

Land Protection with Conservation or Scenic Easements

If you received this brochure, you likely own or occupy a property that is subject to a Conservation Easement that is filed against your property. Conservation Easements are established to protect and preserve unique areas. These easements can cover a variety of areas, including:

- Natural Resources
- Wetlands or Wetland Buffers
 - Woodlands
- Historic and cultural property
 - Scenic Landscapes
 - Shorelands
 - Water Supply Areas
 - Green Space
 - Steep Slopes

This brochure provides more information on what a conservation easement is and your responsibilities.



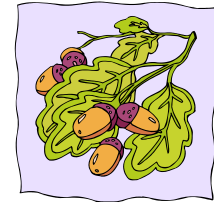
City of Eden Prairie

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Eden Prairie, MN 55344

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CONSERVATION OR SCENIC EASEMENTS IN EDEN PRAIRIE

*Environmental Education
for the Outdoors*



City of Eden Prairie
www.edenprairie.org
952-949-8300

HOW DOES AN EASEMENT WORK?

A conservation or scenic easement is a legally binding agreement between a property owner and the City or other entity that restricts certain uses or activities within an easement area located on private property. Easements are intended to protect the conservation values or integrity in the future, no matter who owns the property.

The document is filed with the County Recorder or Registrar of Titles and runs with the title to the land. It affects each succeeding owner just as it does the original grantor. In other words, all subsequent owners of the property are subject to the terms of the easement in perpetuity.

The property owner does retain land ownership and can use the property covered by the easement in any manner that does not violate the terms of the easement. An easement does not require public access to the property. However, the City will monitor the easement area as needed from time to time for compliance.

If an owner or someone else violates the terms of the easement the City has the authority to require that the violation be corrected.

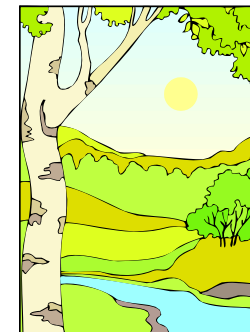
WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Natural areas in urban settings are very sensitive to human activities. It is important to note what you should do as a property owner to protect these areas. The responsibility to maintain and protect these lands rests with the property owner. Following are typical restrictions and/or recommendations associated with a Conservation or Scenic Easement.

- Do respect the boundaries of the easement
- Do not cut, alter, prune, remove or replace vegetation unless they are diseased elm or oak trees that the City has ordered removed per City Code.
- Do not dump or place materials or debris such as grass clippings or branches
- Do not change the existing grade or obstruct or impede the natural flow of water
- Do not construct or place buildings, fences, retaining walls, swing sets or other structures
- Do not treat for removal of plants such as cattails, duckweed or algae
- Reduce or eliminate the use of chemical fertilizers or pesticides that may run into the easement area
- Run swimming pool water discharge over your lawn first rather than directly into the easement area
- Relax and enjoy the view!

It may be beneficial to manage invasive species such as common buckthorn, thistle or purple loosestrife, or remove and replace diseased elms or oaks as ordered by the City within the conservation easement area. You would need to complete and submit a "Vegetation Management Form" to the City for review and approval before removing or replacing any vegetation.

For more information on the conservation or scenic easement filed for a piece of property or how to request a Vegetation Management Plan application, please contact the Environmental Coordinator at the address below.



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