



Increasing Water Quality with Shoreline Buffers

Governor Dayton’s new “Buffer Law” has Minnesotans thinking about what lies along their lakes, wetlands, rivers, and streams.

The law requires that perennially vegetated land—or “buffers”—along Minnesota’s public waters.

Buffers protect water resources from pollution running off of surrounding land; stabilize shorelines and banks; and provide riparian wildlife habitat and travel corridors.

As landowners of properties protected by Minnesota Land Trust conservation easements, you may see buffer requirements in your conservation easement. You may choose to exceed those requirements.

But some may wonder: How do you create a good buffer? How do you assess your buffer over time? When might you have to make decisions between cost and quality?

Rob and Loreli Westby are

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Monitoring Season Begins

Keep an ear out! Staff and certified volunteer conservation easement monitors for the Minnesota Land Trust are scheduling the 2016 visits.

The Land Trust monitors every protected property annually. Monitoring builds the Land Trust/landowner partnership and documents changes to the land.

We encourage you to accompany monitors when they visit. This gives you an opportunity to share your land’s story and ask questions.



Bands of permanent vegetation protect water quality and wildlife habitat along Minnesota’s waterways.

Gathering Data, Protecting Land

This summer, Baseline Associate Mark van der Linden will visit properties with older conservation easements. You may have already seen him or Field Technician Aileen Cole, pictured below.

Mark will take photographs, update maps, and gather information on the properties' current uses, past history, and natural habitat. He may call to let you know he plans to update our information on your property.



Show Off Your Lines



We have new "Protected Forever" signs—let us know if you'd like any to post your lines and show your conservation pride. They identify that the land is private.

If the protection of your land was funded by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, we also have signs identifying that the people of Minnesota helped to protect your land for clean water and wildlife habitat.

2015 Landowner of the Year

Congratulations to Roger and Kay Strand, the 2015 Landowners of the Year!

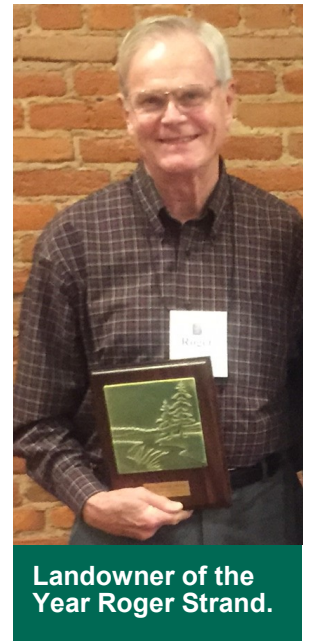
Roger and Kay's conservation ethic touches all parts of their lives. They protected nearly 400 acres of prairie potholes and glacial ridges with a conservation easement.

But they didn't stop there. Roger and Kay won their neighbors over to the land protection idea as well. Now, there is a large section of glacial ridges and prairie potholes permanently protected from development near Sibley State Park.

For over 30 years now, the Strands have welcomed families onto their land for Prairie Pothole Days, a Minnesota Waterfowl Association fundraiser and family fun day.

On the Strand property, kids learn outdoor skills and connect with their environment.

A big thank you to Roger and Kay Strand for being great stewards of their land, for getting more landowners on board, and for being incredible advocates for wildlife and people alike.



Public Lands Protected Forever

Minnesota Land Trust conservation easements don't require land to be publicly accessible. This is because private land provides many public benefits, such as scenic views, wildlife habitat, and cleaner water.

However, many protected properties are owned by public agencies and non-profit organizations. These groups permit the public to use the land for city parks, hunting, rustic hiking experiences, history centers, environmental education, and more.

The Land Trust is fortunate to have partners like the Minnesota Department of

Natural Resources, the Three Rivers Park District, Washington County, and the Cities of Lake Elmo, Red Wing, and Grand Marais, to name a few.

Non-profits like the Dodge Nature Center and Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society are also great landowners working creatively to share the wonder of the outdoors.

While the Land Trust ensures the land remains open space—despite any financial or policy changes—it's the public owners who manage the land and make these great places available for the us all to enjoy.

We all send a big thank you for that!

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installing a buffer along their wetlands flowing to the Pomme de Terre River. Rob Westby is complying with the conservation easement, but it's more than that. He's looking to repair

erosion issues in one of his ditches, and buffers will help. He also wants to do his part for water quality. Rob bought the seed mix that is right for his property and rented a seeder compatible with ATVs.

After prepping the site—which will vary depending on the property—Rob seeded his buffer and is watching it grow.

To answer the many questions about buffers, check out these resources:

Shoreland Management Guide:
shorelandmanagement.org

MN Pollution Control Agency
www.pca.state.mn.us/water/buffers-improve-water-quality

Natural Shoreline Vegetation
files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alterations_lakescaping.pdf

Buffers in Ag Areas
files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/buffer_strips.pdf

MN Buffer Mapping Project
dnr.state.mn.us/buffers



Landowner Rob Westby plants buffers along his wetlands.

Doubling Down on North Woods Conservation

Jerry Martin has childhood memories of fishing with his father in pristine Northern Minnesota lakes among towering white pines and the sounds of birds and wildlife.

Ever since then, Jerry has been passionate about conservation. He bought land that reminded him of those days and provided a place for new memories.

What's unique about Jerry is that he's never lived in Minnesota. Yet as the years advanced, he made the decision to invest in Minnesota conservation in two important ways.

First, he is working with the Land Trust to preserve his Minnesota land. Second, he gave a significant amount of funding to

support even more conservation in the North Woods he loves.

Like Jerry, many of you made that first significant gift to the people of Minnesota by permanently protecting your own land. Now we ask that you support the Land Trust in its promise of permanence.

Your gift of cash, stock, or land will be invested in permanent land conservation in Minnesota. Many landowners have also arranged for a planned gift of funds, land, or insurance benefits in their wills.

Your serious consideration for leaving this lasting legacy is much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara LaMotte at 651-917-6289 or blamotte@mnland.org.



Jerry Martin and the Land Trust's Barbara LaMotte.

Land Trust Online Resources

Land Management Webpage
mnland.org/landmanagement

Assistance Programs
mnland.org/landprograms

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
2356 University Av. W., Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-647-9590
1-877-MLT-LAND
www.mnland.org



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MINNESOTA LAND TRUST LANDOWNER NEWS



The newsletter for landowners of properties protected with conservation easements

July 2016

The Minnesota Land Trust works in partnership with over 500 landowners to steward land protected by conservation easements. To support the ongoing management of your protected property, this sixth issue of the Landowner Newsletter has information on land management, the 2016 monitoring season, and the Minnesota Land Trust.

For more information contact Kristina Geiger at kgeiger@mnland.org or (651) 917-6295.



Land Trust supporters spy birds during a 2015 birding event on a protected property, at Gale Woods Farm.

Save the Date October 2nd, 2016

Help the Minnesota Land Trust celebrate our 25th year! Join us for our annual Treasured Places event at Gale Woods Farm for family-friendly activities, celebratory cake, and conservation connections. For more information, contact:

1-877-MLT-LAND
mnland@mnland.org