



A Mark of Distinction in Land Conservation



Special places exist in every neighborhood, city and town – the family farm, the urban park, the mountain view. Accredited land trusts are making sure that the places we love today will be loved by generations to come.

*“When we learned our local conservancy was accredited, it was further confirmation of our choice to trust it to protect our land forever. Accreditation is an assurance of the high standards the conservancy uses to protect land today and for future generations.”*

DICK SHUSTER, Dick and his wife Posy donated a conservation easement to the Leelanau Conservancy (MI)

The land trust accreditation seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

✓Excellence

Accredited land trusts have demonstrated their commitment to national quality standards for nonprofit management and land conservation.

✓Trust

The accreditation seal provides an assurance of quality and permanence the public can trust.

*“Accreditation lets our donors and partners know that our programs meet national quality standards and that they can put their trust in us.”*

COLORADO OPEN LANDS

✓Permanence

The accreditation program verifies that the land trust has systems in place to keep its promise of permanent land protection.

## Land Trust Accreditation Commission

An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance

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For a complete list of accredited land trusts, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org).



**Excellence • Trust • Permanence**  
THE LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION PROGRAM







Community leaders in land trusts across the country have worked with willing landowners to save over 37 million acres of farms, forests, parks and places people care about.

Land trusts applying for accreditation submit extensive documentation and make a significant commitment of time and money to participate. In a rigorous review process, the Commission examines each application, interviews the land trust and evaluates multiple sources of information, including comments from the public.

The Commission awards accreditation to land trusts that demonstrate compliance with each of the accreditation indicator practices drawn from *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust.

Accreditation recognizes a land trust's commitment to continuous quality improvement. To ensure that accredited land trusts continue to meet national standards, accreditation is renewed every five years.

PHOTO CREDITS: top panel, l-r: Peter Dollard, courtesy Open Space Institute (OSI); Green River Valley Land Trust (GRVLT); OSI; Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT); bottom panel, l-r: Rancho Cañada del Oro © Robert Buelteman 1998, Courtesy of POST; Bonnie Van Alen; © Carolyn Smith; Coastal Mountains Land Trust; reverse, top panel, l-r: Minnesota Land Trust; Heritage Conservancy; GVLT; reverse, bottom panel, l-r: Aspen Valley Land Trust; Rick Koval; Willistown Conservation Trust; cover, tb: Mary Felley; GRVLT; OSI



*“Land trusts have a responsibility to donors, and to the community, to get it right. Accreditation is a great tool to strengthen land trusts and to grow the level of public trust in the permanence of land trust work.”*

STEVE SMALL, attorney and author, “Preserving Family Lands”

The Land Trust Alliance, a national organization dedicated to saving the places we love by strengthening land conservation across America, created the Land Trust Accreditation Commission as an independent program in 2006. The Alliance publishes *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and provides financial and administrative support to the Commission. It has established an endowment to help ensure the success of the program and keep it affordable for land trusts of all sizes to participate in accreditation.

*“Museums, hospitals, universities and other nonprofits show they deserve the public’s trust through rigorous accreditation programs. Everyone dedicated to land conservation can be pleased that land trusts can earn an accreditation mark of distinction as well.”*

FORREST BERKLEY, conservation donor (MA) and board member, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

*“Becoming accredited may be the single best thing you can do to keep your properties preserved for future generations.”*

WESTCHESTER LAND TRUST (NY)

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission’s mission is to recognize community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission first offered land trust accreditation in 2008. The number of accredited land trusts will grow over time.

The Commission is governed by an independent board of diverse land conservation and nonprofit management experts from around the country. Commissioners volunteer their expertise to review applications and ensure that the Commission operates a credible accreditation program.

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