



ACCREDITATION OPENS DOORS

In surveys of accredited and renewed land trusts, 100% report that accreditation helps the land trust community maintain the trust of Congress, the Internal Revenue Service and the public. And numerous land trusts report they received a specific donation or grant because of their accredited status. Here is a list of special benefits afforded to accredited land trusts.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- Funding from project proponents seeking LEED certification using the credit for protecting or restoring habitat. www.usgbc.org/credits/ss51
- The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a land trust bird conservation initiative that offers management and restoration grants. For management grants, an organization should either be an accredited land trust or be working with an accredited land trust as a partner. Ideally the lead applicant should be the accredited land trust. www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/2021-request-for-proposals

STATE AND COUNTY BENEFITS

- Automatic eligibility to hold easements with California's Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program, supported by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP

- Expedited certification in Colorado, when working with landowners desiring a state tax credit for a conservation easement donation. <https://conservation.colorado.gov/holder-certification>
- The Georgia Conservation Tax Credit is a financial incentive for landowners to help protect Georgia's natural resources. Landowners who donate fee-title lands or permanent conservation easements to an accredited land trust may apply for a credit against their state income taxes. <https://gadnr.org/GCTCP>
- Expedited certification in Louisiana, where land trusts must be certified to hold and conserve certain mineral interests. www.dnr.louisiana.gov
- Exclusive access to funding when leveraging the Buffer Lands Program, for projects near or adjacent to Texas state parks. www.tpwf.org/buffer-lands-program
- Automatic eligibility to apply for funding in Chester County, Pennsylvania, for its Brandywine Headwaters Preservation Program. www.chesco.org/documentcenter/view/5757

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE PROGRAMS

- The Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative requires accredited status (or the land trust must have a plan and reasonable timetable for attaining accreditation adopted by its board) to qualify for the land capital grant. www.lta.org/pacific-northwest-resilient-landscapes-initiative
- Eligibility in the Land Trust Alliance Forest Carbon Offset Pilot Program requires land trusts that own forest land be accredited—or have validly executed a board resolution committing to pursue accreditation—to participate. www.lta.org/topics/climate-change/forest-carbon-offset-pilot-program
- Eligibility in the Land Trust Alliance Avoided Grassland Conversion Carbon Offset Pilot Program requires land trusts that own grasslands, or have conservation easement opportunities on grasslands, to be accredited—or have validly executed a board resolution committing to pursue accreditation—to participate. www.lta.org/topics/climate-change/avoided-grassland-conversion-carbon-offset-pilot-program
- The remote-monitoring grant program offered by the Land Trust Alliance requires accredited status as part of eligibility for funding, or the land trust must have a plan and reasonable timetable for attaining accreditation that has been adopted by its board.

PRIVATE FUNDING INCENTIVES

In the past, foundations like the 1772 Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation awarded extra points or increased funding for land trusts that have prioritized accreditation. ☺

STARTING 2021 OFF RIGHT

Thirty-three land trusts achieved renewal or first-time accreditation in January of this year, an auspicious start to 2021. There are currently 446 accredited land trusts. Organizations that pursue conservation excellence through the accreditation program are an inspiration to the land trust community. They demonstrate strong leadership, fiscal accountability and lasting stewardship of the lands they conserve. We've heard your feedback that you want a better way to search for accredited land trusts and those in the first-time application process. Our new map is interactive and features a searchable database. Check it out at ltac.neonccm.com/map.

NEWLY ACCREDITED

- Central New York Land Trust (NY)
- Katawba Valley Land Trust (SC)
- Lake Placid Land Conservancy (NY)
- Missouri Prairie Foundation (MO)
- Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (ME)

ALL RENEWALS

- Access Fund (CO)
- Alachua Conservation Trust (FL)
- Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (NH) ♦
- Center for Natural Lands Management (CA) ♦
- Conservation Trust for North Carolina (NC) ♦
- Georgia Piedmont Land Trust (GA)
- Greene Land Trust (NY)
- Groundswell Conservancy (WI)
- Harpswell Heritage Land Trust (ME)
- Jackson Hole Land Trust (WY) ♦
- Lancaster County Conservancy (PA) ♦

- Land Trust for Louisiana (LA)
- Massachusetts Audubon Society (MA)
- McKenzie River Trust (OR) ♦
- Montana Land Reliance (MT) ♦
- Montezuma Land Conservancy (CO) ♦
- Northeast Wilderness Trust (VT) ♦
- Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (CT)
- Orono Land Trust (ME)
- Palouse Land Trust (ID)
- Rivers & Lands Conservancy (CA)
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy (MI)
- San Isabel Land Protection Trust (CO) ♦
- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (NC) ♦
- Stowe Land Trust (VT) ♦
- TennGreen Land Conservancy (TN)
- The Land Conservancy of New Jersey (NJ) ♦
- Wolf River Conservancy (TN)

List as of January 2021
♦ Second Renewals

For the complete list of accredited land trusts, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org/about/accredited-land-trusts

BEING ACCREDITED provides your land trust with a number of tangible benefits. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission updates the list of benefits as it learns of programs using accreditation as a qualifier. Let the Commission know at info@landtrustaccreditation.org if you have received grant funding or were able to participate in a program because of your accredited status.

You can learn more about the benefits of accreditation by visiting www.landtrustaccreditation.org/about/benefits-of-accreditation

“Accreditation assures us we are funding and partnering with land trusts that have put in the time to navigate the rigorous process. We are continually amazed at the conservation outcomes resulting from Cornell Land Trust Grant Awards and the creativity and ingenuity of land trusts that strive to attain such commendable stewardship goals.”

Sara Barker, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
An independent program of the Land Trust Alliance
landtrustaccreditation.org

BY THE NUMBERS



Land trusts continue to invest in accreditation renewal.

446

Total accredited land trusts

222

Have achieved 1st renewal

82

Have achieved 2nd renewal



You asked, and we listened!

You wanted a more streamlined way to apply for accreditation. We answered with an updated Application Management System (AMS). It now takes a renewal applicant 24% less time to complete the application process, and 51% less time for a land trust to complete the first-time application process.

230

Average number of hours to complete the renewal application process (from registration to accreditation)

275

Average number of hours to complete the first-time application process (from registration to application submission)