



**DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center
4100 220th Street West, Suite 102
Farmington, MN 55024
Phone: (651) 480-7777
Fax: (651) 480-7775
www.dakotacountyswcd.org

SUPPORT FOR METRO GREENWAYS AND NATURAL HERITAGE BILL

WHEREAS, Minnesota communities are growing and need to protect natural areas for future generations;

WHEREAS, Public benefits of protecting natural areas are tremendous, including:

- Providing access to fish, wildlife and other nature-related recreation
- Providing nesting areas for waterfowl, pheasant, and other upland nesting birds
- Reducing erosion and sediment contamination of streams and lakes
- Sustaining local property tax base by helping maintain or enhance nearby private property values
- Supporting our tourism economy;

WHEREAS, 100,000 acres of regionally significant ecological areas remain unprotected in the Twin Cities region;

WHEREAS, landowners are under heavy pressure to sell for development and efforts to provide long-term protection of natural areas should not be delayed;

WHEREAS, land values are escalating and we get the best investment for long-term natural resource protection now;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District supports funding to the Department of Natural Resources from the Minnesota Legislature and Governor Pawlenty for the Natural Heritage bill for \$10.48M in bonding, including:

- \$4M for Metro Greenways
- \$2.98M for Scientific and Natural Areas
- \$3M for Native Prairie Bank
- \$500K for Stream Protection and Restoration