



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

LAND AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT

320 West 2nd Street, Suite 302, Duluth, MN 55802

Tax Forfeited Available List

Spring 2016

Thank You for your inquiry on the purchase of tax forfeited properties. The enclosed list of available parcels includes tax forfeited property within the boundaries of cities (urban land) and outside city boundaries (rural land).

Urban Land:

Information on parcels identified as city property (i.e. City of Duluth), can be obtained by contacting our main office at (218)726-2606.

Rural Land:

Information on parcels not identified as city property can be obtained by contacting one of our field offices.

For parcel LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS of Township 56 and higher, contact our Virginia office at (218)742-9898.

For parcel LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS of Township 55 and lower, contact our Duluth office at (218)726-2606.

All listings found advertised within this booklet are subject to change. The Land and Minerals Department encourages all prospective buyers to conduct their own research prior to purchasing tax forfeited property. Please call us, and we will be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit our website:
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

And click on the Tax Forfeit Land Sales Tab
OR



Scan this QR code with your smartphone.

FREE



Saint Louis County, Minnesota
Land and Minerals Department
State Tax Forfeited Land Sale Information

Available Properties List

Thank you for your inquiry on the purchase of tax forfeited properties. The enclosed list contains many parcels of tax forfeited property within the boundaries of cities (urban) and outside of cities (rural). These properties have previously been offered for purchase to the highest bidder at a Land and Minerals Department auction, but were not acquired. All of the parcels listed in this booklet are now available for immediate purchase over-the-counter for the total price listed on each tract. Offers to purchase for less than what is listed will not be accepted.

For copies of tract information sheets, general land sale questions, location of sale or other inquiries, call **218-726-2606**.

Tract Information Sheets can be obtained at our website, www.stlouiscountymn.gov (click on the "Tax Forfeit Land Sales" button) or you may contact us at the following Land and Minerals Department Offices:

Duluth Office	Pike Lake Office	Virginia Office
Government Services Center 320 West 2 nd Street, Suite 302 Duluth, MN 55802 • 218-726-2606 landdept@stlouiscountymn.gov	5713 Old Miller Trunk Highway Duluth, MN 55811 218-625-3700 landdept@stlouiscountymn.gov	7820 Highway 135 Virginia, MN 55792 218-742-9898 landdept@stlouiscountymn.gov

Email Notification System

Receive notification via email any time the Land Sale List or Available Land List is altered (if a parcel is withdrawn from sale). You can conveniently sign up to receive this free service on our website.

For specific questions regarding a tract, please contact:

Countywide

Karen Zeisler, Tax Forfeited Land Coordinator.....218-726-2606

Urban Properties

Christopher (Cricker) Johnson, Land Staff Appraiser.....218-726-2606

Southern St. Louis County Rural Properties

Jeri Georges, Land Staff Appraiser.....218-726-2606

Northern St. Louis County Rural Properties

Ruth Harristhal, Land Staff Appraiser.....218-742-9898

Countywide

Stacy Melcher, Planner I.....218-726-2606

**This sale is governed by Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 282
and by resolutions of the County Board.**

Disclaimer Page

1. The right to withdraw or add any parcels to this list is hereby reserved by the County Auditor and all sales will be considered **FINAL**.
2. Properties will be sold at public auction. All property will be sold to the highest responsible bidder. Bidding will begin at the minimum bid specified on the list. If parcel is not sold at auction, it will be for sale, over-the-counter, on a first come, first served basis. The County reserves the right to reject any bidder who has defaulted on a land sale contract. Payment must be made by personal check, cashier's check, certified check or money order made payable to "St. Louis County Auditor".
3. Properties sold through this auction are subject to local zoning ordinances. Please contact your local zoning administrator to obtain copies of these ordinances. No structure or part thereof shall be erected, constructed, moved or structurally altered, and no land shall change in use until the local zoning authority has approved and issued a land use permit.
4. All sales are subject to existing liens, leases, easements, and rights-of-way.
5. Any lands offered for sale may be subject to unpaid assessments against the property. Before purchasing, any prospective buyer should consult the City Treasurer's Office for properties in the City of Duluth, or the City/Town Clerk for all other locations, in respect to any unpaid assessments that may exist. Any assessments against the property for public improvements after the property forfeited to the State shall be assessed against the property and paid for at the time of purchase, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 282.01, Subd. 3. Any municipality or other public authority is authorized to make a reassessment or a new assessment to a parcel in an amount equal to the remaining unpaid original assessment at the time of forfeiture. (Minnesota Stat. 429.071, Subd. 4 and 435.23)
6. Some non-platted lands listed for sale may contain non-forested marginal land or wetland as defined in Minnesota Statutes. The deed for these parcels will contain a restrictive covenant, which will prohibit enrollment of the lands in a State funded program providing compensation for conservation of marginal land or wetlands. Notice of the existence of non-forested marginal land or wetlands will be available to prospective bidders at the auction.
7. St. Louis County has not performed any wetland delineation on parcels offered for sale, unless otherwise noted. No refunds will be made due to presence of wetlands.
8. Some properties may present exposure to lead from lead-based paint that may place young children at risk of developing lead-based poisoning. If you are interested in purchasing a single-family dwelling built prior to 1978, you have the right to conduct a risk assessment or inspection for lead-based paint hazards at your expense at least ten (10) days before the sale date. Please contact the Land and Minerals Department, Government Services Center, 320 West 2nd Street, Suite 302, Duluth, MN 55802, Phone No. 218-726-2606, to arrange to see the property for such an inspection or assessment.
9. The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL homebuyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated concentrations are found. Every buyer of an interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer. Radon, a Class A human carcinogen, is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on radon test results of the dwelling. St. Louis County has not performed nor is aware of any radon testing on parcels offered for sale, unless otherwise noted. The County will provide a copy of the Minnesota Department of Health's Radon in Real Estate Transactions publication to any purchaser of residential tax forfeited property.
10. The County Auditor shall charge and collect in full at the time of sale for the State of Minnesota, an assurance fee of 3% of the total sale price of the land, timber, and structures. Additional fees such as recording fees, deed fees, and deed taxes will be explained at the time of payment.
11. For each parcel of land sold, a down payment of 10% of the purchase price or \$500, whichever is greater (Board Resolution # 1988-348), must be paid at the time of the sale, or the parcel will be sold to the next highest bidder. Those parcels purchased under an installment plan will require execution of a purchase contract. The length of the contract cannot exceed ten (10) years, and the remaining principal balance will be payable in equal annual installments plus simple interest at the rate set pursuant to Minnesota Stat. 549.09. Other terms and conditions will be explained at the time of signing. The County reserves the right to require payment in full at time of sale if the bidder has previously defaulted on a land sale contract or repurchase agreement.
12. For those parcels for which there is an estimated volume of timber, the value of the timber must be paid in full at the time of purchase, in addition to the down payment stated above. If a parcel with timber sells for more than the list price, the amount bid in excess of the list price will be allocated between the land and the timber in proportion to the respective totals. The amount allocated to timber must be paid in full at the time of purchase. (Board Resolution # 1988-348)
13. **ST. LOUIS COUNTY MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, NOR GUARANTEES WITH RESPECT TO ACCESS TO STATE TAX FORFEITED LANDS SOLD. ALL LANDS ARE SOLD AS IS, WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATION OF ANY KIND.**
14. **ANNUAL PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE REQUIRED ON ALL PARCELS WITH INSURABLE STRUCTURES.** Proof must be supplied to the Land and Minerals Department within 30 days of purchase, and within ten (10) days of cancellation of insurance.
15. If a contract is canceled, and less than 50% of the principal (original sale price) has been paid, reinstatement will not be allowed. To retain the property, payment in full must be received.

Could you tell me about the St. Louis County tax forfeited land sales?

- Tax forfeited lands, classification and sale are governed by Minnesota State Statute § 282 (Tax forfeited lands; classification, sale) and resolutions of the County Board.
- Tax forfeited lands are either reserved for conservation purposes or disposed of through a classification system that is determined by the County Board and approved by the Commissioner of Natural Resources (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources).
- When a parcel forfeits, County Board resolution determines its classification, upon approval of the Commissioner of Natural Resources (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources). When a parcel is classified as non-conservation, it can be sold for private ownership via auction.
- There are three tax forfeited land sales per year (February, June and October) in the form of oral auctions.
- Parcels identified for auction (and approved as being able to sell) are sold to the highest bidder; however, not for less than the value that is set by the County Board.
- When a parcel is classified as conservation, it is set aside as primarily suitable for timber production.
- Land containing standing timber may not be sold until the timber value and the sale of the land have been approved by the Commissioner of Natural Resources (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources). Minerals in tax forfeited land and tax forfeited stockpiled metallic minerals or materials are subject to mining (mineral rights).

What happens to the money that the Land and Minerals Department brings in?

- The County Board may set aside no more than 30% for timber development (which include Memorial Forests).
- The County Board may set aside no more than 20% (by resolution) to be used for recreation.
- The Land and Minerals Department is self-supporting, with any balance remaining after operational costs as follows (this is called apportionment):
 - 40% to the County’s General Fund.
 - 40% to school districts.
 - 20% to towns or cities.

Amount Due Upon Purchase

- Down Payment.....10% of the total sale value or \$500, whichever is greater.**
- State Assurance Fee.....3% of total sale price of land, timber and structures. This percentage is state mandated and goes into the State’s General Fund to cover losses in the event that the State has to defend its right to forfeit land.**
- Assessments.....Check with city/town clerk for any additional assessments of which the Land and Minerals Department is not aware. If listed on sale listing as certified, assessments must be paid in full at the time of sale.**
- Timber Value.....Paid in full at the time of sale. **Please note:** The timber value increases the same percentage as the sale bid up.**
- Recording Fee.....\$46.00 or as set by the County Recorder. If there is a well on the property, it is an additional \$50.00 for well disclosure.**
- Deed Fee.....\$25.00**
- Deed Tax..... .0033 times the purchase price.**



St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department
 Government Services Center
 320 West 2nd Street, Suite 302, Duluth, MN 55802
 Phone 218-726-2606 • Fax 218-726-2600
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Annual Payment Schedule

<u>Parcel Value</u>	<u>Length of Contract</u>
Less than \$500.....	Must be paid in full
\$500 - \$999.....	2 years
\$1,000 - \$1,999.....	4 years
\$2,000 - \$2,999.....	6 years
\$3,000 - \$3,999.....	8 years
\$4,000 or greater.....	10 years

Are you interested in attending a Land and Minerals Department Properties Auction? Bidder registration and attendance is free. Mark your calendar now to be a part of our next sale to be held Thursday, June 9th, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. at the Depot!

1. What is the date, time and location of your tax sale?

We have three state tax forfeited land sales per year, one each in February, June and October. The dates will be posted by January each year to our website located at www.stlouiscountymn.gov. Click on the "Tax Forfeit Land Sales" button, then select the "Upcoming Land Sale" link. Listings for the next land sale will be available approximately one month before the sale date.

2. When and where are your tax sales advertised?

The land sales are advertised in the official newspaper of the County (currently the Duluth News Tribune www.duluthnews.com) and on our website at www.stlouiscountymn.gov. Free printed copies of our Land Sale booklets can be picked up at St. Louis County offices or from one of our multiple area wide distribution sites, which are listed on our website.

3. How and when do I register for your tax sales?

You can register early by completing and mailing the pre-registration form enclosed in the land sale booklet, by filling out the pre-registration online form found on our website at www.stlouiscountymn.gov, or by registering at the auction. Registration is not necessary to attend the auction, but it is required if you choose to bid on a parcel.

4. What are the payment requirements at the sale?

We require payment by check or money order.

5. Is payment in full required on the day of the sale?

Payment in full may not be required (if \$500 or more) at the time of sale, depending upon the advertised total value listed for each parcel.

6. Does your county offer a financing program?

We take some sales under a contract for deed basis. Our contracts cannot exceed ten (10) years. Present interest rate is 10%.

7. What type of document is issued at the sale (treasurer's deed, tax deed, sheriff's deed, etc.)?

At the time of payment in full, a state deed is issued by the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

8. Once a property is acquired through your tax sale, is there a redemption period before you can take possession?

There is no redemption period once a property is acquired.

9. Do you allow investors to invest at your tax sales without attending the tax sale (i.e. absentee bidding)?

Bidders or their representatives must be present at our sales.

10. What happens to a tax sale property that has an unsatisfied mortgage held against it?

The law is unclear whether a tax forfeited property is subject to an unsatisfied mortgage against it. The Land and Minerals Department advises all buyers to consult a real estate attorney prior to purchasing tax forfeited lands with unsatisfied mortgages held against them.

11. What happens to the properties that do not sell at the auction? Are they still available for purchase?

Properties that do not sell at auction can be purchased over-the-counter from the Land and Minerals Department, and can even be purchased or financed through the mail. Properties on our Available Lands List are offered on a first come, first served basis and can be viewed on our website www.stlouiscountymn.gov. Click on the "Tax Forfeit Land Sales" button, then select the "Available Land Sale" link.

12. Would you please send me a current list of properties available for purchase?

If you wish to join our mailing list for one year to receive printed copies of our Available Lands and Land Sale Auction booklets in the mail, please send a check or money order for \$25 made out to "St. Louis County Auditor" to this office with your current return address. There is no charge for viewing the lands list on our website at www.stlouiscountymn.gov. Both the upcoming auction properties and the current available properties can be viewed from this website.

13. Are you seeking access across state tax forfeited lands?

There are three ways the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department grants access across state tax forfeited lands:

1. An authorization, allows access for short term needs.
2. A temporary, renewable lease to access private land.
3. An easement for roadways, utilities, or other access to private lands.

To request access across St. Louis County State Tax Forfeited land, please fill out the "Application for Access Across Tax Forfeited Lands" and return it to a St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department office nearest you. Filling out the application does not guarantee that access will be granted. All requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. To download the form from our website, click on the "Tax Forfeit Land Sales" button at www.stlouiscountymn.gov, then click on the "Access" link. Print the Application form (Adobe PDF format), or pick one up at any Land and Minerals Department office. Please read the "Instructions for Applying for Access Across Tax Forfeited Lands" for detailed information on requirements within the application.

We hope this information is of use to you, and thank you for your interest in state tax forfeited lands. Please use one of the following to contact the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department:

Phone.....218-726-2606

Email.....landdept@stlouiscountymn.gov

Write.....St. Louis County Land and Minerals Dept.
GSC - 320 West 2nd Street, Suite 302
Duluth, MN 55802

Important Phone Numbers

Entity	Phone #	Tract(s)
City of Babbitt	218-827-3464	5
City of Biwabik	218-865-4183	3
City of Chisholm	218-254-7900	72
City of Duluth Building Safety	218-730-5300	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 70, 71
City of Duluth Treasurer	218-730-5350	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 70, 71
City of Ely	218-365-3224	21, 22, 23
City of Hermantown	218-729-3600	45, 46
City of Hibbing	218-262-3486	6, 7, 24, 73
City of Hoyt Lakes	218-225-2344	8
City of Iron Junction	218-744-1412	74
City of Rice Lake	218-721-3778	51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 97
City of Virginia	218-748-7500	4
County Assessor Duluth	218-726-2304	1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 70, 71, 97
County Assessor Virginia	218-749-7147	26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 47, 48, 49, 50, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 75, 76, 93, 96, 98, 99, 100
County Auditor Virginia	218-749-7104	65, 66, 67, 68, 69
County Planning & Development (North)	218-749-7103	26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 47, 48, 49, 50, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 75, 76, 93, 96, 98, 99, 100
County Planning & Development (South)	218-725-5000	25, 59
PLAWCS	218-729-9007	35
Town of Alborn	218-345-6704	25
Town of Balkan	218-254-5283	26
Town of Biwabik	218-865-4238	27, 28
Town of Clinton	218-780-3678	29, 75
Town of Duluth	218-525-5705	30
Town of Eagles Nest	218-365-4573	31, 76
Town of Embarrass	218-984-2084	32
Town of Field	218-666-2487	33, 34
Town of Grand Lake	218-729-8978	35
Town of Greenwood	218-753-2231	36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92
Town of Lavell	218-263-9787	47
Town of McDavitt	218-744-4213	48, 93
Town of Midway	218-624-7985	94, 95
Town of Morse	218-365-2613	49
Town of Pike	218-749-3613	50, 96
Town of Sandy	218-749-3374	58
Town of Solway	218-729-5134	59
Town of Sturgeon	218-969-6381	98
Town of White	218-229-2813	60, 61, 62, 63, 99
Town of Willow Valley	218-787-2123	100
Town of Wuori	218-741-0997	64
Villas at Giants Ridge	218-865-4155	3

Frequently Asked Questions

How large is St. Louis County?

- Total square miles is 6,741 (4,314,298 acres, calculated from official original survey plats). It is the largest county east of the Mississippi River.
- Approximately 583 square miles of water surface area (373,516 acres).
- There are 1,040 lakes.
- Population is 200,319 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012).
- Public, tribal and mining lands make up 63%.
- County tax forfeited lands consist of 893,040 acres.
- Federal acres are approximately 831,000 acres.
- State lands consist of 541,000 acres.
- State Parks make up 8,800 acres.
- There are 245,300 permit to mine acres.
- There are 23,243 acres of tribal lands (including Nett Lake and Fond du Lac tribal lands).
- Private lands total 1,486,300 acres.
- There are 32 persons per square mile.
- There are over 2.2 million acres of forested areas.
- Bog/Marsh/Fen areas make up 972,431 acres.
- Brushland comprises about 387,000 acres.

When are Land and Minerals Department auctions held, and what do I need in order to participate?

- There are three (3) tax-forfeited land auctions per year (one each in February, June and October). These land auctions are advertised in the official newspaper of the county (currently the Duluth News Tribune, www.duluthnews.com).
- Free printed booklets that list auction properties are available from our offices, various locations around the county, or may be viewed on our website, www.stlouiscountymn.gov.
- Pre-Registration is not necessary, just show up at one of our sales.
- Payment is required through check or money order.

What happens to Land and Minerals Department properties that do not sell at auction?

- Properties that do not sell at auction are placed on our Available Lands List. These may be immediately purchased from us after each auction for the listed price. Properties can remain on the available list for up to two (2) years.
- If you wish to receive three (3) Available Lands as well as three (3) Auction booklets, please send a check or money order for \$25 made out to "St. Louis County Auditor" and mail it to our office with your current address. The subscription will be good for one (1) year.

What are some examples of other Land and Minerals Department activities and programs?

- Timber Sales
- Tax Forfeited Land Sales
- County Fee Lands
- Easements
- Recreational Cabin Leases
- Lakeshore Leases
- Commercial Leases (cell towers, etc.)
- Urban Leases (parking, garden, yard, dock, etc.)
- Maintains approximately 145 miles of permanent management roads. Other permanent roads are part of the city, county, state or federal transportation system.
- Manages a seed orchard.
- Administers commercial gravel permits.
- Allocates commercial peat leases.
- Sells permits for the harvest of Black Spruce Christmas trees.
- The Land and Minerals Department does not establish or maintain recreational trails or facilities; however, it cooperates with other entities on trail issues.

Who can buy timber from the Land and Minerals Department, and when are timber sales?

- There are four timber auctions held per year.
- Because St. Louis County is a public body, it is restricted in rejecting bids and putting restriction on the potential purchasers of timber sales.
- Timber sale contracts stipulate the season in which timber may be harvested, and is dependant on soil conditions.
- Timber auctions may actually be harvested 3-5 years after the purchase.
- Timber auctions are open to any "Responsible Operator" (application form on website).
- The purchaser of the timber may or often uses contractors to harvest the timber on their behalf. This means that often the operators are not directly bound by contracts to St. Louis County.



The **Dos** and **Don'ts** of MN State Tax Forfeited lands use:

An overview of activities you **CAN** and **CANNOT** partake in on MN State Tax Forfeited lands managed by the St Louis County Land and Minerals Department

Dos: Things you **CAN** do...

- You **can** hunt on MN State Tax Forfeited land. (All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply.)
- You **can** gather on MN State Tax Forfeited land. (All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply.)
- You **can** enjoy authorized trails and recreate on MN State Tax Forfeited land. (All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply.)

Don'ts: Things you **CANNOT** do...

- You **cannot** dispose of garbage, refuse or electronics on MN State Tax Forfeited land.
- You **cannot** build a structure or fixture (this includes sheds, lean to, garage, fencing, barricades, gates, etc.) on MN State Tax Forfeited land.
- You **cannot** park your vehicle frequently on MN State Tax Forfeited land (for example, you have a tax forfeited lot near your house or work, you are not allowed to park without a permit or lease).
- You **cannot** construct permanent deer stands on MN State Tax Forfeited land.
- You **cannot** cut trees or any other vegetation without a permit or lease on MN State Tax Forfeited land. This includes harvesting of dead and down trees.
- You **cannot** access MN State Tax Forfeited land through private property without permission.
- You **cannot** place fill on MN State Tax Forfeited land without a permit.
- You **cannot** place a Posting of No Trespassing or Private Property signs (or any other type of sign) on MN State Tax Forfeited land.
- You **cannot** construct or create parking areas or access routes of any material including sand, gravel, asphalt or concrete on MN State Tax Forfeited land.
- You **cannot** construct or create garden areas, including raised beds and fences, on MN State Tax Forfeited land without the proper lease issued by the Land and Minerals Department.





SAINT LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

LAND AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT



320 West 2nd Street, Suite 302, Duluth, MN 55802

Tax Forfeited Available List Spring 2016 stlouiscountymn.gov

**Our next Land Sale will be
held on
Thursday, June 9, 2016
at 10:00 A.M.
at
The Depot
506 West Michigan St.
Duluth, MN 55802**



Photo Provided By:
Kim Seguin



Barrier Free: All St. Louis County auctions are accessible to the handicapped. Attempts will be made to accommodate any other individual needs for special services. Please contact the St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department at 218-726-2606 prior to the auction, so necessary arrangements can be made. Notice: Tracts shown in this booklet can be purchased over-the-counter for the full total price that is listed on each tract. Purchase offers for less than the total price will not be accepted. Please contact any of our Land and Minerals Department offices and we would be happy to answer your questions.