

# A Few Notes on Working with Land Trusts as Long- Term Stewards

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# Land Trust Accreditation

- Look for a land trust that has been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission
- Accreditation must be renewed every 5-7 years
- Assures compliance with Key Practices in the Land Trust Alliance's Standards and Practices

## A Mark of Distinction

The accreditation seal **AFFIRMS** national quality standards are met.



- SOUND FINANCES
- ETHICAL CONDUCT
- RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE
- LASTING STEWARDSHIP

[www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org)

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# Working within the Standards and Practices

- Accredited Land Trusts will need to justify how much stewardship funding they have for mitigation easements – Expect them to be involved in determining the long-term stewardship funds necessary if they will be responsible for implementing.
- Most land trusts hold their stewardship funds in one, mingled stewardship account
  - These funds are generally managed conservatively to be available when necessary
  - IRTs and Project developers should be clear early on about how they expect the funds to be managed.



# Working within the Standards and Practices

- Standards and Practices speak to the management of long-term stewardship and defense funds.
  - Board designated
  - Donor restricted – All mitigation funds should be “donor restricted” and managed as such.
  - Board designated quasi-endowments – Mitigation funds could also be managed under this category which allows for management as and endowment under UPMIFA



# Working within the Standards and Practices

- Other important standards
  - Requirement for financial oversight (compilation, review, audit) appropriate to the size of the organization
  - Build and maintain sufficient operating reserves
  - Requirement for legal defense funding in line with the risk profile of the easement and fee ownership portfolio

For more information visit:

[www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org)

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