

Groundswell Conservancy Policy

Name: Ethics and Values

Approval: Adopted by Board of Directors November 15, 2017

Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices 1A. Ethics. Adopt a written code of ethics and/or values statement and adhere to it in implementing the land trust's mission, in its governance and in its operations.

We, as members of Wisconsin's land trust community, dedicate ourselves to the protection of local, regional and statewide natural resources which contribute to the ecological, social and economic well-being of our communities. Our goals are established and our actions are taken with a long term vision for resource conservation.

As a private, non-profit organization, we have an obligation to provide a public benefit and therefore strive to avoid any conflict of interest or provide any private benefit to any of our Board members, donors, or other individuals. We will not participate in any activities that are potentially fraudulent or abusive.

We pledge to conduct our land protection and organizational activities under the highest professional standards and in accordance with the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices.

We acknowledge the trust placed upon us by our donors, landowner partners and the public by being fiscally responsible, by always considering our long term responsibility to the lands we protect and by building a sustainable, capable land trust organization. In addition, we pledge to foster open and productive relationships with landowners, our fellow land trusts and the general public.

We strive to undertake only those actions which enhance the reputation and credibility of the land trust community. When appropriate, we work cooperatively with other land trusts, government agencies, private individuals and conservation organizations to accomplish high quality, lasting conservation of important natural, agricultural and historic landscapes.

Thus, we embrace these values as we advance our mission to protect special places forever:

- Conservation. We are champions for conservation and know how to get important tangible results.
- Connectedness. We believe we are all connected to the land and each other.
- Commitment. We have the tenacity to preserve for the long-run.
- Collaboration. We respect and partner with landowners and people who care about special places.

Groundswell Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Policies may be updated to reflect changing accreditation standards and practices, as well as changing local organizational needs.