The Land Project Assessment Form is required as part of the initial screening process when MAS considers the acceptance of a land or easement donation or land purchase. Projects shall follow the process described in the Land and Easement Acquisition Policy, Section III.A. Project Approval Process.

I. PROPERTY SUMMARY

A. Project/Property name:

B. Acres:

C. County:

D. Is the property within MAS chapter boundaries? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E. Location: Township: Range: Section:

F. Tax Parcel #(s):

G. Landowner:

H. Contact Information:

I. Date of initial contact with landowner:

J. Staff member handling initial contact:

K. Details of how contact made:

L. Project acquisition type:
   a. Choose one: ☐ Easement ☐ Fee title ownership
   b. Choose one: ☐ Donation ☐ Purchase
   c. Add additional comments, if necessary:

M. Landowner’s intentions (if any), details about negotiations, restrictions, timing issues, any facts about the landowner and the land:

N. Conflict of Interest (real or perceived), if any, and plans to manage the possible conflict:

O. Project Description (discuss overall quality of parcel, conservation values in general terms):
P. Is property enrolled in a government program or any other management type programs (for example, Managed Forest Law, Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Easement program)?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

Q. Map or Photos attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No

R. Site Inspection Form Completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

II. PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. How will the project restore, protect or preserve habitat?

B. Is the property in a natural state or does it contain rare or significant natural features, wildlife habitat, or natural communities (e.g., prairie, savanna, wetlands)?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

C. Does the property contain species that are federal or state endangered or threatened, or “species of concern” as defined by Wisconsin DNR?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, list species:

D. Does the property provide a connection or land corridor that is important for movement of wildlife between habitats?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

E. Will the project restore, protect or preserve water or geological resources?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

F. Will the project benefit a larger regional conservation goal (e.g., WDNR’s Glacial Heritage Area, Important Bird Area, State Natural Area)?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

G. Is the property within an existing sanctuary boundary, or located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of lands already under protection by Madison Audubon Society, any other non-profit or land trust, or county, state, or federal agency?
   ☐ Yes       ☐ No
H. Does the project have aesthetic, archeological, cultural, or historical value?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

I. Will the property be accessible for public use?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe anticipated permitted/prohibited public uses activities:

J. Is the property adjacent to other public lands?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, list those properties and include any permitted/prohibited activities:

K. Will the project provide opportunities for research?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

L. Will the project provide opportunities for environmental education (e.g., public, interns, school groups)?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

M. Will the project provide opportunities for recreational use (e.g., bird watching, hiking, photography)?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

N. How will the project provide opportunities for public outreach/awareness, including opportunities to create a greater awareness of the benefits of habitat restoration, protection and preservation?

O. Will the project enhance local and regional eco-tourism and/or economic opportunities?
   ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, describe:

P. For transactions benefitting from tax deductions, IRS regulations require that at least one of the following must apply to the land in question. Check all that apply. If #3 only applies, MAS staff are required to review the public good benefit.
   ☐ 1. The project will provide for land areas for outdoor recreation by, or the education of, the general public;
   ☐ 2. The project will protect a relatively natural habitat of fish, wildlife, or plants, or
similar ecosystem;
☐ 3. The project will preserve of open space (including farmland and forest land) where such preservation is a) for the scenic enjoyment of the general public, or b) pursuant to a clearly delineated federal, state, or local governmental conservation policy, and will yield a significant benefit;
☐ 4. The project will preserve a historically important land area or a certified historic structure.

Q. Does the project carry undue risks or known threats?
☐ Yes    ☐ No
If yes, describe and include documentation:

III. PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

A. Does this project involve a donation or partial donation by the landowner?
☐ Yes    ☐ No

B. If this project involves a purchase:

   What is the estimated purchase price: $
   Detail of the funding status for this project:
   Check all the grand funding sources that apply:
   ☐ Stewardship Fund  ☐ NAWCA  ☐ Other:
   Other than grants, explain any potential funding or income sources and funding strategies for this project:

C. Other than purchase price, what are the estimated costs to the organization with regards to completing this project?
☐ Appraisal:     $
☐ Survey:        $
☐ Legal fees:    $
☐ Title Insurance $
☐ Transfer fee:  $
☐ Closing fee:   $
☐ Staff time:    $
☐ Baseline docs: $
☐ One-time stewardship costs: $
☐ Annual stewardship costs: $
☐ Other:         $

Total organizational costs (including estimated purchase price): $

☐ MAS Acquisition and Management Calculator worksheet attached (required)
IV. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. What is the potential impact of this acquisition on Madison Audubon Society’s public image?

B. Are there any other organizations, units of government, mechanisms or programs that may be better suited for the protection of this property?
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No
   Comments:

C. Does the landowner appear to be motivated by dubious financial benefits?
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No
   Comments:

D. Is there reason to believe that the land would be unusually difficult to manage? (i.e., incidence of destructive trespassing, prescribed burn challenges, herbicide drift)
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No
   Comments:

E. Is there a reasonable possibility that the property’s conservation or scenic integrity would be significantly eroded by future development activities on adjacent lands?
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Unknown
   Comments:

F. Describe any formal and informal agreements for use of the land by third parties such as leases, severed mineral rights, right-of-ways, easements, informal understandings etc.

V. RECOMMENDATION

☐ Sanctuaries Committee has attached a committee report with recommendations for the project and a motion for consideration by the board.

Approved by the MAS Board of Directors on April 3, 2017.