

Gathering Waters Conservancy

Land Trust Membership Benefits



Publications:

- ✓ **Gathering Waters' newsletter, Crosscurrents.** Submit articles, publicize conservation victories, and make announcements for up-coming events.
- ✓ **Currents, Gathering Waters' quarterly technical bulletin for land trusts,** provides you with timely information critical to the operation and success of your land trust.
- ✓ **Sample articles, columns, and press releases** for reprint on issues related to land trusts and private land conservation.

References and Resources:

- ✓ **Copies of educational materials,** such as power point presentations, display boards and information packets for landowners.
- ✓ **Sample policies and documents** -- conservation easements, baseline documents, board and staff job descriptions, conflict of interest policies.
- ✓ **Access to our reference library,** which includes hundreds of publications, videos, and information packets specifically for land trusts.
- ✓ **Access to our database of professionals** (attorneys, appraisers, strategic planners) who provide services to land trusts and landowners.

Outreach and Advocacy:

- ✓ **Promotion of federal and state policies** that benefit the land trust community and encourage private land conservation.
- ✓ **Participation in the land trust policy network,** a collaborative outreach & education program about statewide policies affecting land protection.
- ✓ **Publicity and marketing** of the land trust movement and its successes.
- ✓ **Landowner referrals** to your land trust.
- ✓ **Listing in our Directory.** A map and listing of Wisconsin land trusts both on our web page and in outreach materials.

- ✓ **Listserve for Wisconsin Land Trusts.** Communicate and network directly with your land trust colleagues.

Trainings:

- ✓ **Discounts to Gathering Waters' events and training programs.** All staff and board members are eligible for discounts.
- ✓ **Retreat for land trust staff** on how to manage the day-to-day challenges of running a land trust.
- ✓ **Board leadership** seminars and workshops for new and experienced Board members.
- ✓ **Training program for appraisers** on appraising conservation easements and preparing appraisals that meet DNR standards.
- ✓ **Continuing education program for attorneys** on legal and tax aspects of conservation easements and other tools for protecting private lands.
- ✓ **One-on-one, in-depth trainings for land trusts on specific issues** – including conservation easements, fundraising, personnel issues.

Technical Assistance:

- ✓ **Facilitation of Site Conservation Planning.** A process of developing conservation strategies for a project area.
- ✓ **Facilitation of Strategic Planning** and work plan development.
- ✓ **Assessments of organizational capacity needs,** using questionnaires and facilitated workshops with Board and staff.
- ✓ **Review of fundraising materials** such as project appeals and membership renewals.
- ✓ **Preparation for accreditation application.** Review of policies, checklist of application materials, assessment of accreditation readiness.

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Land Trust Membership Requirements



Annual Dues:

- ✓ **Land trust members must pay annual dues** to Gathering Waters Conservancy, based on their organization's operating budget. Land trusts with annual operating budgets under \$10,000 pay \$100 per year. Land trusts with annual operating budgets over \$10,000 pay \$250 per year.
- ✓ **Land trust's membership is renewed each April.** Land trusts that join Gathering Waters at other times of the year will have their first year dues prorated, and will renew membership the following April.

Contact Information:

- ✓ Land trust members provide Gathering Waters **a current list of their Board of Directors**, with contact information for each Board member. An updated list of Board members is provided to Gathering Waters when the roster changes.
- ✓ **Primary contact information** for the land trust is provided to Gathering Waters, including mailing address, phone number and email address. Gathering Waters is informed in a timely fashion of any changes to this contact information.

Organizational Information:

- ✓ The land trust shares a copy of their **by-laws** with Gathering Waters, as well as evidence of their **501(c)(3) status**.
- ✓ The land trust **mission statement and service area** are shared with Gathering Waters.
- ✓ Gathering Waters will provide a login id and password for accessing our **online land trust database**. The land trust enters **baseline information about its programs and organizational structure** in the database. Organizational data can only be viewed by Gathering Waters and the land trust. Updates to the database are made annually by the land trust.

Ethics & Community:

- ✓ Member land trusts are required to **adopt and act in accordance with the Wisconsin Land Trust Statement of Principles**, developed by the Wisconsin Land Trust Council. This Statement of Principles holds individual land trusts accountable to the whole land trust community in the state. If a land trust acts in a way which compromises the integrity of this community, Gathering Waters may revoke the land trust's membership if the action is not in keeping with the Statement of Principles.
- ✓ Member land trusts are encouraged to use the **"Member of Gathering Waters" logo** in appropriate outreach material.
- ✓ Gathering Waters encourages all member land trusts to **apply for national land trust accreditation**, through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We offer services and consulting to help prepare for accreditation to our members.