

Welcome!

Welcome to renewal of accreditation! The process for applying for renewal of accreditation is different than the process used for first-time applicants. This section of our website provides a step-by-step introduction to renewal.

- The best place to start is to watch these two video tutorials:



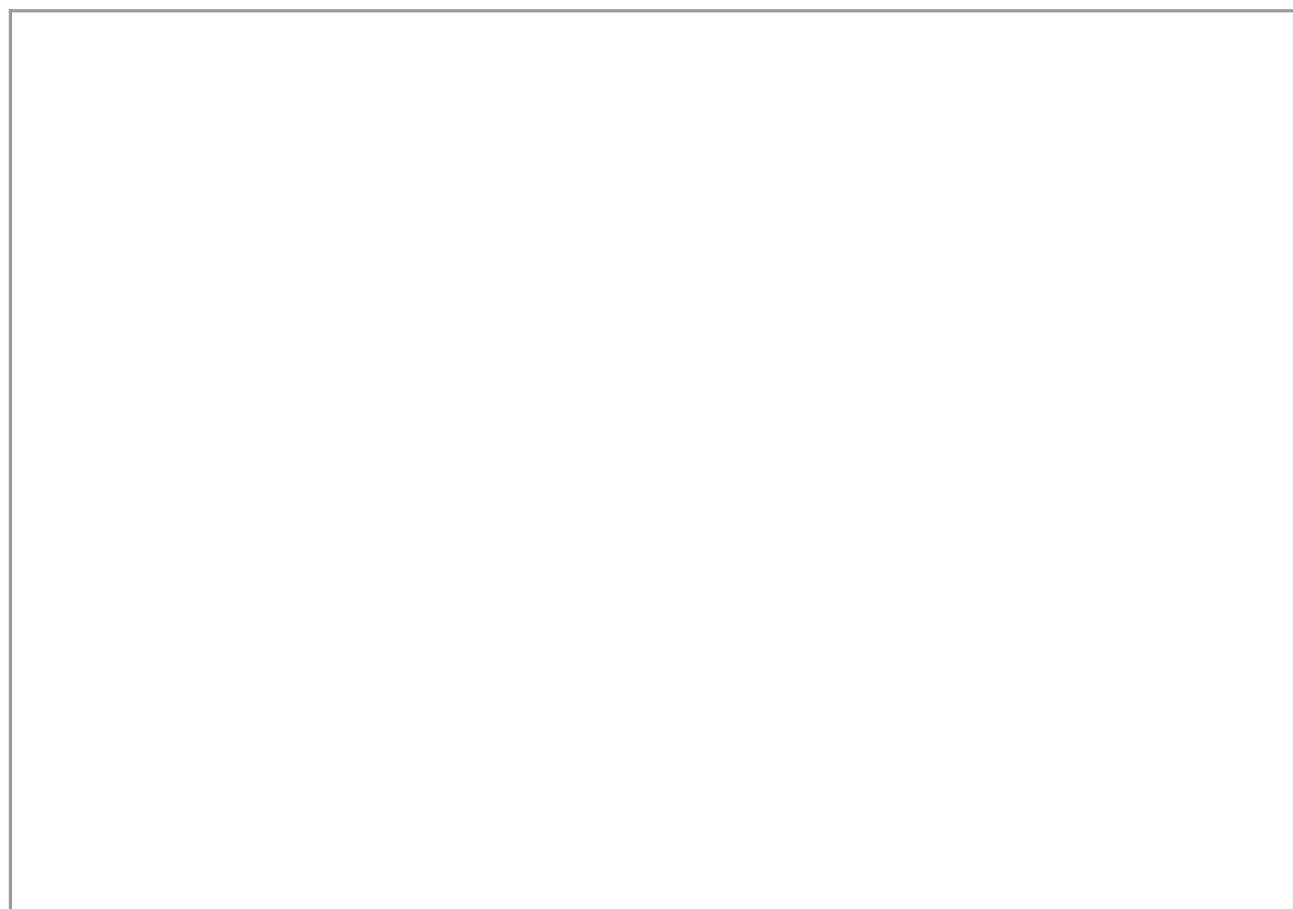
[Preparing for Renewal](#)



[Renewal Overview](#)

- Then, explore each of the following sections:

[\[renewal-process\]](#)[\[/renewal-process\]](#)



Accreditation Principles

The following principles guide the accreditation program.

- Accreditation is voluntary.
- All information provided by applicants is managed in accordance with the Commission's [confidentiality policy](#).
- Accreditation is not a one-time action; it is a tool to foster continuous improvement.
- Accredited organizations are united by strong ethical practices and a commitment to the long-term stewardship of land and conservation easements in the public interest.

There are several principles that guided the development of the renewal program.

- Renewal is on a five-year cycle to best meet the purposes identified above. (Some accreditation programs are annual; some extend as long as ten years. The longer-cycle programs tend to involve complete re-accreditation.)
- Renewal is intended to focus on the accredited land trust's activities during its five-year accredited term.
- The renewal process has fewer checkpoints and opportunities for corrective action than the process for first-time

accreditation; the Commission expects that accredited land trusts have been following *Land Trust Standards and Practices* and program requirements throughout their accredited term.

- The renewal process involves an online application and review system.

Purpose of Renewal

Renewal of accreditation is important for several reasons and purposes including the following:

- To foster continued implementation of all of *Land Trust Standards and Practices*.
- To reflect evolving best practices in the field.
- To confirm compliance with current accreditation indicators and program requirements.
- To verify an accredited land trust's action on expectations for improvement.
- To identify and evaluate major changes in accredited land trusts.