

LAND ACQUISITION

Land Selection Criteria

Working in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Minnesota Valley Trust determines if the land in question has strong values for wildlife habitat. These values would include at least some of the following:

- Lands that are within or adjacent to the Refuge Expansion Boundaries
- Lands that are adjacent to or linking already permanently protected habitat
- Lands containing significant floodplain or upland forest
- Lands including oak savanna, native prairie or restorable prairie
- Lands that host threatened or endangered species, or rare or unique natural communities
- Lands that have significant existing or restorable wetlands

Land Acquisition Process

- The Executive Director of the Trust and the Refuge Manager meet with the landowner to discuss the long-term management of the land and acquisition process
- The purchase price is negotiated between the Trust and the landowner. An appraisal may be ordered to determine value of the land
- A purchase agreement is signed
- If the landowner wishes to make a full or partial donation of the land, legal documents are drawn up. Because the Minnesota Valley Trust is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, full or partial donations may be tax-deductible; contact your tax attorney for counsel
- An initial environmental review of the land will be conducted to determine if there are any concerns
- A title examination is completed. Once the Trust has received a satisfactory commitment to insure title the closing date is set
- At closing, the title to the acquired land is deeded to the Minnesota Valley Trust

