



Land Trust Membership

Benefits

Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts provides technical assistance, advocates for public policies and funding that support land conservation, and fosters a community of practice to strengthen Wisconsin's land trusts. A strong alliance benefits your organization and the land trust community across the state.

As a land trust member you have access to a variety of benefits, including:

Public Policy Advocacy & Government Relations

Benefit from a strong advocate for state and federal policies and programs that support land conservation.

Resources and Updates

Receive timely information on resources, training, and policy through *Currents*, Gathering Waters' technical e-bulletin for land trusts, and access sample policies and documents through our resource web page.

Peer Networking

Engage in a network of peers and experts to share information and best practices.

Training & Technical Assistance

Tap into the Land Trust Excellence & Advancement Program's support for organizational development, strategic planning, preparation to apply for national accreditation, and more. Take advantage of land trust member discounts to Gathering Waters' events and training programs, including the Land Trust Retreat.

Publicity

List your land trust on the Gathering Waters website in an interactive, online map of Wisconsin land trusts, and in outreach materials. Promote your stories and successes through the website, *Crosscurrents* newsletter, and e-news.

Requirements

1. **Current list of the Board of Directors** with address, email, and phone number (send to info@gatheringwaters.org)
2. **Current list of staff (if applicable)** with title, email, and phone number (send to info@gatheringwaters.org)
3. **Response to a periodic survey.** Gathering Waters may request information about a land trust's recent land protection efforts and current organizational structure. These data are compiled, shared with the land trust community, and used to demonstrate the scope and quality of impact of land trust work in Wisconsin

4. Accreditation earned & maintained OR a board-approved attestation to the following elements (next attestation filing in 2017):

- Compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including annual tax filings.
- Commitment to practices consistent with the Wisconsin Land Trust Statement of Principles, developed by the Land Trust Council, affirming dedication to ethical operations.
- Commitment to the use of sound financial practices including development and implementation of effective internal controls, the use of a board-approved annual budget, and regular financial reporting (at least quarterly) to the board of directors.

If a land trust holds conservation easements:

- Participation in the Terrafirma conservation defense program or demonstration of a commitment to fund conservation easement defense (i.e., an adequate reserve fund set aside to monitor and enforce easements, and/or a policy requiring that adequate funds be set aside for each additional easement the land trust takes on and a policy for holding/investing internal funds).
- Additionally, the land trust must have a baseline documentation report for each easement it holds (or a board-resolved plan to complete reports in a timely manner), and a written policy faithfully followed by the land trust to annually monitor each easement.

If a land trust fails to fulfill membership requirements, the Gathering Waters Board of Directors reserves the right, at its discretion, to deny or revoke membership of any individual or organization.