

EDEN PRAIRIE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT



*Image Description: Fancy Dance by Native Pride Dancer
Lary Yazzie of the Meskwaki Nation of Iowa*

A guide for use by Eden Prairie residents,
community groups, businesses and beyond.

What is a Land Acknowledgment Statement?

A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

From Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group, Ontario, Canada

lspirg.org/KnowTheLand

Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture. It becomes meaningful when coupled with authentic relationships and informed action. But this beginning can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation. Join us in adopting, calling for, and spreading this practice. Naming is an exercise in power. Who gets the right to name or be named? Whose stories are honored in a name? Whose are erased? Acknowledgment of traditional land is a public statement of the name of the traditional Native inhabitants of a place. It honors their historic relationship with the land.

From the Honor Native Land Guide, U.S. Department of Arts and Culture

usdac.us/NativeLand

A Land Acknowledgment is typically given as an introduction to a meeting or event as a way to welcome attendees and recognize the history of the land where the event is occurring. It can also be shared virtually or in print materials. This document includes three examples of Land Acknowledgment Statements that are specific to Eden Prairie. They can be used as a final product or starting point to creating your own.

Option 1

Before we start this meeting/event, it is important to acknowledge that we are on ancestral, traditional and contemporary Dakóta homelands. Through treaties, the U.S. government seized Ojibwe and Dakóta land across Minnesota. Specifically, the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851 opened land west of Ĥaĥáwakpa (in Dakóta means River of the Falls), commonly known as the Mississippi River, allowing pioneers to settle in what is now Eden Prairie.

We acknowledge the painful history of unfair treaties, genocidal policies and forced removal of Indigenous people from their homeland. Through this land acknowledgment, let us begin the healing process by honoring and respecting Dakóta people still connected to the land on which we gather, and commit to learn more about the land we are settled on, to support, work with and advocate for Indigenous people.

Option 2

Before we start this meeting/event, it is important to acknowledge that we are on ancestral, traditional and contemporary homelands of the Dakóta.

In fact, Minnesota is derived from the Dakóta phrase Mní Sota Makoce, which in Dakóta means Land of the Sky-Tinted Waters. Through the treaties of 1837 and 1851, the U.S. government seized Ojibwe and Dakóta land across Minnesota. Specifically, the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851 opened land west of Ĥaĥáwakpa/Wakpá Thánka (in Dakóta means a Large or Great River), commonly known as the Mississippi River, allowing pioneers to settle in what is now Eden Prairie.

We acknowledge Eden Prairie is located on traditional, ancestral and contemporary Dakóta homelands. By offering this statement, we begin the healing process and commit to educating ourselves about the land we are on, recognizing, supporting, collaborating with and advocating for Indigenous People.

Option 3

Before we start this meeting/event, it is important to acknowledge that we are gathered upon the ancestral, traditional and contemporary homelands of the Dakóta. Through treaties the U.S. government seized Ojibwe and Dakóta land in Minnesota. Specifically, signing of the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851 opened land located to the west of Ĥaĥáwakpa/Wakpá Thánka (Mississippi River) allowing pioneers to settle in what is now Eden Prairie.

We acknowledge this land has a complex and layered history, and pay respect to the elders who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and continue to do so. We offer this statement as a step toward healing and make a commitment to learn the history of the land Eden Prairie is built on, to recognize, support, collaborate with and advocate for Indigenous People, and to consider the convergence of legacies that bring us to where we are today.



Image Description: Welcome Song performed by Native Pride Dancer Sean Sakula of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Pronunciation Guide

The Dakóta language is very descriptive when describing landscapes, bodies of water and places of significance. By using Dakóta language we honor the place, preserve the history and acknowledge the connection of the Dakóta people to the land. If your chosen Land Acknowledgment Statement uses Dakóta language, we encourage you to make a sincere effort to use the correct pronunciation. Pronunciation resources are listed for your consideration.

Please note: Use of Dakóta words in the statement may be distracting to an audience unfamiliar with the language. If you choose to use Dakóta language in your reading, it is recommended you let the audience know what the word(s) mean. We leave the use to your discretion.

Dakóta (Dah cotah)

Meaning: Ally or friend

Hear it spoken: usdakotawar.org

Mní Sota Makoce (Mee knee Sota Mah koh che)

Meaning: Lands where the waters reflect the clouds; the land of the sky-tinted waters

Hear it spoken: bdotememorymap.org/glossary

Haǎ́wakpa/Wakpá Thán̄ka (Ha HÁ Wahk paH/Wahk paH Than Ka)

Commonly known as the Mississippi River

Haǎ́wakpa Meaning: River of the falls

Wakpá Thán̄ka Meaning: Great river or large river

Hear it spoken: marlenamyl.es/project/dakota-land-map
(item 6 under Bodies of Water)



Image Description: Jingle Dance performed by Native Pride Dancer Trina Fasthorse (Lakota, Ojibwe & Mexican)

Created by:

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CEO/Owner of Native Arts Collaborative Agency

facebook.com/NativeArtsCollab

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Images:

2020 PeopleFest! Kickoff Event Featuring Native Pride Dancers
at Staring Lake Amphitheatre

edenprairie.org/LAS

