



City Council Memorandum

To: Mayor Fasbender & City Councilmembers
From: John Hinzman, Community Development Director
Date: August 17, 2020
Item: Resolution: Support Acquisition of the Kaehler Property for SNA Inclusion

Council Action Requested:

Adopt the attached resolution supporting the Minnesota DNR's proposed acquisition of the Kaehler Property into the Hastings Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). The 9.89 acre landlocked property is generally located north of Ravenna Trail and west of LeDuc Drive\18th Street near Bullfrog Pond.

Hastings SNA

SNA's are part of the state Outdoor Recreation System. The purpose is to protect remaining natural heritage areas. There are 168 SNA's in Minnesota, with two in Hastings (Hastings SNA and Sand Coulee). The Hastings SNA is a 65 acre natural area located along Ravenna Trail. It contains Silver Maple - (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest, Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) forest and Bulrush Marsh. Much of the site has Exceptional Natural Resource Value.

Kaehler Property

The landlocked property is entirely within the Floodway of the Mississippi River and is bounded on two sides by the Hastings SNA. The property contains forested floodplain and marsh habitat for migrating bird species along the Mississippi River flyway. Its location would expand on protecting wetland habitat within the Vermillion River watershed and facilitate future invasive species management actions.

Financial Impact:

N/A

Advisory Commission Discussion:

N/A

Council Committee Discussion:

N/A

Attachments:

- Resolution
- Location Map
- Background Information



HASTINGS CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS
SUPPORTING ACQUISITION OF THE KAEHLER PROPERTY BY THE
MINNESOTA DNR AND INCLUSION IN THE HASTINGS SNA**

Council member _____ introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Minnesota DNR) has established the Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) Program to preserve Minnesota’s natural heritage for scientific study and public understanding; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota DNR has established the Hastings SNA encompassing over 60 acres in the vicinity of Ravenna Trail to preserve the natural heritage of the area; and

WHEREAS, James A. Kaehler owns a 9.89 acre property (PIN 190410048010) adjacent to the Hastings SNA. The property is landlocked and within Floodway of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota DNR seeks to acquire the Kaehler property for inclusion in the Hastings SNA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HASTINGS AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council supports the Minnesota DNR’s acquisition of the James A. Kaehler Property for inclusion into the Hastings SNA.

Council member _____ moved a second to this resolution and upon being put to a vote it was adopted by all Council Members present.

Adopted by the Hastings City Council on August 17, 2020, by the following vote:

- Ayes:
- Nays:
- Absent:

ATTEST:

Mary Fasbender, Mayor

Julie Flaten, City Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above is a true and correct copy of resolution presented to and adopted by the City of Hastings, County of Dakota, Minnesota, on the 17th day of August, 2020, as disclosed by the records of the City of Hastings on file and of record in the office.

Julie Flaten
City Clerk

(SEAL)

This instrument drafted by:
City of Hastings (JH)
101 4th St. E.
Hastings, MN 55033

LOCATION MAP



Proposed DNR acquisition to add land to Hastings Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)

HASTINGS SNA is a 65-acre parcel located to the east of downtown Hastings and to either side of Ravenna Trail. It contains Silver Maple – (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest, Sugar Maple – Basswood – (Bitternut Hickory) forest and Bulrush Marsh. Much of this site has Exceptional Natural Resource Value.



We request the City of Hasting's support towards adding an additional parcel and designating it as part of the Hastings Scientific and Natural Area.

- Kaehler property – Directly east of the SNA, north of Ravenna Trail. This 10-acre parcel contains forested floodplain and marsh habitat for migrating bird species along the Mississippi River flyway. Its location adjacent to the Hastings SNA would expand on protecting wetland habitat within the Vermillion River watershed and facilitate future invasive species management actions.

Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) are part of the state Outdoor Recreation System created by the Minnesota Legislature. To date there are 168 SNAs statewide, including four in Dakota County:

- Chimney Rock SNA (76 Acres) in Marshan Township
- Hastings SNA (62 acres) in Hastings
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA (268 acres) in Marshan Township & Hastings
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA (315 acres) in Inver Grove Heights

The purpose of SNAs is to protect the best of Minnesota's remaining natural heritage such as rare species, native prairies, old-growth forests, and significant landforms and geologic features. The SNA Program's goal is to ensure that rare natural features persist in each region of the state. Additional information on scientific and natural areas may be found on the [SNA website](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas) at www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas.

Public uses of SNAs vary with each site. Typically, nature observation, education, scientific research, and other non-motorized recreation are allowed. Beyond our typically allowed public uses, the use of watercraft and fishing are also allowed in Hastings SNA. Visitors are welcome to hike the area or visit by other means of foot travel, such as skis and snowshoes. In order to protect the site's special features, activities not allowed on this SNA include camping, campfires, damaging vegetation, or motorized recreation.