

WHY SELL AN EASEMENT?

Signing an easement leaves a conservation legacy for future generations:

- It helps ensure permanent protection of your land along the stream
- An easement may be the least expensive solution to correct environmental problems
- The landowner retains the rights on the majority of their property.
- The cash payment can be significant, with no spending restrictions
- Easements may qualify the seller for other financial assistance such as help with fencing costs and livestock management, erosion control and stream restoration work

MANAGING FOR THE FUTURE...

In general, DNR purchases the rights to:

- Manage vegetation along the stream bank.
- Manage instream habitat.
- Provide public access for fishing (excludes hunting and trapping).

WHAT IS A STREAM BANK PROTECTION EASEMENT?

A stream bank easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and the Department of Natural Resources that provides for public angling and other recreation while protecting fisheries, water quality and riparian areas for the future. A stream bank easement includes the right to improve stream habitat, fence livestock out of the stream corridor, manage streamside vegetation, prohibit streamside development and provide public access for angling, wildlife observation and hiking. The department retains easement rights if the landowner sells the land.

WHAT LAND IS ELIGIBLE?

The department maintains maps for streams and DNR properties that are eligible for stream bank protection funding. Over 3,070 miles of streams located in 44 counties are eligible.

Maps are available online - please visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "streambank."

The Stream Bank Easement Program focuses on protecting land bordering streams designated as "high quality" by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These stream corridors (a minimum of 66 feet from each stream bank) protect water quality, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.



EASING INTO THE FUTURE

Wisconsin landowners
can leave a legacy of conservation
for those who will come after.



Stream Bank
Protection Program
PUB-FH-236-14

Photo: Tim Romano

PROTECTING YOUR LEGACY...

HOW ARE EASEMENTS PURCHASED?

If you are interested in an easement, you can arrange to meet with DNR staff. They will answer any questions you may have, including the terms of a proposed easement. Terms may vary with each site, depending on the landowner's goals and conservation plans.

Once the terms of the easement are agreed upon, a professional appraiser will estimate the market value of the easement.

When the appraisal is completed and the value of the easement has been estimated, the landowner has the right to either accept or reject the offer.

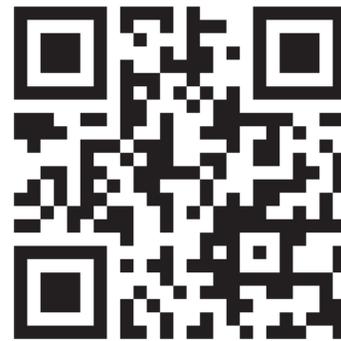
RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific rights are purchased within the easement boundary.

In general, the landowner gives up rights to:

- Plant or harvest crops
- Graze livestock (exceptions may be granted)
- Build structures
- Disturb the natural landscape
- Alter existing drainage or water levels

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT...



DNR.WI.GOV

For application materials, more information about the stream bank protection program and a list of eligible streams visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "streambank."

RIGHTS

When you sell an easement you maintain your exclusive rights to hunt and trap. You may still invite others to hunt or trap on the easement, but the general public will not have access unless you wish to enroll that land in a separate agreement to allow hunting and trapping on your land.

LIABILITY

The recreational immunity statute immunizes property owners against liability "for any injury to a person engaged in a recreational activity" on the owner's property. You will not be held liable for injuries associated with public access on your easement.



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