



2025 Land Trust Membership Form

Due March 7, 2025

Dues Guideline

Membership dues are based on 1% (up to \$2500) of your land trust's annual operating expenses.

Calculate: \$ _____ x .01 = \$ _____
annual operating expenses 2025 Land Trust Dues

Operating expenses do not include long-term capital outlays or special project costs. (Example: an annual operating expense budget of \$200,000 = \$2,000 in land trust dues)

Optional Add-On:

- \$500 Land Conservation Law Program annual subscription fee (see insert for more information)

Calculate Your Total & Payment Options

_____ Dues + _____ Law Program fee (optional) = \$ _____

- I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (payable to **Gathering Waters**)
- Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Billing Address (if different from below): _____

Please share updates to any primary contact information:

Organization Name	
Primary Contact Name & Title	
Address	
City, State, and Zip	
Email	Phone
Organization Website	

(Over)

Items to Submit:

- This membership form
 - Dues payment
 - Board Attestation of Membership Principles (for non-accredited land trusts)
 - Current board member list with mailing addresses, emails, and phone numbers
 - Current staff list (if any) with titles, emails, and phone numbers
- *Please send board and staff lists as **Word or Excel files** to info@gatheringwaters.org.*
- Law Program subscription fee (*only required if signing up*)

Mail to:

Gathering Waters
211 S Paterson St, Suite 270
Madison, WI 53703

You can also upload any of the relevant forms or lists here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4e6add5u>



Land Conservation Law Program

2025 Enrollment Guide

What is the Land Conservation Law Program?

The Land Conservation Law Program is an innovative program with two main objectives: to deliver education and training to attorneys across the state in order to broaden a community of legal practice available to support land trusts and landowners in land conservation transactions, and to provide legal services directly to Wisconsin land trusts.

Why should your land trust enroll?

Your enrollment directly supports the education and training of attorneys across the state thereby strengthening the greater land trust community. Our staff attorney is also available to enrolled land trusts to answer general questions about conservation transactions and land trust operations, and also to provide a menu of legal services related to transactions and conservation portfolio management.

What if we already have an attorney?

The legal services provided by the Law Program are designed to supplement, not supplant, existing relationships land trusts may have with legal counsel. Rarely does a land trust have a relationship with an attorney exclusively focused on land conservation. By enrolling in the Law Program, our staff attorney is available to support your existing legal counsel in whatever manner they need to offer your land trust the best, and most efficient, representation. The program also offers an efficient means of addressing questions as they arise in the day-to-day work of your land trust.

Is the enrollment fee a retainer?

The enrollment fee supports general overhead costs for the Law Program and is not a retainer. Legal services are provided to enrolled land trusts *pro bono*, and a land trust benefitting from these services will receive a monthly statement of in-kind services rendered. While legal services are provided without the expectation of payment, we encourage land trusts to support the Program by making a contribution to Gathering Waters commensurate with the value of the legal services rendered.

What legal services are available?

The Law Program limits its legal services to land trusts to matters related to conservation transactions and conservation portfolio management. Such matters include, without limitation fee simple acquisitions, conservation easement acquisitions, amendments, asset dispossession, easement enforcement, and general document drafting and review among other services.

Enrolled land trusts have also benefitted from board and staff trainings, policy drafting, template document drafting and review, and several other general services provided by our staff attorney.

Our staff attorney will refer matters not related to transactions or portfolio management, or matters that are reasonably likely to result in litigation, to other attorneys in consultation with the land trust.

We want to enroll, what are the next steps?

Please be sure to check the Optional Add-On box on your 2025 Land Trust Membership Form. When we receive your annual registration fee, our staff attorney will reach out to schedule an annual intake consultation and orientation to the Law Program.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Chris Gutschenritter, Director of the Land Conservation Law Program, at chris@gatheringwaters.org.