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.

We know that the process of applying for renewal can sometimes be confusing. In this section of the website we strive to make it as easy as possible to explore and understand the process and requirements.

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.