

**CITY OF LAKE ELMO
WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION 2022-068

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 38 ACRES AT
4452 LAKE ELMO AVE**

WHEREAS, the City desires to support projects in its community that protect its natural features quality of life, and

WHEREAS, protection of water is essential to our health and well being; and

WHEREAS, having adequate natural holding capacity for water is good planning that assists in flooding prevention, soil retention, improved water quality and efficient aquifer recharge; and

WHEREAS, having adequate ecological corridors to allow wildlife to move, flourish and remain in our midst is of inherent value; and

WHEREAS, this parcel is identified as part of a Minnesota Land Cover Classification System regional ecological corridor and adjacent to Regionally Significant Ecological Areas; and

WHEREAS, this parcel contains natural features including deciduous forest, vernal pools, wetlands and over 1,000 feet of shoreline on a small unnamed lake; and

WHEREAS, this property contains natural habitat, is used for tree farming and has very little impervious surface or tilled area, making it an important parcel for local water quality; and

WHEREAS, the City has been approached by private landowners who would like to protect 38 acres at 4452 Lake Elmo Avenue N., Lake Elmo, to assure it remains naturally intact for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the landowners would like to obtain the City's support in proceeding to be able to complete the project with the necessary partners; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Land Trust has reviewed the property in detail and signaled its interest in protecting the area with a permanent conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, the permanent conservation easement will allow the property owner to grant a 40 foot wide utility easement in the northwesterly portion of the property to the City of Lake Elmo. If a utility easement is pursued, its terms and conditions will begin with negotiations between the Landowners and the City and be consistent with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement; and

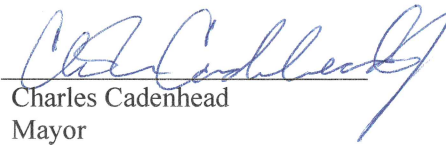
WHEREAS, the utility easement corridor was selected to be in an area without wetlands, native plant communities, or cultural sites. The area is dominated by planted conifers that are a part of the Owner's tree farm. It is also adjacent to a proposed building envelope in the northwestern

corner of the property to be protected by a Conservation Easement, consolidating the impacts of permitted development into a smaller portion of the Protected Property. The Land Trust acknowledges that said utility easement, if granted, would provide utility service to adjacent properties not protected by the Conservation Easement and would provide access rights only to the City to service any utilities that would be installed within the corridor.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council signals its support for placement of a conservation easement over the property located at 4452 Lake Elmo Avenue N., Lake Elmo, Valley Branch Watershed District (Parcel IDS: 11.029.21.41.0005) with the proposed Utility Easement Area, as described above, to be held by the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County.

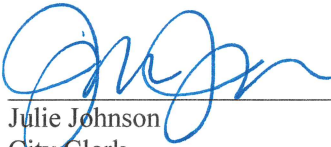
ADOPTED BY THE LAKE ELMO CITY COUNCIL ON THE 19th DAY OF JULY, 2022.

CITY OF LAKE ELMO

By: 
Charles Cadenhead
Mayor

(Seal)

ATTEST:



Julie Johnson
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A – SITE MAP

