

## Registry Mission

The Mission of North Dakota's Natural Areas Registry is to preserve and protect the ecological diversity of North Dakota's natural heritage including landforms, fossil remains, plant and animal communities, rare, threatened and endangered species, or other biotic features and geological formations.



# NORTH DAKOTA NATURAL *Areas Registry*



Chris Cromdahl

WITHOUT THE  
COMMITMENT AND CONCERN OF  
INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS,  
WE STAND TO LOSE,  
YEAR BY YEAR, PORTIONS OF OUR  
RICH NATURAL HERITAGE.

## NORTH DAKOTA NATURAL *Areas Registry*

PROTECT A PART OF OUR  
NATURAL HERITAGE.

A landowner who is interested in dedicating his/her land should contact the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.



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## A North Dakota Tradition

The North Dakota Natural Areas Registry, an integral element of the state's Nature Preserve effort, is founded upon a tradition of citizen based conservation. It is designed to honor and recognize the owners of outstanding natural areas for their commitment to the survival and protection of the state's natural heritage. Today, many of North Dakota's finest natural areas are owned and protected by individuals. The Natural Areas Registry simply encourages the preservation of important natural lands in both private and public ownership. This non-binding, non-regulatory program awards plaques to landowners who protect a part of our natural heritage, earning the appreciation of all North Dakota citizens.



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THE NORTH DAKOTA  
NATURAL AREAS REGISTRY  
IS CITIZEN-BASED  
CONSERVATION, AND  
CITIZENSHIP IS A NORTH  
DAKOTA TRADITION.



# How does the North Dakota Natural Areas Registry Work?

HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS TO SOME BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

## Who operates the Registry?

Natural Areas Registry is a conservation option available to landowners of highly significant natural areas. Dedication is the placement of natural areas, both privately and publicly owned, into North Dakota's Natural Areas Registry, administered by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The landowner retains ownership and transfer rights of the land while voluntarily protecting the land through good stewardship and conservation practices within the natural area.

## How does an area qualify for the Registry?

To be eligible, a property must include one or more of these natural values:

1. *Habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species;*
2. *rare or state significant natural communities;*
3. *significant paleontological sites;*
4. *and rare or state significant geologic sites.*

## How does inclusion on the Registry protect a natural area?

Registration effectively encourages conservation of important natural lands in private or public ownership. By informing landowners of the uniqueness of particular sites, registration reduces the chance that significant natural values may be unwittingly destroyed. The same recognition will discourage others such as governmental agencies and utilities, from disturbing the area.

## What say does the landowner have in the Registration process?

The registration of the natural area is totally up to the landowner and will not occur without his or her approval.



## How are Lands Registered?

A landowner who is interested in dedicating his/her land should contact the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

## What recognition does a property owner receive for including his or her land on the Registry?

In honor of his or her commitment to protect the land, the owner receives a plaque bearing his or her name and the name of the registered natural area. A certificate signed by the Governor of North Dakota, is mounted on the wood plaque which is in the shape of North Dakota. The owner's registration may be publicized, but only if the owner so desires. The directions to the site are not published.

## What commitment does the owner make?

Owners of North Dakota's Registered Natural Areas are committed to:

1. *Preserving and protecting the area to the best of their abilities.*
2. *Notifying the Department of any threats to the area, such as pollution, right-of-way, drainage, and so on.*
3. *Notifying the Department of any intent to sell or transfer ownerships of the property.*

## Is the commitment binding on the owner of a Registered Natural Area?

No. The commitment may be cancelled by the landowner at any time, although he or she is asked to give a 30-day notice prior to termination of the registration. Subsequent to this notification the Department will, if appropriate, remove the area from the Registry listing.



## Are there financial advantages for registering a natural area?

Registration involves no payment or receipt of funds.

## What are the Advantages of Natural Areas Dedication?

Through Natural Areas Registry, a landowner is rewarded with the pride of contributing to a statewide conservation effort. Dedication provides the landowner with the satisfaction of preserving an area of beauty for the enjoyment of future generations. The landowner may also receive management advice from Department staff. The landowner will periodically receive the Department Newsletters and the Natural Areas Registry "North Dakota Steward" Newsletters.

## Does Registration of a site permit public access?

No. Registration of natural areas proves no rights of public access to a private property.

## Is management assistance available to the owner of a Registered Area?

Yes, an owner of a registered area may request management advice from Department staff. Contact information for other scientists and experts outside the Department will be made available to the landowner.

After registration, the landowner may be asked permission for a Registry representative or agency partner to visit the natural area to monitor the status of the habitats, species of concern or paleontological resources.