

A bill for an act
relating to real property; providing for plats of land; amending Minnesota
Statutes 2006, sections 505.01; 505.03, subdivision 1; 505.04; 505.08,
subdivision 2; 505.1792, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in
Minnesota Statutes, chapter 505; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections
505.02; 505.08, subdivisions 1, 2a, 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 505.01, is amended to read:

505.01 PLATS, DONATIONS, PURPOSE, DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Donations. Plats of land may be made in accordance with the
provisions of this chapter, and, when so made and recorded, every donation of a park to
~~the public or any person or corporation noted thereon~~ shall operate to convey the fee of
all land so donated, for the uses and purposes named or intended, with the same effect,
upon the donor and the donor's heirs, and in favor of the donee, as though such land were
conveyed by warranty deed. Land donated for any public use in any municipality shall be
held in the corporate name in trust for the purposes set forth or intended. A street, road,
alley, trail, and other public way dedicated or donated on a plat shall convey an easement
only. Easements dedicated or donated on a plat shall convey an easement only.

Subd. 2. Purpose. A plat prepared and recorded in accordance with this chapter is
for the purpose of subdividing land where the dedication of land for public ways, utility
easements, and drainage easements is necessary for orderly development. Plats may
also be used to:

(1) depict existing parcels for the purpose of simplifying legal descriptions and to
provide a permanent record of a boundary survey;

(2) supplement minor subdivision procedures used by local units of government.

Plats used to subdivide land are subject to the approval of the elected body of local governmental units. Plats used to delineate existing parcels or supplement minor subdivision procedures may be approved by a local government official designated by the local elected governmental unit.

Subd. 3. **Definitions.** (a) "Block" means a tract of land consisting of one or more adjoining lots, as identified on a recorded plat by a number, and bounded by plat boundaries, public ways, outlots, parks, or bodies of water.

(b) "Dedication" means an easement granted by the owner to the public for the purpose shown on the plat.

(c) "Drainage easement" means an easement for the purpose of controlling, preserving, and providing for the flow or storage of water.

(d) "Lot" means a tract of land which is all or part of a block and identified on the plat by a number.

(e) "Minor subdivision procedure" means an approval process that local units of government use for simple land divisions.

(f) "Outlot" means a tract of land identified by a letter, which is not part of a block.

(g) "Plat" means a delineation of a survey drawn to scale showing all data as required by this chapter, pertaining to the location and boundaries of individual parcels of land and public ways.

(h) "Plat monument" means a durable magnetic marker placed at all locations required by this chapter or other locations as shown on the plat.

(i) "Public way" means a thoroughfare or cul-de-sac which provides ingress and egress to the public.

(j) "Survey line" means a monumented reference line that is not a boundary.

(k) "Utility easement" means an easement conveyed, granted, or dedicated to the public and acquired, established, dedicated, or devoted to utility purposes.

(l) "Water boundary" means the shore or margin of lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, drainage ditches, or swamps.

(m) "Wetland" means all rivers, streams, creeks, drainage ditches, lakes, ponds, and swamps.

(n) "Witness monument" means a plat monument placed at an identified distance and direction from a corner that is inaccessible.

Sec. 2. [505.021] PLAT CONTENTS; SURVEY; COUNTY SURVEYOR APPROVAL.

3.1 Subdivision 1. **Plat format.** A plat shall be prepared on four mil transparent
3.2 reproducible film or the equivalent, and shall be prepared by a photographic process. Plat
3.3 sheet size shall be 22 inches by 34 inches. A border line shall be placed one-half inch
3.4 inside the outer edge of the plat on the top and bottom 34 inch sides; and the right 22 inch
3.5 side; and two inches inside the outer edge of the plat on the left 22 inch side. If a plat
3.6 consists of more than one sheet, the sheets shall be numbered consecutively.

3.7 Subd. 2. **Plat name; legal description; dedication statement.** The plat name shall
3.8 appear across the top portion of the plat and in the dedication paragraph of the plat and
3.9 shall not duplicate or be similar to the name of any plat that is in the office of the county
3.10 recorder or registrar of titles in the county in which the land is located. The plat name shall
3.11 be in capital letters in all locations that the name appears on the plat. The plat shall contain
3.12 a complete and accurate description of the land being platted and a dedication statement
3.13 describing what part of the land is dedicated, to whom, and for what purpose. In the event
3.14 of a discrepancy between the plat name stated in the dedication statement and the plat name
3.15 appearing in other portions of the plat, the name in the dedication statement shall control.

3.16 Subd. 3. **Ownership interest; acknowledgment.** At the time of recording, the
3.17 names and signatures of all fee owners, contract for deed vendees, and mortgage holders
3.18 of record of the land being platted shall appear on the plat, together with a statement as
3.19 to their interest. Individual owners shall indicate their marital status. Entity owner shall
3.20 identify the specific type of entity and the jurisdiction in which the entity is organized.
3.21 Agents or officers for an entity shall state their position with such entity. A mortgage
3.22 holder may consent to the plat by a written acknowledged statement in lieu of the mortgage
3.23 holder's name and signature appearing on the plat. If a mortgage holder is included on the
3.24 plat, the plat shall be signed by an authorized representative. If a certificate of notarial
3.25 act on a plat includes the jurisdiction of the notarial act, the name of the notarial officer,
3.26 the title of the notarial officer, and the date the notary commission expires, printed in pen
3.27 and ink or typewritten on the plat, a plat shall be recorded regardless of whether a notary
3.28 stamp was used or was illegible if used.

3.29 Subd. 4. **Boundary; lots; blocks; outlots.** Plat boundaries shall be designated on
3.30 the plat in accordance with the underlying legal description and survey. All lots in each
3.31 block shall be numbered consecutively with arabic numerals beginning with numeral
3.32 one. All blocks shall be numbered consecutively with arabic numerals beginning with
3.33 numeral one. All outlots shall be labeled OUTLOT and lettered consecutively in capital
3.34 letters beginning with the letter A. All lot, block, and outlot lines shall be drawn as a
3.35 solid line. The name and adjacent boundary line of any adjoining platted lands shall be
3.36 dotted on the plat.

4.1 Subd. 5. **Mathematical data; dimensions; labels; symbols.** A plat shall show
4.2 all survey and mathematical information and data necessary to locate and retrace all
4.3 boundary lines and monuments. Bearings, azimuths, and central angles shall be expressed
4.4 in degrees, minutes, and seconds and labeled with the respective symbols. A north arrow
4.5 and directional orientation note shall be shown. Distances shall be expressed in feet
4.6 and hundredths of a foot. All straight line segments of the plat shall be labeled with the
4.7 length of the line and bearing or azimuth. All curved line segments of the plat shall be
4.8 labeled with the central angle, arc length, and radius length. If any curve is nontangential
4.9 the dimensions shall include a long chord bearing or azimuth, and shall be labeled
4.10 nontangential. The mathematical closure tolerance of the plat boundary, blocks, lots, and
4.11 outlots shall not exceed two-hundredths of a foot. A graphics scale shall be shown along
4.12 with the label "Scale In Feet." Dimension and descriptive recitals in the legal description
4.13 shown on the plat shall be depicted and labeled on the graphic portion of the plat. A
4.14 symbol shall indicate the position of all found and set plat monuments, along with a
4.15 description of each. Ditto marks and foot and inch symbols shall not be used.

4.16 Subd. 6. **Public ways.** All public ways within the plat, whether existing at the time
4.17 of platting or being dedicated by the plat shall be depicted on the plat together with the
4.18 name and sufficient mathematical data to locate the position and width of the public way.
4.19 The location of all existing public ways adjacent to the plat boundary shall be depicted
4.20 on the plat as dashed lines. The name and width of the adjacent public ways shall be
4.21 shown, if known.

4.22 Subd. 7. **Easements.** All easements to be dedicated on the plat shall be depicted
4.23 on the plat with purpose, identification, and sufficient mathematical data to locate the
4.24 boundaries of such easements. Easements created on the plat shall be limited to public
4.25 utility and drainage easements as defined in section 505.01, subdivision 3, paragraphs (c),
4.26 (i), and (k). Easement boundaries shall be shown as dashed lines. Temporary easements,
4.27 building set back information, and building floor elevations shall not be shown on a plat.

4.28 Subd. 8. **Water boundaries.** Any water boundary abutting or lying within the plat
4.29 boundaries shall be shown and identified on the plat as a solid line delineating the existing
4.30 shore line. When any parcel depicted on the plat includes water as a boundary, a dashed
4.31 survey line shall be shown and labeled with sufficient mathematical data to compute a
4.32 closure of said parcel. Distances shall be shown between the survey line and the water
4.33 boundary at all angle points, lot and boundary lines. Plat monuments shall be set at all
4.34 locations where the survey line intersects a plat boundary line or block, lot, or outlot line.
4.35 The water elevation of any lake, stream, or river depicted on the plat shall be shown to the
4.36 tenth of a foot along with the date the elevation was measured. All elevations shall be

referenced to a durable bench mark described on the plat together with its general location shown and bench mark elevation to the hundredth of a foot. If a mean sea level adjusted datum bench mark is available within two miles of the land being platted, all elevations shall be referenced to such datum. The highest known water elevation shall be indicated on the plat if such data is available from the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or another appropriate governmental unit. All wetlands as defined in section 505.01, subdivision 3, paragraph (m), shall be shown on the plat.

Subd. 9. **Certifications.** (a) A plat shall contain a certification by the land surveyor who surveyed or directly supervised the survey of the land being platted and prepared the plat or directly supervised the plat preparation. Said certificate shall state that:

(1) the plat is a correct representation of the boundary survey;

(2) all mathematical data and labels are correctly designated on the plat;

(3) all monuments depicted on the plat have been or will be correctly set within one year as indicated on the plat;

(4) all water boundaries and wetlands as of the date of the surveyor's certification are shown and labeled on the plat; and

(5) all public ways are shown and labeled on the plat.

The surveyor's certification shall be properly acknowledged by the surveyor on the plat before a notarial officer.

(b) A plat shall contain a certification of approval executed by the local elected governmental unit or an authorized official designated by the local elected governmental unit.

(c) In any county that requires review and approval of plats by the county surveyor or another land surveyor, the plat shall contain a certification of approval executed by the county surveyor or land surveyor that this plat is in compliance with this section.

(d) A plat shall contain a certification by the proper county official that there are no delinquent taxes owed and that the current year's payable taxes have been paid in accordance with section 272.12.

(e) A plat shall contain a certification of recording by the county recorder or registrar of titles, or both, if the plat contains both nonregistered and registered property.

Subd. 10. **Survey.** The land surveyor that certifies the plat shall survey or directly supervise the survey of the land depicted on the plat. Plat monuments shall be set at all angle and curve points on the outside boundary lines of the plat prior to recording. Interior block, lot, and witness monuments shall be set within one year after recording of the plat. A financial guarantee may be required for the placement of monuments. If it is

impracticable to set a plat monument, a witness plat monument shall be set. The license number of the land surveyor that certifies the plat shall be affixed to all set plat monuments.

Subd. 11. County surveyor approval. All plats prepared for recording in accordance with this section are subject to approval by the county surveyor in accordance with section 389.09, subdivision 1, and as authorized by their respective county board of commissioners.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 505.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. ~~Plat formalities~~ City, town, and county approval. ~~On the plat shall be written an instrument of dedication, which shall be signed and acknowledged by the owner of the land. All signatures on the plat shall be written with black ink (not ball point). The instrument shall contain a full and accurate description of the land platted and set forth what part of the land is dedicated, and also to whom, and for what purpose these parts are dedicated. The surveyor shall certify on the plat that the plat is a correct representation of the survey, that all distances are correctly shown on the plat, that all monuments have been or will be correctly placed in the ground as shown or stated, and that the outside boundary lines are correctly designated on the plat. If there are no wet lands or public highways to be designated in accordance with section 505.02, the surveyor shall so state. The certificate shall be sworn to before any officer authorized to administer an oath. The plat~~ Plats shall, except in cities whose charters provide for official supervision of plats by municipal officers or bodies, together with an abstract and certificate of title, be presented for approval to the council of the city or town board of towns wherein there reside over 5,000 people in which the land is located; and, if the land is located outside the limits of any city, or such town, then to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the land is located. Plats used to delineate existing parcels or supplement minor subdivision procedures may be approved by a local government official designated by the local elected governmental unit.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 505.04, is amended to read:

505.04 REAL ESTATE TAXES; RECORDING; COPIES.

Every plat, when duly certified, signed, and acknowledged, as provided in section ~~505.03~~ 505.021, and upon presentation of a certificate from the ~~county treasurer~~ authorized county official that the current year's taxes have been paid, shall be ~~filed and~~ recorded in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, or both, if the plat contains both nonregistered and registered property. An exact transparent reproducible copy shall, at the discretion of the county recorder or registrar of titles, be provided to the county recorder or

registrar of titles, or both, if the plat contains both nonregistered and registered property.
The official plat shall be labeled "OFFICIAL PLAT" and any copy shall be labeled "copy."
The official plat and any copy shall be placed under the direct supervision of the county
recorder or registrar of titles, or both, if the plat contains both nonregistered and registered
property and be open to inspection by the public. In counties having a full-time county
surveyor who operates an office on a full-time basis, the exact copy may be placed under
the direct supervision of the county surveyor and be open to inspection by the public.
Upon request of the county auditor of the county wherein the land is situated, the county
recorder or registrar of titles shall cause a reproduction copy of the official plat, or of the
exact copy, to be made and filed with such county auditor, at the expense of the county.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 505.08, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Public certified copies.** The copies of the official plat or of the exact
reproducible copy shall be compared and certified to by the county recorder or registrar
of titles in the manner in which certified copies of records are issued in the recorder's or
registrar's office, and the copy thereof shall be ~~bound in a proper volume~~ for the use of
the general public and anyone shall have access to and may inspect such certified copy
~~at their pleasure~~ during normal business hours. When the plat includes both registered
and nonregistered land ~~two~~ copies thereof shall be so certified and ~~bound, one~~ available
for such general public use in each of the offices of the county recorder and registrar
of titles; provided, however, that only one such copy so certified ~~and bound~~ shall be
provided for general public use in those counties wherein the ~~office quarters~~ offices of
the county recorder and registrar of titles are one and the same. When ~~the~~ any copy, or
any part thereof, shall become ~~unintelligible~~ illegible from use or wear or otherwise, ~~at~~
~~the request of the county recorder it shall be the duty of the county surveyor~~ it shall be
the duty of the county recorder or registrar of titles or county surveyor, depending upon
where the copy resides, to make a reproduction copy of the official plat, or the exact
transparent reproducible copy ~~under the direct supervision of the county recorder, who~~
~~shall.~~ It shall be the responsibility of the county recorder or registrar of titles to compare
the copy, certify that it is a correct copy thereof, by proper certificate as ~~above~~ set forth
above, and it shall be ~~bound in the volume, and under the page, and~~ made available in
~~the place of the discarded illegible copy. In counties not having a county surveyor the~~
~~county recorder shall employ a licensed land surveyor to make such reproduction copy,~~
~~at the expense of the county. The county recorder shall receive as a fee for filing these~~
~~plats, as aforesaid described, pursuant to section 357.18, subdivision 1.~~ Reproductions
from the exact transparent reproducible copy shall be available to any person upon request

and the cost of such reproductions shall be paid by the person making such request. If a copy of the official plat is requested the county recorder shall prepare it and duly certify that it is a copy of the official plat and the cost of such copy shall be paid by the person making such request.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 505.1792, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Requirements.** ~~Said plats shall be uniform in size measuring 20 by 30 inches from outer edge to outer edge. A border line shall be placed one-half inch inside the outer edges of the plat or map on the top, bottom, and right hand side; a border line shall be placed two inches inside the outer edge on the left hand side. A north arrow and scale of the plat shall be shown on the plat which scale shall be of such dimension that the plat may be easily interpreted. The plat may consist of more than one sheet but if more than one sheet, they shall be numbered progressively and match lines of the right-of-way shall be indicated on each sheet. An official and one or more identical copies of each plat shall be prepared in black on white mat photographic card stock with double cloth back mounting or material of equal quality. One exact reproducible copy of the official plat shall be prepared on linen tracing cloth by a photographic process or on material of equal quality. The plat on white card stock shall be labeled "Official Plat" and the reproducible copy shall be labeled "Reproducible Copy of Official Plat". The reproducible copy shall be compared with the official plat and certified to by the county recorder in the manner in which certified copies of records are issued in the recorder's office, and the copies shall be bound in a proper volume for the use of the general public. The official plat may be inspected by any member of the public but only in the presence of the county recorder or the registrar of titles or a deputy. Any member of the public may have made a copy of the official plat by paying to the proper officer the cost of reproduction together with a fee of 50 cents for certification by the filing officer. Reproductions from the exact transparent reproducible copy shall be available to any person upon request and the cost of such reproductions shall be paid by the person making such request. If the abutting property is abstract property the plat shall be filed with the county recorder; if registered property, with the registrar of titles; if both registered and nonregistered property, then with both the county recorder and the registrar of titles, and when so filed with the registrar of titles, the registrar shall enter a reference to said plat as a memorial on all certificates of title of registered lands which abut the right-of-way shown on the map or plat filed.~~

~~In counties having microfilming capabilities, a plat may be prepared on sheets of suitable mylar or on linen tracing cloth by photographic process or on material of equal quality. The plat shall be labeled "Official Plat." Notwithstanding any other provisions~~

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9.1 ~~of this subdivision to the contrary, no other copies of the plat need to be filed. The map~~
9.2 or plat shall be prepared in compliance with section 505.021, subdivisions 1 and 5, and
9.3 recorded in compliance with section 505.04.

9.4 Sec. 7. **REPEALER.**

9.5 Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 505.02; and 505.08, subdivisions 1, 2a, and 3, are
9.6 repealed.