

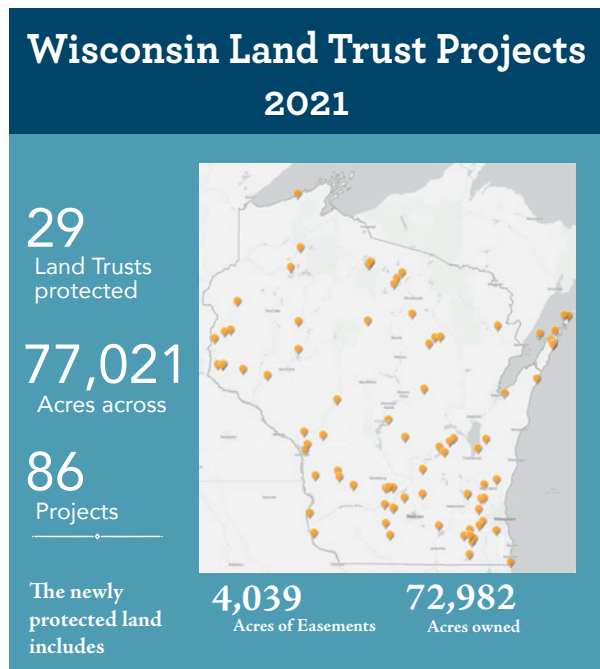
YOUR DONOR REPORT

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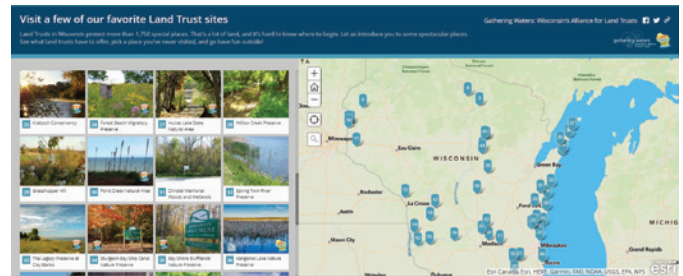
You helped increase the pace of land protection in 2021!

Because of you, Wisconsin land trusts had a banner year.

Even in the face of the ongoing pandemic, you helped keep Wisconsin's land trusts strong. Your support made it possible for 86 new properties to be permanently protected, totaling 77,021 acres of land.



You helped keep Wisconsin's land trusts resilient through the continuing challenges presented by the pandemic.



Many natural places that you help protect are open to the public. Check out some of our favorites at gatheringwaters.org/places

These projects created new nature preserves, provided buffers along waterways, expanded habitat for endangered wildlife, and saved forests and farmland.

You made sure land trusts had the technical tools and resources to do this vital work.

You are part of every story—from the land trust that saved one family's treasured swimming hole, to a farm that will forever be shielded from development, to a local community that now has access to a network of hiking trails. There were so many success stories to celebrate in 2021 because of you!

Thank you for making land protection possible by keeping Wisconsin land trusts strong.

You provided an enhanced legal tool to protect land in Wisconsin



Photo Courtesy of Tamara Stone

Photo Courtesy of North Central Conservancy Trust

Because of your support, land trusts have a state-of-the-art Wisconsin Model Conservation Easement that will help protect land forever.

Land trusts have used conservation easements for decades. These reliable and robust legal agreements allow land trusts, landowners, and other conservation partners to protect land permanently.

Through their experience with over 1,200 conservation projects, land trusts have learned a lot. They've seen what works well and how these agreements can be improved.

Because of you, land trust practitioners and their attorneys came together to draft the Wisconsin Model Conservation Easement.

Your support helps make land conservation in Wisconsin even more durable, ensuring that special, protected places will still be there for future generations. The property above is now protected from development and mining.

This new document takes into account the latest legal trends and years of on-the-ground experience.

The model document promotes consistency and best practices in land protection and is already helping land trusts and landowners achieve their shared goal of protecting land forever.

To learn more about Wisconsin's Model Conservation Easement, visit gatheringwaters.org/modelCE

THANK YOU!
YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PROTECT LAND FOREVER!

The Challenge of Perpetual Protection

- Apparent needs of Conservation Values may clash with Landowner goals and objectives.
 - Permitted Uses vs. Conservation Values
- Diversity of Conservation Values on Project Sites
 - Adjacent and competing
 - Restoration vs. Maintenance
- Landowner Succession
- Working Lands are vulnerable to economic cycles.
- CLIMATE CHANGE
 - Adaptive Management. What works today may not work tomorrow.



You helped land trusts learn about Wisconsin's Model Conservation Easement during a virtual session led by the knowledgeable attorneys and land trust practitioners who drafted it.

Let's Talk Climate Change

Photo Courtesy of Mindy Petersen

You helped build the case: land conservation is climate action

You gave land trusts an opportunity to learn about the important roles they play in addressing climate change.

Your support brought together a dedicated group of people for a four-week virtual series called *Let's Talk Climate Change: Conservation, climate action, and communication*. Staff and board members from 20 land trusts and eight partner organizations took part.

The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent throughout Wisconsin. Extreme weather events—like tornados in December and widespread summer flooding—are predicted to become even more common and severe.

Nature offers some of the best defenses against the consequences of climate change. Forests, grasslands, and wetlands remove carbon from the air while limiting damage from large storms and providing refuge for wildlife in the face of rising temperatures.

That's good news. The natural lands you help protect are already working to slow the effects of climate change

But there's much more to do. Wisconsin's land trusts need support to keep building the case that land conservation is climate action.

That's why a virtual series focused on climate change communications was so timely for Wisconsin's land trust leaders. They learned about ways to reach new audiences and how to share the positive impacts of their work.

Coming together during the virtual series helped to solidify land trusts' commitment to lead the way and promote climate action in their communities.

Thank you for helping communities learn more about conservation as climate action.

Your support helps protect and restore Wisconsin's first line of defense to climate change—its natural places.



You helped land trusts strengthen the case that land conservation is climate action. Many animals and plants will need to move or adapt in the coming decades—or face extinction. Protecting land and water is one of the most important steps to ensure a future for Wisconsin's most beloved and iconic wildlife, such as the common loon.

The permanence of public land is at risk—your help is needed!

WILL YOU MAKE A GIFT OF \$35 OR MORE TO DEFEND THE PROTECTION OF WISCONSIN'S PUBLIC LANDS?

Earlier this year, legislation was proposed that threatened to undermine the very bedrock of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program—Wisconsin's most important source of funding for land protection.

The bill, which was introduced in January, would have removed safeguards, making it much easier to sell public lands purchased with Knowles-Nelson grant funds.

Scores of Wisconsin residents spoke out in opposition. But the threat is still looming.

Will you make a gift of \$35 or more to make sure Wisconsin's public lands stay permanently protected?

Changing the rules of the Stewardship Program, as the bill proposed, would undermine the faith and trust of landowners who sold their property for conservation. It also would breach the trust of countless people who generously donated the matching funds necessary to purchase the land.



Your gift will ensure that there is a strong, unified voice speaking out for public lands in the State Capitol.

For now, the bill has stalled. But we expect it to be reintroduced in the future.

We all need to remain vigilant.

People like you, who care about conservation in Wisconsin, need to make sure the Legislature does not put thousands of acres of protected land at risk.

Will you make a gift of \$35 or more to defend public lands in Wisconsin?

We must make sure land is protected forever.

Will you help today?

I will help defend Wisconsin's public lands!

YES! Please use my gift to defend public lands in Wisconsin when threats arise, as well as support all of Gathering Waters' work.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$35 to help defend Wisconsin's public lands.
- \$50 to help defend Wisconsin's public lands.
- \$100 to help defend Wisconsin's public lands.
- I'm sending \$ _____ to help defend Wisconsin's public lands.

I am giving: by check by credit card.