



Land Trust Membership Guidelines & Application

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Texas Land Trust Council. New applicants must meet the criteria identified below and submit the required documentation in order to be considered for membership. TLTC will review these materials and undertake any additional inquiries it deems appropriate. The TLTC Board of Directors will review new applications for land trust membership as soon as possible and vote upon each new application to the Council at one of its regularly scheduled board meetings. The decision will be final.

Land Trust members who continue to operate according to the TLTC criteria will be invited to renew their membership on an annual basis. TLTC reserves the right to make all decisions regarding membership, and termination of the same, in its sole and complete discretion.

TLTC Land Trust Membership Criteria

1. The organization must be both a nonprofit corporation and a public charity that meets IRS criteria for the public support test.
2. The organization must carry out programs and activities related to the protection and stewardship of land, such as the acquisition of conservation easements and fee interests in real property for land and water conservation purposes. Stewardship encompasses the range of activities involved in managing a property or conservation easement and its attendant resources for conservation purposes.
3. The organization must pay membership dues annually, according to the current dues schedule.

To be considered for land trust membership, entities must submit documentation for review by the TLTC Board of Directors, including their:

1. Articles of Incorporation;
2. Bylaws;
3. Copy of letter from IRS indicating their charitable status (501c3, etc.);
4. Copy of your latest IRS filed 990 for your organization (if a new organization, provide latest financial statement and/or balance sheet);
5. List of land conservation projects currently in the organization's portfolio, including information on project location, acreage, year recorded, owner and easement holder (if applicable);
6. Copy of latest recorded conservation easement and accompanying Baseline Documentation report;
7. Policy on conservation easement stewardship and funding;
8. List of the current Board of Directors or other governing body of the organization;
9. List of all financial donors above \$500 to the organization in the past 12 months;
10. Copies of the minutes of all meetings of the organization's Board of Directors for the preceding 6 meetings;
11. Documentation indicating that the Board of Directors of the organization has adopted the *Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices**, as their guidance for ethical and responsible operation of a land trust.

*TLTC reserves the right to request any additional documents or information to make a membership determination.

*Land trusts are required to meet all indicator practices in order to receive national accreditation. Thus, TLTC requires all its member land trusts to adopt the national Standards and Practices in order to further the progress and sustainability of the land trust movement as a whole. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about Land Trust Standards & Practices please visit the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) website at www.lta.org

Contact TLTC at 512-994-TLTC(8582) or email info@texaslandtrustcouncil.org