
Chapter 4

Strategies for Preservation

Many opportunities are available to protect the open space preservation targets discussed in the previous chapter. This chapter lists tools, policies, and funding sources for the acquisition and management of the targets. The list is not exhaustive and is only a reference for the action plan described in the next chapter. The City of Red Wing should continuously search for other options and new ideas in open space preservation.

Open Space Preservation Tools

The City of Red Wing can use various tools to preserve land for the purpose of open space. Ownership can take shape into two forms: full or partial. Full ownership, also known as fee simple programs, seeks to buy the fee title to land. Partial Ownership, also known as development rights programs; seek to buy the rights to develop on a certain piece of the land so its uses are consistent with open space preservation.

Another option for the City is to preserve and manage lands through policies or regulations. With the completion of the new Comprehensive Plan, policies are in need of updating and improving as emphasized in Community Policy 4 in the Plan: update/modify official tools and regulations. Many options are available to accomplish that goal.

Full Ownership

The City of Red Wing could buy land and own all of the property rights that exist on the property. The City would then be able to control and manage the land for open space. This type of purchase is more expensive than alternatives, but is sometimes necessary when an entire parcel contains valuable resources.

One option for full ownership of the land is to lease or sell the land to a third party whose land use is consistent with protecting open space. For example, a policy in the Comprehensive Plan is to protect the view shed along rural character roads. The City may acquire land along these roads,

but lease or sell back the land to a third party who would use the land for agricultural purposes.

A closely related idea is the purchase of land by the City with a life estate. The City may purchase land from an owner, but allow the owner to remain in their residence for their lifetime (during which time the city maintains full control of the property).

Another tool in fee simple is the option to buy property. The City may purchase an option on a piece of property and have the exclusive right to acquire the property within a certain amount of time. This allows the City to raise funds for a valuable piece of property without the piece being placed on the open market for purchase by someone else.

Land trades are another example of tools for the acquisition of open space preservation. The City of Red Wing could determine land ownership in an area that does not meet its original purpose, as well as being located close to developed areas. Instead of selling the land in the open market, the City could trade the land for open space land with a potential developer

somewhere far from developed areas. This process might be attractive to a potential developer because of the land's proximity to built services.¹

Partial Ownership

A tool the City of Red Wing has used extensively is conservation easements. Conservation easements usually are placed over certain areas of the property and they take away only a few rights from the owner.

They are—

“a voluntary and permanent transfer of specified development and land use rights from a landowner to a qualifying organization... (A) conservation easement may be established on land in order to ‘assure its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational or open space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects.’”²

The conservation easement comes in two types: positive and negative. A positive easement allows someone a right to use property in a certain manner. For example, the easement allows access across your property. A negative easement restricts the actions of the owner of the property. One

¹ Duerksen, Christopher J., et al, Habitat Protection Planning: Where the Wild Things Are (Chicago: APA, 1997) 42-47.

² “Land Protection Options: A Handbook for Minnesota Landowners”, as seen in Hurt, Robert J. and Korelle Hendee, Blufflands Design Manual: Winona County/La Crescent Area Common Vision Project (The State of MN: DNR, 1998) 53.

common example is not allowing the property owner to destroy vegetation or construct a building on the easement.

Conservation easements provide many benefits to the owner. The easement protects the land permanently without any stress to the owner of managing the land, leaves a legacy for the owner, and can provide several tax advantages. The easement can be a charitable donation when donated to a non-profit or government organization; therefore, the landowner may claim a federal income tax deduction for the easement. Theoretically, property taxes will decrease because the easement reduces the value of the land when the development rights are taken away.³

A bargain sale is another option for acquiring land for open space. A private landowner sells their property to a non-profit organization or the City at less than fair market value. The difference between the fair market value and the bargain sale price is considered a charitable donation. Therefore, the seller receives a tax deduction. An example would be if land valued at \$100,000 and the seller donates it to the City for \$80,000. Potentially, the seller receives a tax deduction of \$20,000.

³ “A landowner’s guide to protecting land through conservation easements” (MN Land Trust, 2002) 3.

The City of Red Wing may require a conservation easement through development agreements and, if the easement is donated, the City might agree to carry out certain actions. Currently, there are 30 conservation easements in Red Wing either held in permanent conservation by the City, the Minnesota Land Trust, the West Wisconsin Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) is very similar to conservation easements. However, PDR restricts the development rights over the entire parcel of land, instead of just a portion like conservation easements do. PDR is effective when a landowner wants to keep land for agricultural purposes, but cannot afford the taxes because of the pressure of development and the high market value of their land. When a PDR is used, the value of the land is reduced back to its agricultural value and thus lower taxes. The landowner is then able to pass the land down to their children to continue farming without the burden of high taxes.

Incentives

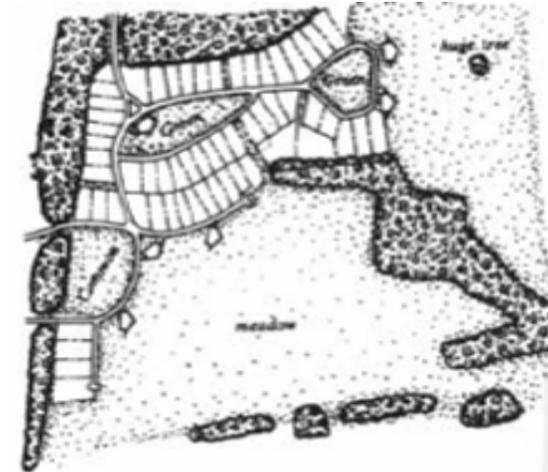
Incentives are useful in creating an environment where developers provide open space willingly because of the benefits they receive in return from the city. Density bonuses are the most common form of incentives. The

city offers the developer a chance to build more residential or commercial development than allowed in the current zoning in exchange for a large amount of land in permanent open space or actions protecting important resources. Certain actions include buffers next to wildlife corridors, planting vegetation to encourage or discourage wildlife and/or rainwater harvesting.

Cluster development is another type of incentive. Clustering allows for a city and a developer to introduce innovative ways of development while preserving the most important resources. Traditional zoning calculates the maximum allowable density per lot. Cluster development calculates the maximum density for the overall development area. Clustering is appropriate when certain areas of a proposed development have important resources and certain areas are suitable for development.

Often landowners are unaware of the direct value in donating their land compared to the previously mentioned benefits of donating a conservation easement. The City can try to provide more benefits to a landowner who voluntarily dedicates their land for open space such as property tax breaks. The same scenario can be applied to developers and businesses as well.

Figure 4.1



An example of cluster development with open space preserved permanently.

Source: Barnett, Jonathan, Redesigning Cities: Principles, Practice, Implementation (Chicago: APA, 2003).

An alternative type of incentive is a transfer of development rights program (TDR). TDR programs could be a useful tool in the City of Red Wing because there are large amounts of land that should be left undeveloped and other land that can be developed close to or in the older parts of the City. TDR programs send the development rights from valuable open space lands to areas in need of development. The desired developable areas receive the right to build a denser development than allowed under the zoning. The valuable open space land is put in a

permanent conservation easement. TDR programs work the best when efforts are coordinated between the city and county and are done over a large geographical area.⁴

TDR programs have been an allowable tool in Minnesota since 1997. The Minnesota Legislature passed enabling legislation allowing local governments to use it. The first formal TDR program and ordinance in Minnesota was developed in Chisago County in 2000. As of 2005, no transfers have yet been made. Red Wing could join Chisago County and lead the way in using this innovative incentive. However, Red Wing should take caution in using the tool because it is very complex.

Therefore, the City should seek advice from areas in the country where it has been implemented successfully.

Figure 4.2



The figure displays how King County, Washington sends the development rights from agricultural and forested areas to urban areas.

Source: Washington, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, [Transfer of Development Rights Program](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/tdr/), 2 August 2007 <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/tdr/>.

Disincentives

Disincentives are used to discourage development from occurring in valuable open space lands. This tool is the opposite of density bonuses. In this program, the city discourages conventional sprawl development to occur by not allowing the maximum permitted density allowed in the

⁴ Duerksen, Christopher J., et al, [Habitat Protection Planning: Where the Wild Things Are](#) (Chicago: APA, 1997) 40-41.

zoning. For example, an area of 100 acres is zoned for single-family residential with two units per acre. Therefore, the developer assumes they can build 200 homes on the 100 acres. However, 50 of the 100 acres is valuable open space. The city only allows the developer to build 100 homes on the 100 acres, unless the developer preserves the 50 acres of valuable open space and provides an innovative development style. This will allow the developer to build their 200 homes on the 50 developable acres while preserving 50 acres for open space.

Policies

Urban growth boundary is a progressive tool most often associated with the cities of Portland, Oregon and Boulder, Colorado. The growth boundary is only one of many instruments that both cities use in an effective growth management system. The tool creates a boundary where the city or county will provide services to development inside the boundary and where it will not outside of it. The boundary's placement is based on several factors, but the main one is to contain development in areas where it is economically feasible to provide services and where urban growth is best suited. Conventional residential development in most cities encourages sprawl and consequently cities have to pay to provide services to the area. The tool is effective in terms of open space

preservation because it keeps development away from valuable natural resources in areas on the outskirts of the town. The tool is most effective when used with other growth management tools and techniques.

Population forecasting is used to draw the growth boundary. Even though Red Wing's population has grown slowly, the City has seen the consequences of conventional sprawl development. **Figure 1.2, Table 1.1** and explanation presented in Chapter 1 under "*Growth Pressures in Red Wing*" heading shows the problems that the City of Red Wing has faced with sprawl.

Despite worries from many developers, boundaries are drawn to accommodate growth for the next twenty years and beyond. They do allow for some flexibility within the set amount of time. For example, Olmsted County, Minnesota has used the regulation in establishing urban service areas around each municipality in the county, allowing enough land to accommodate development for the next twenty-five to fifty years. Water, sewer, and other services are provided in the urban service areas while some areas outside the urban service areas are used for resource protection areas.⁵

⁵ Allmann, Laurie, Natural Areas: Protecting a Vital Community Asset. A Sourcebook for Minnesota Local Government and Citizens (DNR, 1997) 48-49.

Another alternative is land dedications from either a private owner or fees required by the local government for a proposed development. Red Wing currently has a park land dedication requirement and a fee-in-lieu for parks. These requirements could be evaluated to determine if they should be changed. Other land dedication techniques use impact fees to pay for the impacts the proposed development has on a community. The fees protect existing residents from the costs associated with development occurring far away from built infrastructure. For example, a developer proposes a development in an undeveloped portion of the city. The city might impose an impact fee on the development towards the purchase of open space, because of the need for new residents to have preserved land somewhere close to the new development.

Scenic regulations are another tool used to protect the visually aesthetic areas within a city. Red Wing recently passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of billboards anywhere within the city limits. The City of Winona and Houston County have both imposed regulations restricting construction and the removal of vegetation on bluffs. Another scenic regulation tool is protecting scenic roads. County 19 is an example of a road that Red Wing could impose regulations on to preserve the rural character.

Community System Policy 12 in the Comprehensive Plan calls for focused efforts for new parks in downtown, upper harbor, historic neighborhoods, new neighborhoods, and recreational areas, while Design Character Policy 24 calls for thirty percent of all built horizontal materials will be covered by plant materials. A new regulation that could accomplish these policies would be an adoption of a green roof ordinance. Green roofs are a great way of reducing energy costs in a building, reducing the effects of the heat island and storm water runoff, attracting tourists and providing a park in an urban setting.

Two communities in the United States that have been influential leaders in green roof construction are Portland, Oregon and Chicago, Illinois. Both cities have many policies related to green roofs and both cities only require green roofs on public buildings. In Portland, all new public buildings must have 70% of the roof be a green roof. In Chicago, any building receiving public assistance must have a green roof. Another policy example is an incentive that gives floor area ratio bonuses to developers that build green roofs. Floor area ratio is the total floor area of a building divided by the total size of site's location. Therefore, if a building were to have a green roof, the developer would be allowed to build more floor area on their building site. Both cities have done an effective job of promoting green roofs that private individuals and

developers are building them on their own. Portland has over 2 acres and Chicago has over 23 acres in green roofs.⁶ Red Wing could expand on these policies and make ones applying to all development. This could become a great example used by other communities in the country.

Overlay Districts are an additional zoning regulation for a specific geographical area that does not change the underlying zoning. If a parcel is located within the overlay district, the parcel is subject to the underlying zoning and to a stricter regulation in the overlay district. The districts are useful when trying to preserve different cultural or natural resources, such as blufftops, agricultural soils, scenic views or shoreland.

The National Register for Historic Places is our country's list of valuable cultural resources. The list includes over 80,000 sites, landmarks and properties nominated by different entities. Specific resources consist of districts, sites, and objects significant in American history, culture, archaeology, and others. Archaeology is of particular interest because Red Wing contains an abundance of these sites. There are several criteria for evaluation listed in the Register including quality of significance and integrity. Anyone in Red Wing can prepare a nomination for the Register.

⁶ Canada, Toronto City Planning, [Making Green Roofs Happen: A Discussion Paper Presented to Toronto's Roundtable on the Environment July 11, 2007](http://www.toronto.ca/greenroofs/pdf/makingtoc_nov16.pdf)
http://www.toronto.ca/greenroofs/pdf/makingtoc_nov16.pdf.

The person, persons, or organizations do not have to own the parcel of land. The Heritage Preservation Committee could take the lead to nominate sites. After being nominated, a group of professionals reviews the land and a public hearing takes place. If the land is accepted to the Register, there are several benefits including tax breaks and federal grants. The recognition as a National Register of Historic Places does not imply the owner has to restore, maintain, or allow public access on to their property. The Register is a tool for preservation because it keeps an area from being destroyed by state or federal construction projects. Further information on the steps to nominate and the benefits is available at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/index.htm>.

Development Standards

Chapter 5, Settlement Patterns, in the Comprehensive Plan addresses many development standards the city should look at adopting. The end of the chapter establishes sound policies that tackle the needs of a solid green infrastructure system.

Funding

The tools and policies for the acquisition, preservation, and management of open space areas are sound concepts, but if cities do not have funding options, the tools and policies are useless. Moreover, residents in cities often worry that they will be burdened with the tax support of these initiatives and then forget the benefits associated with a green infrastructure system. **Table 4.1** displays more benefits of green infrastructure from an economic view. In addition, the section outlines funding options from an array of local, state and national sources the City, organizations, and citizens can use to accomplish the aforementioned tasks. Organizations are listed as either governmental or non-governmental. Some organizations are categorized at local, state, and national levels, and the City and citizens should try to make contact at the most appropriate level.

Many of the funding options ideas were taken from Natural Areas: Protecting a Vital Community Asset, A Sourcebook for Minnesota Local Governments and Citizens written by Laurie Allmann. However, Red Wing should continuously be looking for new and innovative funding. Appendix M provides a matrix for all funding sources. Websites are listed

below to seek out further information on the amount of funding each program offers and other information.

Table 4.1

Components of economic value	Public Financial Impact	Public Financial Impact
	One-time impact	Annual Impact
Preservation/creation of open space	- one-time cost of acquiring or protecting open space	- management costs
Addition to value of nearby property		+ increased property taxes from nearby units (or avoided reduction in future taxes)
Avoided costs of alternative development	+ avoided cost of public infrastructure	- lost property taxes from foregone development
		+ avoided net cost of public services
Recreational use of land	- cost of improvements for recreational use	- net operating and maintenance costs
Stormwater and flood management	+ lowered capital cost of alternative water management	+ lowered water management costs
Water quality protection		+ lowered water treatment costs
<u>Other Factors</u> -Additional recreational use and enhancement of value of existing park and open space areas -Preservation value -Wildlife habitat and movement -Improved air quality Other environmental impacts	Not Estimated	Not Estimated
Totals	Total one-time capital cost (-) or capital investment savings (+)	Total annual cost (-) or savings (+)

Table displays the various economic impacts for an open space system. Source: Anton, Paul A, The Economic Value of Open Space: Implications for Land Use Decisions. (St. Paul: Wilder Research, December 2005) 41.

Government Local Sources

The City general fund has been used to finance open space preservation. Expenditures are outlined in the approved operating budget, with the expenditures outside of the budget required to be passed either by the City Council, board, or commission charged with the management of the fund and signed by the officer designated by such managing body (City Charter Section 7.11 Funds). The general fund can help finance land acquisitions through appropriations. Part of the funding for the acquisition would come from the general fund and part from other sources. Instead of having expenditures come from outside the budget, a special fund can be established for the acquisition of open space where a direct account from the general fund will only be used for said purpose.

Community Initiative Number 11 in the Comprehensive Plan is to maintain and update the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP establishes schedules and priorities for projects generally over a five-year period. First, the City prepares a list of all public improvements that will be required in the next five years. Second, all projects are reviewed, priorities assigned, cost estimates prepared, and potential funding sources identified. An emphasis in the Comprehensive Plan is capital

improvements that promote green infrastructure. Recommendations focusing on green infrastructure should be a high priority in the CIP. Bonds can be used to finance a single acquisition project or an entire acquisition program. Bonds work in a similar manner as loans. The city issues bonds to investors and, in return, the city borrows money from the investors. The city must repay the bonds with interest in a specified schedule to the investors who purchased the bonds. In Minnesota, citizen referendum bonds related to open space have passed recently in a number of cities including St. Cloud (\$10 million), Woodbury (\$9 million), Wayzata (\$3 million), and Minnetonka (\$15 million).

There are a few different kinds of bonds; this section will discuss two of the most common. Revenue bonds are issued for the purchase of a single project, and then the debt is paid back from the revenue acquired from the project. A revenue bond is useful only when the piece of land is very large and it is going to provide revenue through entrance and parking fees. A more common type is general obligation bonds. The bonds require voter approval, and can be used for a general open space purchase program. They provide low risk to investors because they are promised to be paid back in full usually from the general revenues of the city, such as property taxes.

A special sales tax is a possible revenue source for the bond. A small percentage increase in sales tax could result from a referendum or an initiative. A referendum is put onto the ballot by the local government for the citizens to vote upon. An initiative is started by citizens and with the proper amount of signatures is put onto the ballot for vote. If approved, the City also needs special State legislature approval. As mentioned in Chapter 1, both Rochester, Minnesota, and Boulder, Colorado have used the sales tax effectively to finance open space acquisition.

Other types of taxes that could be increased for funding open space are bed and property taxes. Bed taxes increase taxes on tourist industries and are often popular among residents because the residents are usually the ones not being taxed. A property tax would simply increase the amount of taxes residents pay on owned property.

One option for acquiring open space land is working with the property owner to reduce the price below-market as a bargain sale. The sale is enticing for the landowner because the difference between the price paid and the market value price is considered a charitable contribution by the Internal Revenue Service. Thus, the seller reduces their income taxes from claiming the donation.

Often times when cities are doing their resource mapping and developing priority systems, they discover a piece of a valuable land located on tax forfeiture property. If available, the local government should attempt acquisition of the property because of the low-cost of it. Red Wing should be alert for such properties.

Government State and Federal Sources

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund run through the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources has provided funding to local governments and other entities of over \$170 million from the years 1991-2003 for Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The Minnesota State Lottery contributes money to the Fund through the year 2024.

In May 2007, the Governor's Conservation Legacy Council (CLC) presented a report to Tim Pawlenty with recommendations for the 2008 legislative session. The recommendations focused on three main elements, with the most significant one dealing with an increase in conservation funding. The CLC calls for the legislature to approve a constitutional ballot question regarding the dedication of a portion of a state general tax for conservation. Red Wing citizens should pressure their representatives

if they want to see an increase in conservation funding spent at the state level.

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program is managed at the state level by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The program seeks to protect and improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The program uses conservation easements as the main tool. Once enrolled in the program, a conservation plan helps manage and improve the area. State bonding funds the program. More information is available by contacting our local SWCD located in Goodhue at (651) 923-5300.

The Minnesota Landowner's Incentive Program is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and through state natural resources agencies. The grant provides an incentive for private landowners to protect or restore habitat where state or federally endangered plant or wildlife species are present. Blufflands and forests in Red Wing located close to the previously mentioned endangered species in Chapter 2 qualify for the grant.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) has numerous financial assistance programs of which this plan touches only on

a few. More funding options are available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/matrix.html>.

- Regional Trail Grant Program provides funding to local governments for land acquisition and trail development. Criteria for the grant include length, expected use, and quality of aesthetics. Red Wing could consider using this grant for a trail connection to Hastings or Lake City.
- Minnesota Releaf program assists communities with planting and caring for trees, reducing carbon dioxide, and other environmental benefits. The program provides funding for the planting of native species for windbreaks and shade, identifying diseased trees, education, and other tree related advantages.
- Metro Greenways Protection and Restoration program provides funding for the seven county metro region and five other counties including Goodhue. The purpose of the program is to “protect, connect, restore, and manage a regional network of natural areas, parks and other open spaces interconnected by ecological corridors in the seven county metropolitan region through collaborative

public/private partnership.” Funding is provided for the acquisition of areas with high ecological importance.

- The Natural and Scenic Area Program provides matching grants to local governments up to 50% for the acquisition of natural and scenic areas. Projects must be a minimum of \$10,000 and grants cannot exceed \$500,000. Besides fee title acquisition or permanent easements, a portion of the grants can be used for boundary signage and fencing and educational purposes. In July 2007, Red Wing received a grant for a Natural and Scenic Area grant totaling \$156,000. The grant will help acquire 16 acres on Billings-Tomfohr Conservation Area adding to the 80 acres already preserved.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was signed into law August 10, 2005 with guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion. Two components in SAFETEA-LU include improving safety and environmental stewardship. Within the improving safety section, a Safe Routes to School program was established encouraging youth to bicycle and walk to school. Recently, Red Wing applied and received funding from this program. The City

should continue in the future to pursue more funds. In the environmental stewardship section, there are funds through 2009 totaling \$370 million to develop and maintain recreational trails and \$175 million for scenic byways such as State Highway 61.

The USF& WS provides a number of funding options available for communities. Some of these programs are administered through the State of Minnesota. Further information for these and other grants are found at <http://www.fws.gov/grants/>.

- Sports Fish Restoration Act uses funds acquired from taxes on fishing related equipment. The Act supplies funds for activities enhancing sport fish populations, providing boating access to public waters, acquisition, education, and other fishing related benefits.
- Wildlife Restoration Act is similar to the Sports Fish Restoration Act except it uses funds from hunting related equipment. The Act supplies funds for enhancing wildlife habitat, acquisition, providing food for animals, conducting resource inventories, and other wildlife improvement benefits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides many options for funding. Further information is available at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is a program for private landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on their land. Agreements are made usually lasting 5-10 years between the landowner and the USDA for assistance and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. The program is a great opportunity for landowners in Red Wing voluntarily to help in open space preservation.
- Farmland Protection Policy Act intends to protect farmlands from the unnecessary and permanent conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. The act does not regulate the use of property owners, but it is intended to acquire and manage land, and protect land from projects such as highway building and utility construction. The term farmland is not limited to agricultural land, but also includes forestland, pastureland and other non-related water or urban developed land.

The United States Department of Interior provides many options for funding. Further information is available at <http://www.doi.gov/>.

- North American Wetlands Conservation Act created a fund with goals to preserve wetland ecosystems where North American waterfowl, other migratory birds, wildlife and fish locate their habitats. The fund disperses grants to public-private partnership who seeks to achieve the above goals. Red Wing should consider using this fund in maintaining and restoring Bald Eagle habitat.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) program is administered through the National Park Service. The LCWF program provides matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. In the past, the City of Red Wing has been a beneficiary of the funds. Six projects in the City have received funds totaling \$185,101, but none since 1982. In 1985, Goodhue County received \$310,000 for the Cannon Valley Trail Project. The City should consider applying for this grant when constructing new trails and parks.

An emphasis addressed during the Open House was establishing an environmental education aspect for this plan. Numerous national sources can help fund education programs about the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several programs offering help in education and other environmental areas. Environmental Education Grants Program supports environmental education that enhances the public's knowledge to make informed decisions on the environment. Congress appropriates annual funding and 75% of grant recipients receive less than \$15,000. More information about this and other programs are available at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/information.htm>.

Non-Governmental Sources

Citizens can do many things to raise money for open space. Private funding is one example as evident in the Billings-Tomfohr Conservation Area project. Citizens demonstrated interest in open space placing an emphasis on green infrastructure in their Comprehensive Plan. Citizens can also demonstrate their support through land donations, fundraising, or organizing a private organization that is established for environmental purposes. Currently, there are groups in town who have shown interest in open space including the Anderson Environmental Learning Center, Friends of the Cannon Valley Trail, Red Wing Wildlife League, Red Wing

Conservation Club, Cooperative Action for Responsible Environment Solutions (CARES), and others. Moreover, pressure from local citizens to policy makers cannot be understated in the role it plays on policy for open space preservation.

Community Initiative 12 in the Comprehensive Plan seeks to pursue public/private partnerships. One of the sub-areas is an environmental stewardship program. Many non-profit and private organizations can help in the management, education, design, and acquisition of open space. Example organizations are listed below. More information on other possible partners is found at <http://www.mnenvirofund.org/>.

The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) is the main land trust operating in the state. The MLT seeks to protect Minnesota's most valuable pieces of land through conservation easements. As of 2007, the MLT has protected more than 46 square miles and 107 miles of shoreline in 333 projects around Minnesota. MLT has worked extensively in Red Wing in the past and hopes to in the future. Currently, MLT holds eight separate easement documents in the City, including the Red Wing Wildlife League lands. More information about the Trust is found at <http://www.mnland.org/>.

Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota is a non-profit organization seeking to improve Minnesota trails. The Council has been instrumental in adding more than 8,700 acres in trail projects across the State, with the majority of them in State Parks. An acquisition program exists for purchasing parcels where key trail and park properties will eventually be in public ownership. Red Wing should consider collaborating with the Council on a trail connection between the City and Frontenac State Park. More information about the Council is available at <http://www.parksandtrails.org/>.

The Conservation Fund is one of the nation's most respected environmental non-profit organizations. Since 1986, the Fund has helped to preserve nearly 6 million acres in open space, including 10,000 acres of forestland and open space across Minnesota. A significant portion of the 10,000 acres is along the Mississippi River, and Red Wing should consider working with the Fund to preserve more of our country's most valuable waterway. The Fund works with partners through land acquisitions, sustainable programs, and leadership training to achieve communities' environmental and economic goals. More information about the Fund is available at <http://www.conservationfund.org/>.

Rails to Trails Conservancy is a non-profit organization with a mission of reclaiming abandoned railroad tracks into walking and/or biking trails. The Conservancy provides information and technical assistance through the conversion process with the help of trained professionals. Red Wing should consider seeking help from this organization with the possible trail link along the abandoned railroad right-of-way to Prairie Island. More information about the Conservancy is available at <http://www.railtrails.org/>.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has helped communities around the country pass local and state ballots measures since 1996, totaling \$19 billion for land acquisition and restoration. TPL has a Conservation Finance Program in Minnesota that helps local communities identify financing options for conservation. TPL helps with the entire process from designing to implementing legislative measures for conservation funds. TPL helped lead to the successes of two county ballot measures, together raising \$40 million for land conservation: Dakota County in 2002 and Washington County in November 2006.⁷

⁷ "TPL-Minnesota's Conservation Finance Program", The Trust for Public Land, July 5, 2007
http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21319&folder_id=482.

The Nature Conservancy uses various methods for conservation around the world. One of their more influential programs in the United States is working with local governments and states to create public funding for conservation. The campaigns have raised over \$24 billion in public financing for conservation across the country. Red Wing has a history in working with The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy has transferred land twice to the City, including a 337-acre piece of land to the Red Wing School District in 1987. The Anderson Center is currently located here. Moreover, the Nature Conservancy has shown an interest in protecting bluffs. Further information about the Conservancy is found at <http://www.nature.org/>.

In Minnesota and throughout the country, a number of foundations exist to contribute money to non-profits groups, organizations, and public entities. This list summarizes some of those foundations, but there are hundreds of foundations donating money for conservation and the City should be constantly seeking those sources.

- The McKnight Foundation was established in 1953, with an organizational goal was to improve the quality of life for current and future generations. Grants include support for the environment and regions and communities. The focus of the grants is in the

State of Minnesota. For the year 2006, Minnesota grants totaled about \$93 million. One focus for the Foundation is cleaning the Mississippi River Basin. Past and current grants to accomplish this task take place in Montevideo and St. Paul, MN. More information about the Foundation is available at <http://www.mcknight.org/>.

- The Laura Jane Musser Fund provides grants for up to \$35,000 to programs focusing on the environment in rural areas related to stewardship or conflict resolution. Red Wing should consider this fund in the management of farm lands around the City. More information about the Fund is available at <http://www.musserfund.org/>.
- The Carolyn Foundation contributes a proportion of their funding each year to projects involving the environment. Currently, the Foundation's committee is interested most in projects dealing with renewable energy. However, the Foundation will consider other progressive projects that address a global need locally. In 2006, the Foundation donated over \$580,000 to programs dealing with the environment and only to tax exempt organizations. More

information about the Foundation is available at

<http://www.carolynfoundation.org/>.

- The Marbrook Foundation is dedicated to contributing a large amount of their funds to Minnesota's environment. More specifically, the Foundation donates to tax exempt organizations dedicated to land conservation, environmental education and water quality. In 2006, the Foundation donated over \$130,000 toward the environment. More information about the Foundation is available at <http://www.marbrookfoundation.org/>.
- The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to programs that promote environmental education to youth with hands on experience. There are four grant application deadlines throughout the year. Most grants provided are under \$2,500. Red Wing should consider applying for a grant for an environmental education day in the city. More information about the Foundation is available at <http://captainplanetfdn.org/>.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. The foundation awards grants

typically ranging from 50,000 to 300,000 dollars in four priority areas: bird conservation, fish conservation, marine and coastal conservation, and wildlife and habitat conservation. More information about the Foundation is available at

<http://www.nfwf.org/>

