of protection of that program.
- * A Habitat Management Plan will be required for grazing or haying.
- * Feedlots are not allowed.
- * Maximum of one single-family residence and associated buildings allowed per parcel.
- * No subdivisions of parcels are allowed.



Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Habitat

Photo: John Pennoyer



Sharp-tailed Grouse Photo: Audubon

**For more information
please contact:**

Alex Wardwell
Aspen Parklands Restoration Specialist
Audubon Minnesota
17788 349th St. SE
Erskine, MN 56535
(218) 687-2229 ext 11
Email: awardwell@audubon.org

Audubon Minnesota is a state office of the National Audubon Society and a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3). Established in 1979, Audubon Minnesota shares Audubon's 100+ year heritage of working for bird conservation and protecting our environment.

mn.audubon.org/TAP



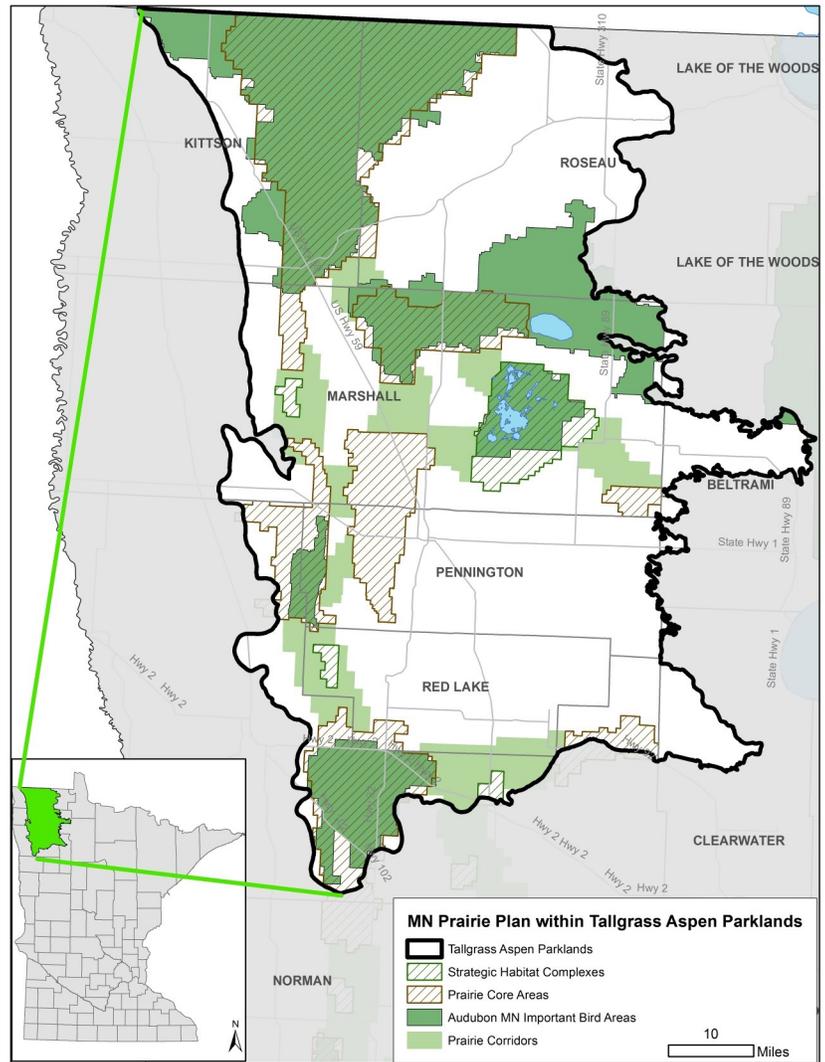
Pat Anderson
Wetlands and Grasslands Program Manager
Minnesota Land Trust
(651) 917-6288
Email: panderson@mnland.org

Founded in 1991, Minnesota Land Trust has completed more than 500 projects to date, protecting over 45,000 acres of land and over a million feet of shoreline throughout Minnesota. One of the first nationally accredited land trusts in the country, it is a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization.

www.mnland.org



Funding for this program was provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.



To participate in this program:

Please visit mn.audubon.org/TAP

Applications must be received via email or U.S. mail to Alex Wardwell by July 1st, 2016.

Applications will be prioritized based on a competitive bid method which considers the habitat value and the bid amount to compile a project value rating. Donated conservation easements may also be eligible for the permanent conservation easement tax incentive.

All applications are non-binding on the landowner and the Land Trust until both parties agree to and sign final conservation easement documents. Successful applications will be provided a one-time payment upon finalizing a conservation easement with the Land Trust.

**For more information please visit this website:
mn.audubon.org/TAP**