

Minnesota Native Prairie Tax Exemption

The Native Prairie Tax Exemption, administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Revenue, encourages landowners to preserve native Minnesota prairie. Your qualifying prairie acres are exempted from property taxes as long as this land meets the criteria below.

Native Prairie Criteria

1. Land dominated throughout by native prairie vegetation and limited to no tree cover. A local Department of Natural Resources staff will determine if land is native prairie based upon the number of native prairie plants found on the site.
2. Land is at least 5 contiguous acres. Smaller parcels may qualify if they provide important rare species habitat or contain other significant prairie features.
3. Land not used for grazing.
4. Land used for haying once a year may qualify. If hayed this year, indicate approximate date on form.
5. Land is in an eligible county (excludes Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, Carlton, and Pine Counties).

In addition, this land must not have been severely altered by:

1. Plowing, grazing, or seeding with non-native plants.
2. Spraying with herbicides. Spot spraying once a year may still qualify.

How to Apply for Native Prairie Tax Exemption

1. Fill out the application below.
2. Obtain 2 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) or similar aerial photos of this land. Outline prairie in red.
3. Email the completed application and 2 aerial photos to prairie.protection@state.mn.us or mail to MN DNR, Attn: Prairie Biologist, 246 125th Ave NE, Thief River Falls MN 56537

What Happens Next?

Local DNR staff will contact you to field check the prairie and determine whether it qualifies. Once enrolled, your Native Prairie Tax Exemption will automatically be renewed each year. Enrolled tracts are subject to periodic review to ensure the property still meets eligibility criteria. You are responsible for notifying the County Assessor in writing if you change condition of the property such that it no longer meets the criteria listed above – for example, if you plow, plant trees, or begin grazing the prairie.

If you sell the property, the exemption carries over to the new owner. Please remember to tell them about it.

Thank you for helping to preserve Minnesota's prairie heritage. Contact the DNR Prairie Biologist prairie.protection@state.mn.us or 507-637-6016 if you have further questions.

Minnesota Native Prairie Tax Exemption Application

County _____ Township Name _____

Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ Quarter Section _____ *Prairie Exemption Acres Proposed* _____

Landowner Name:	Address:
Phone and Email:	

The following questions will be used in assessing the quality of your prairie. Field checks to certify the information you provide will be conducted by local DNR staff.

Has this land ever been plowed or broken for cultivation?	Yes No Don't Know
<i>If yes, explain:</i>	
Has this land been modified by seeding reed canary grass, timothy, alfalfa, clover, sweetclover, brome grass, or tree planting?	Yes No Don't Know
<i>If yes, explain:</i>	
Are you currently grazing this land?	Yes No
Has this land been grazed in the past?	Yes No Don't Know
<i>If yes, explain:</i>	
Are you currently haying this land?	Yes No
<i>If yes, date last hayed:</i>	
Has this land been hayed in the past?	Yes No Don't Know
<i>If yes, explain:</i>	
Are you using herbicide on this land for weed control?	Yes No
<i>If yes, explain products and methods:</i>	

Landowner Signature _____ **Date** _____

Landowner Signature _____ **Date** _____

By signing, you the landowner agree to grant the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources a visit to field check the land described above for the purpose of assessing eligibility for Minnesota Prairie Tax Exemption.

For DNR Staff Use Only

_____ Acres certified _____ Acres NOT certified Explanation _____

DNR Evaluator Signature _____ **Date** _____

Evaluator: After evaluation submit 1) Original application, map, and shapefile of acres you've certified to county assessor. 2) Copy of application, map, and shapefile to the DNR Prairie Biologist (prairie.protection@state.mn.us).