Conservation Easements

Jim Welsh
Executive Director



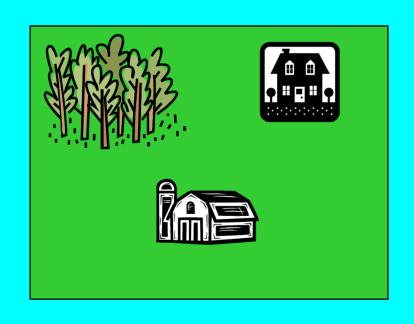
Conservation Easements

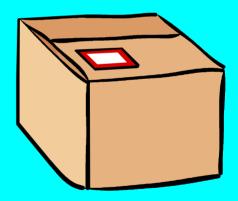
a tool to help landowners and communities meet goals

legal agreement that separates development rights from property

Development rights can be purchased and retired

PDR

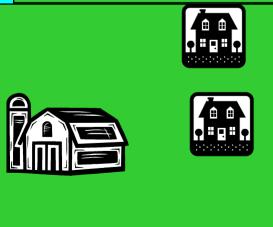




Development rights can be purchased and <u>transferred</u> to new location



TDR







In either PDR or TDR, a conservation easement is the legal mechanism that limits development on property



Town of Dunn

2,662 acres of farmland protected by PDR

Baraboo Hills Sauk County

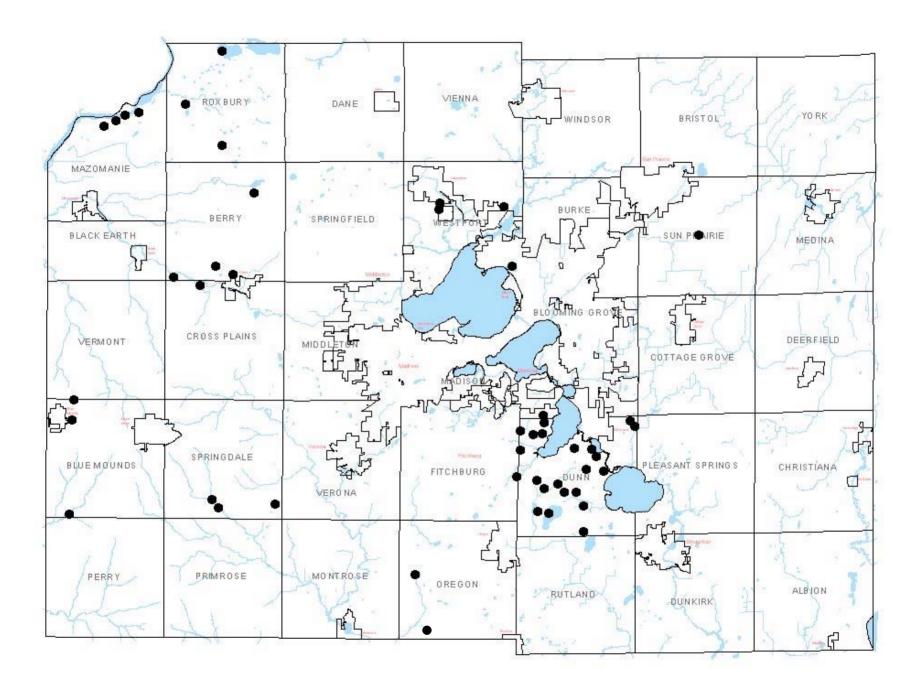


6,530 acres of forestland protected by PDR

78 conservation easements in Dane County (at least 10 acres in size)

average size: 83 acres

average cost: \$2,954/acre (2004-2006)



Conservation Easements:

- * voluntary
- * permanent
- * flexible
- * keep land in private ownership

Voluntary

willing sellers only

<u>Permanent</u>

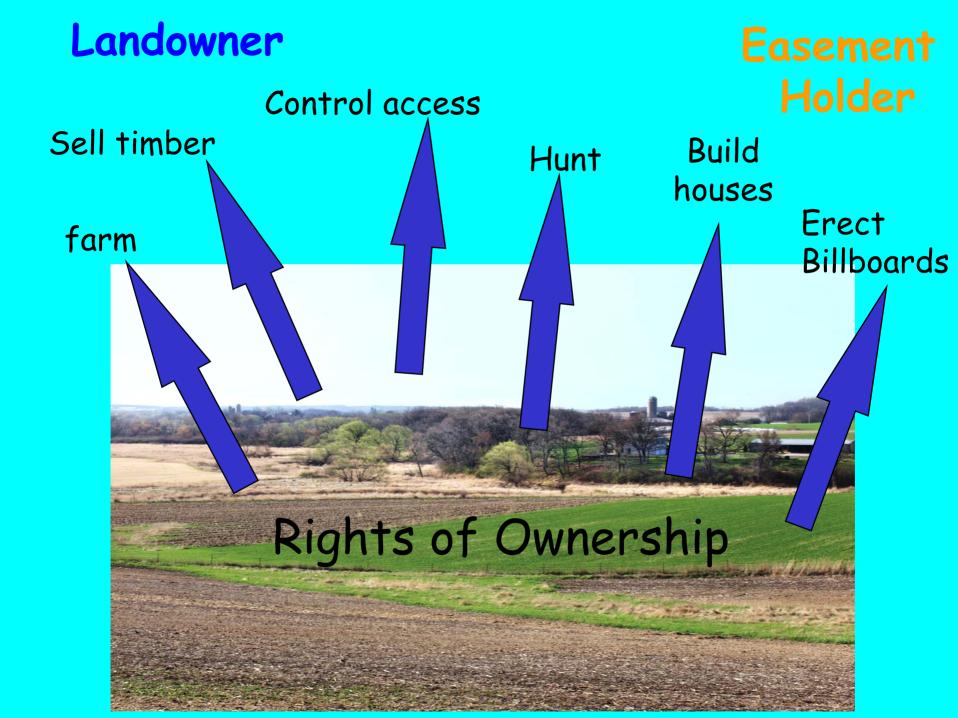
rights and restrictions are attached to the deed

future owners must abide by same terms

<u>Flexible</u>

rights and restrictions are tailored to meet various goals

- * protect farm land
- * reduce land use conflicts
- * community separation



Keeps land in private ownership

landowner continues to pay property taxes

may lower demand for some community services

Conservation Easements are not for every landowner



Conservation easement holders

 Conservation easements can be held only by government or qualified organization

 Town of Dunn asks us to back up their easements to protect investment of public dollars

PDR - public and private \$\$

TDR - market transaction

Market for TDR? Supply side

- Interest from landowners outside of PDR funding areas
- 4 of 21 landowners in Town of Dunn have voluntarily offered to reduce purchase price to get into Dunn's PDR
- Landowners in outlying areas may have fewer options

TDR or PDR is not about conservation vs. development

It is about options for landowners and communities for meeting goals