

ConserveLand

A Publication by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association



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Act 154 of 2006 Facilitates Government and Land Trust Partnerships

The Governor signed Act 154 into law on 11/29/2006. The Act, a Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) legislative priority, empowers local government units to:

- Appropriate money to a land trust “for the acquisition or conservation and preservation of interests in real property for the purpose of achieving open space benefits...”
- Transfer open space property interests to a land trust with or without consideration.
- Create a “Local Land Trust” subject to various accountability measures.

While a number of land trusts and local governments have formed relationships

over the years, many—concerned about the lack of statutory authorization or balking at cumbersome workarounds—chose not to. Act 154 of 2006 establishes clear authorization for government-land trust partnerships including the key elements listed above.

Representative Chris Ross (R) of Chester County introduced and championed the bill in the General Assembly. Although achieving passage was challenging, the bill ultimately passed the Senate 49-0 and the House 196-0. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen, especially Rep. Ross! ☑

To view or download the Act, visit conserveland.org/pp/act154of2006

IRS Form 990 Alert

Organizations holding conservation easements should be aware that the IRS now asks a series of questions of organizations filing 990s regarding their conservation easement holdings. The questions can be found in the instructions for Schedule A, Part III, line 3.c.

New Outreach Publication for Land Trusts

Recently, Pennsylvania land trusts received boxes of *In Their Own Words*, a 48-page, full color booklet. The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association developed the publication to help landowners make conservation decisions. 20,000 copies are being distributed free-of-charge to land trusts and other interested parties for use in their landowner outreach programs.

Pennsylvania landowners who have protected their lands wrote the 15 essays that make up the publication. Who better to make the case for conservation than those who have done it? The



Continued on page 6

2007 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

Download registration materials at conserveland.org

Land Conserved by Land Trusts...

These figures are based on Land Trust Alliance 2005 census data with additions and corrections by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. The data includes only Pennsylvania land transactions that have been completed through December 31, 2005. Astericked (*) land trusts have also protected substantial acreage outside Pennsylvania, which is not included in totals.

Acreage Owned by Land Trusts in PA

44,813 acres are owned & managed in PA, as of the end of 2005, an increase of 17% over 2003.

1	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	10,150	28	Armstrong Cty Conservancy Charitable Trust	172
2	Natural Lands Trust*	6,502	29	Seneca Highlands Conservancy	150
3	Lancaster County Conservancy	2,294	30	North Branch Land Trust	143
4	Brandywine Conservancy*	2,230	31	Willistown Conservation Trust	142
5	Wildlands Conservancy	2,083	32	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	126
6	Heritage Conservancy	1,512	33	Appalachian Trail Conservancy*	114
7	Allegheny Land Trust	1,100	34	Cumberland Valley Rails to Trails Council	91
8	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	637	35	London Britain Land Trust	75
9	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	626	36	French Creek Valley Conservancy	72
10	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	600	37	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Assn, Inc.	67
11	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	589	38	North Fork Conservancy	56
12	Berks County Conservancy	462	39	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	47
13	Somerset County Conservancy	448	40	Scott Conservancy	47
14	Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania	426	41	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	37
15	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*	407	42	Fox Chapel Area Land Trust	33
16	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	400	43	Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	33
17	Hollow Oak Land Trust	390	44	Kennett Township Land Trust	26
18	Roaring Run Watershed Association	368	45	Chartiers Nature Conservancy	22
19	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	341	46	Manada Conservancy	20
20	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	330	47	West Vincent Land Trust, Inc.	15
21	Mount Nittany Conservancy	330	48	Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg	10
22	Allegheny Valley Trails Association	300	49	Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, Inc.	10
23	Conemaugh Valley Conservancy	297	50	Neighborhood Gardens Association	7
24	Westmoreland Conservancy	274	51	ClearWater Conservancy	6
25	Montour Trail Council	220	52	Land Conservancy of Adams County	6
26	Countryside Conservancy	215	53	Independence Conservancy	5
27	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	192	54	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	1

Acreage Transferred to Government for Conservation in PA

240,791 acres have been transferred, over time, to state and local government by land trusts as of the end of 2005, an increase of 11% over 2003.

1	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	164,623	13	Berks County Conservancy	280
2	Wildlands Conservancy	42,051	14	Natural Lands Trust*	232
3	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	5,627	15	Lower Merion Conservancy	105
4	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	5,140	16	French Creek Valley Conservancy	100
5	Seneca Highlands Conservancy	3,500	17	Westmoreland Conservancy	57
6	ClearWater Conservancy	2,443	18	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	25
7	Trust for Public Land	1,200	19	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	25
8	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	1,104	20	The Wallace Trust	22
9	Lancaster County Conservancy	600	21	Heritage Conservancy	17
10	Armstrong Cty Conservancy Charitable Trust	462	22	Brandywine Conservancy*	10
11	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	361	23	Mount Nittany Conservancy	2

Acreage Under Easement in PA

151,484 acres are held under conservation easements as of the end of 2005, an increase of 30% over 2003.

1	Brandywine Conservancy*	29,834
2	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	28,982
3	Lancaster Farmland Trust	13,950
4	Natural Lands Trust*	12,440
5	Wildlands Conservancy	6,542
6	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	5,600
7	North Branch Land Trust	5,600
8	Berks County Conservancy	4,540
9	Heritage Conservancy	3,853
10	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	3,673
11	Land Conservancy of Adams County	3,491
12	Delaware Highlands Conservancy*	3,300
13	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	3,000
14	Tinicum Conservancy	3,000
15	Bedminster Land Conservancy	2,234
16	Montgomery County Lands Trust	2,149
17	Willistown Conservation Trust	1,633
18	North American Land Trust*	1,130
19	E.L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna Cty	900
20	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	842
21	Lancaster County Conservancy	800
22	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	778
23	ClearWater Conservancy	616
24	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	512
25	Countryside Conservancy	500
26	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	482
27	Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	425
28	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	420
29	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Assn, Inc.	419
30	Centre County Farmland Trust	269
31	Manada Conservancy	230
32	French Creek Valley Conservancy	220
33	Lebanon Valley Conservancy	220
34	West Vincent Land Trust, Inc.	200
35	Kennett Township Land Trust	150
36	Allegheny Land Trust	150
37	Pennsbury Land Trust	150
38	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	131
39	Buck Hill Falls Conservation Foundation	125
40	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	117
41	Eden Hill Conservancy	113
42	Montour Trail Council	105
43	The Wallace Trust	104
44	Conservancy of Montgomery County	83
45	Schuylkill County Conservancy	79
46	Lower Merion Conservancy	50
47	Chestnut Hill Historical Society	49
48	Appalachian Trail Conservancy*	47
49	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	40
50	Somerset County Conservancy	32
51	Fox Chapel Area Land Trust	24
52	London Britain Land Trust	14
53	Hollow Oak Land Trust	6
54	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	5
55	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	1

Total # of Easements Held in PA

A total of 1,811 conservation easements are held in PA.

1	Brandywine Conservancy*	402
2	Lancaster Farmland Trust	237
3	Natural Lands Trust*	206
4	French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	115
5	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	72
6	Berks County Conservancy	72
7	Heritage Conservancy	70
8	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	63
9	Tinicum Conservancy	60
10	Land Conservancy of Adams County	58
11	Chestnut Hill Historical Society	56
12	Bedminster Land Conservancy	51
13	Willistown Conservation Trust	46
14	Wildlands Conservancy	45
15	Delaware Highlands Conservancy*	32
16	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	30
17	North American Land Trust*	29
18	Lancaster County Conservancy	27
19	Montgomery County Lands Trust	25
20	North Branch Land Trust	23
21	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	13
22	Lower Merion Conservancy	12
23	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	12
24	The Wallace Trust	12
25	Countryside Conservancy	10
26	Kennett Township Land Trust	10
27	Pennsbury Land Trust	10
28	West Vincent Land Trust, Inc.	10
29	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association, Inc.	9
30	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	8
31	ClearWater Conservancy	7
32	Conservancy of Montgomery County	7
33	French Creek Valley Conservancy	7
34	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	4
35	Allegheny Land Trust	3
36	Appalachian Trail Conservancy*	3
37	E.L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna County	3
38	Manada Conservancy	3
39	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	2
40	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	2
41	Centre County Farmland Trust	2
42	Lebanon Valley Conservancy	2
43	London Britain Land Trust	2
44	Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	2
45	Buck Hill Falls Conservation Foundation	1
46	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	1
47	Eden Hill Conservancy	1
48	Fox Chapel Area Land Trust	1
49	Hollow Oak Land Trust	1
50	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	1
51	Montour Trail Council	1
52	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	1
53	Schuylkill County Conservancy	1
54	Somerset County Conservancy	1
55	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*	1

PA Easement Transactions in 2005

Land trusts completed 153 conservation easement transactions in 2005.

1	Lancaster Farmland Trust	28
2	Natural Lands Trust*	25
3	Heritage Conservancy	11
4	Tinicum Conservancy	11
5	Bedminster Land Conservancy	10
6	Land Conservancy of Adams County	10
7	Brandywine Conservancy*	9
8	North American Land Trust*	9
9	Willistown Conservation Trust	7
10	Farm & Nat'l Lands Trust of York County	6
11	Delaware Highlands Conservancy*	4
12	Berks County Conservancy	3
13	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	3
14	Kennett Township Land Trust	3
15	Montgomery County Lands Trust	3
16	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	3
17	ClearWater Conservancy	2
18	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	2
19	The Wallace Trust	2
20	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	1
21	Centre County Farmland Trust	1
22	Conservancy of Montgomery County	1
23	Countryside Conservancy	1
24	E.L. Rose Conservancy of Susquehanna Cty	1
25	Hollow Oak Land Trust	1
26	Pennsbury Land Trust	1
27	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	1
28	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association, Inc.	1
29	Wildlands Conservancy	1

PA Land Acquisitions in 2005

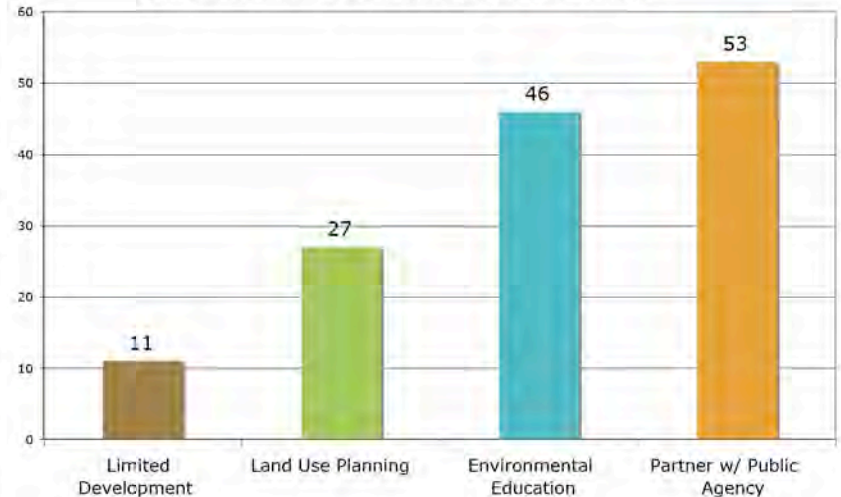
Land trusts acquired 38 properties in Pennsylvania in 2005.

1	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	8
2	Natural Lands Trust*	7
3	Berks County Conservancy	6
4	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	4
5	Countryside Conservancy	2
6	Lancaster County Conservancy	2
7	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	2
9	Allegheny Land Trust	1
9	Armstrong Cty Conservancy Charitable Trust	1
10	Conservancy of Montgomery County	1
11	Hollow Oak Land Trust	1
12	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	1
13	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	1
14	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*	1
15	Willistown Conservation Trust	1

The Land Trust Alliance recognizes 95 land trusts in Pennsylvania. Seventy-seven of these organizations have reported protecting land through one or more means.

- Eight-three percent (83%) of PA land trusts were founded in the last 25 years.
- Fifty-four percent (54%) of PA land trusts were founded since 1990.

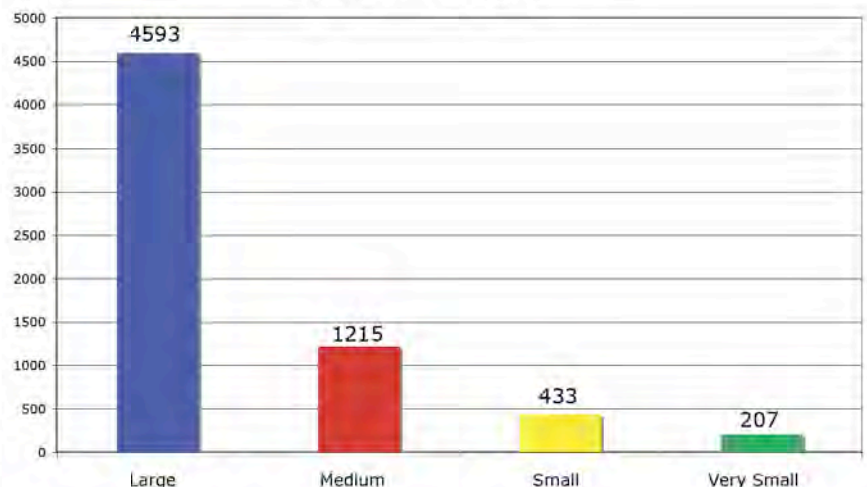
Other Activities Undertaken by Land Trusts



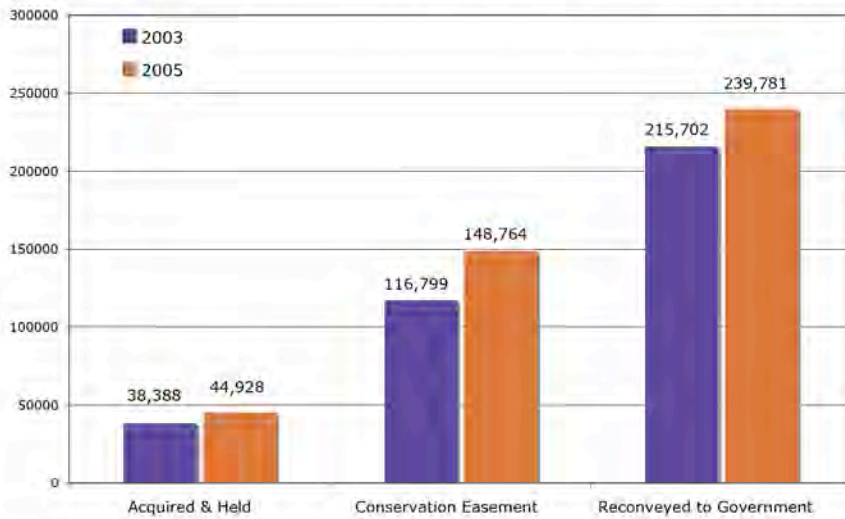
- Seventy-three percent (73%) of land trusts in Pennsylvania are small or very small and have three employees or less.
- Thirty-seven percent (37%) of land trusts are entirely volunteer-based.
- Eighteen land trusts operate with one part-time staff person; seventeen land trusts employ 1 - 3.5 staff persons; and fifty-three land trusts employ 4 or more staff persons.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of land trusts reported 100 or more financial supporters.
- 89,391 Pennsylvanians are members or supporters of a Pennsylvania land trust.

■ Large ≥10 employees ■ Medium 4-9 employees
 ■ Small 1-3.5 employees ■ Very Small <1

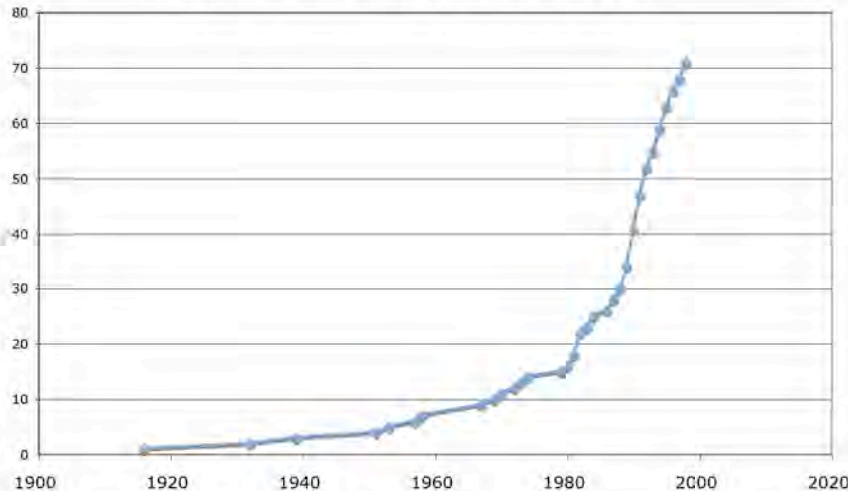
Average # of Financial Supporters by Organizational Size



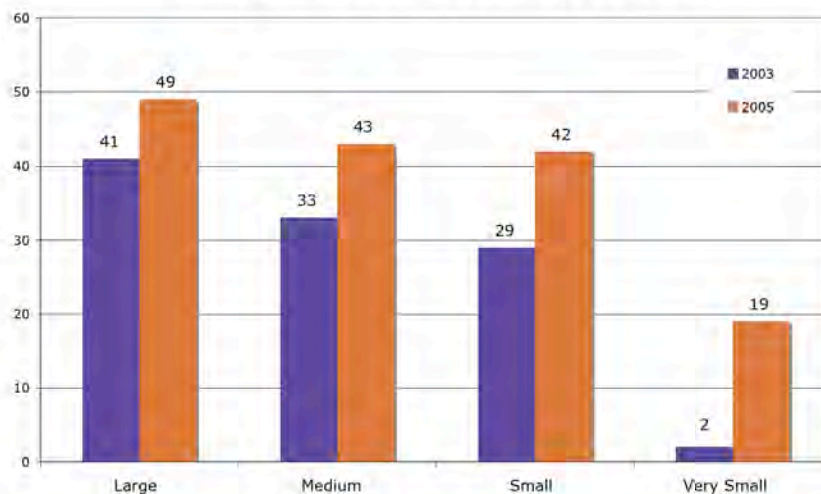
Total Acreages Protected by PA Land Trusts, 2003 vs 2005



Land Trusts Operating in PA by Year



of Conservation Easement Transactions by Organizational Size, 2003 vs 2005



Land Protection in Pennsylvania

As of 12/31/05, 433,473 acres have been protected by Pennsylvania land trusts. Fifty-five percent (55%) of this land was protected through reconveyance to government; 35% protected through easements; and 10% protected through acquiring and holding land.

Conservation Easements - A total of 1748 easements are held among land trusts in PA; 162 conservation easements were executed in 2005 alone, a 46% increase from 2003's execution rate.

- Fifty-five land trusts hold conservation easements - this has increased from 44 in 2003, a 20% increase.
- Thirty land trusts reported conservation easement transactions in 2005.
- Large land trusts hold 47% of all easements and 59% of the easement acreage.
- Small and very small land trusts are making significant gains in land protection and hold a total of 550 easements.
- In 2005 alone, these small/very small land trusts executed 61 easements, making up for nearly 38% of the total number of easements acquired in that year.
- A total of thirty-six amendments have been granted over the years on easements currently held by land trusts.

Acquisition

- 44,927 acres are owned by 55 land trusts.
- Seventy-three percent (73%) of land protected through acquisitions was completed by large land trusts.
- Thirty-eight properties were acquired by land trusts in 2005 by a total of 14 land trusts.
- Land trusts increased their land holdings by 6,539 acres between 2003 and 2005.
- Small and very small land trusts acquired thirteen properties in 2005 or 29% of the year's acquisition transactions.

Reconveyance

- 24,079 acres have been reconveyed to government between 2003 and 2005.
- Historically, large land trusts account for 92% of the acreage reconveyed. ☐

Source: Based on LTA Census data, 2003/2005 with additions and corrections by PALTA.

PALTA staff & board congratulate Martin Gromulat on his new position with DCNR and wish him well. We look forward to working with him in his new role.

New Outreach Publication (cont'd)

Continued from page 1

publication focuses on these landowners and their conservation choices rather than any particular land trust.

Steve Fries, Manager of Human Resources Communications and Development for the Alcoa North America Rolled Products and a representative for the Foundation explained the Alcoa Foundation's reason for sponsoring the outreach effort: "The stories that are told will inspire others to care for the land."

Landowners and others interested in obtaining a copy of *In Their Own Words* should contact their local land trust. (Use the "Find a Land Trust" feature at conserveland.org to find an organization working in your community.) An online version of *In Their Own Words* is available at conserveland.org.

For more information, email nfaraguna@conserveland.org

PALTA would also like to thank:

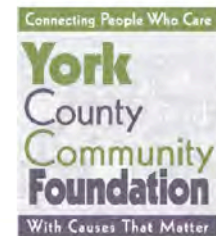
*Mr. & Mrs. Louis J. Appell, Jr.
Gerard Kipp
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as well as the In Their Own Words authors for sharing their stories.

Special Thanks to Sponsors of In Their Own Words



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Coming in May 2007

Pennsylvania Model Fishing Access Easement

Permanent Extension of the Easement Donation Tax Incentive

U. S. Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Grassley (R-IA) have introduced S. 469 to make the recently expanded tax incentive for conservation easement donations permanent. Congressmen Dave Camp (R-MI) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) have introduced a similar bill, H.R. 1576 in the U.S. House. President Bush's budget includes a provision to make the incentive permanent.

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association played a lead role in the 2006 expansion of the tax incentive and seeks to make the incentive permanent. In the months ahead, PALTA will coordinate calls for action with the Land Trust Alliance. For breaking news on the tax incentive, visit www.lta.org/publicpolicy. ☞



Don Young, President of Ducks Unlimited; Mary Pope Hutson, COO of LTA; and Andy Loza, Executive Director of PALTA at the bill signing on 8/17/06.

The Legacy Property Fund: A Home for Conservation

Would you like to be able to convert a donor's home into cash for conservation? What if you could help your donors place their home or property under a perpetual conservation easement *and* retain cash from the property for your land trust? What if the donor needed some cash out of the sale, needed to continue living on the property for a period of time, or had an interest in giving a portion of the proceeds to multiple conservation projects across Pennsylvania? What if you could help them accomplish all of these things with no cost, liability or hassle to your organization?



Appreciated property can help land trusts protect land by converting some of that property value into cash for conservation. When property has appreciated significantly, a landowner may gain substantial capital gains relief *and* an income tax deduction from a tool developed by the Keystone Conservation Trust (KCT)

called the Legacy Property Fund (LPF).

A recent transaction illustrates how the LPF works. This summer, a landowner decided to donate his home to KCT through its LPF in order to fund a gift to

his favorite non-profit. Using the LPF saved him 16% on his tax bill, enabling him to increase his charitable gift substantially. KCT handled all aspects of the transaction for both donor and the recipient nonprofit. The gift of nearly \$300,000 not only provides the non-

profit with a substantial contribution, but also provides the donor with future income through a charitable gift annuity. This donation provided a significantly increased gift to the organization, a tax benefit to the donor, and a simple transaction for all parties.

For more information, call Keystone Conservation Trust at 610-688-3151 or visit KCT's website at www.keystoneconservation.org. ☞

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation
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Cooks Creek Conservancy
Countryside Conservancy
Delaware Highlands Conservancy
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Heritage Conservancy
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Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy
Mokoma Conservancy
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Mount Nittany Conservancy
Natural Lands Trust
The Nature Conservancy, Pa. Chapter
Neighborhood Gardens Association
North American Land Trust
North Branch Land Trust
Northcentral Pa. Conservancy
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Pennsbury Land Trust
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Potomac Conservancy
The Radnor Conservancy
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Regional Trail Corporation
Schuylkill County Conservancy
Solebury Twnshp. Land Preserv. Comm.
Somerset County Conservancy
Tinicum Conservancy
Tri-County Rails-to-Trails
The Trust for Public Land
The Wallace Trust
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
West Pikeland Land Trust
Wild Waterways Conservancy
Wildlands Conservancy
Willistown Conservation Trust
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assn.



**PENNSYLVANIA
LAND TRUST
ASSOCIATION**

www.conserveland.org

105 Locust Street, Suite 300
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1453

Conserveland Editor, Nicole Faraguna
nfaraguna@conserveland.org

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association was created by land trust volunteers and staff who recognized the need for an association that can focus on the broad needs of the conservation movement—to take on activities that no one organization could effectively handle or wish to handle on its own.

Eighty conservation organizations make up the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

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