



# Land Trust Alliance Updates

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Land Trust Alliance

Massachusetts Conservation Partners Meeting September 12, 2025



# RALLY 2025



- Over 1,600 attendees
- 9 Field Trips
- 101 Sessions
- 1st Land & Water Summit





# Advancing Conservation Excellence

## Organizational Assessments & Implementation Grants

- Congratulations to the 10 land trusts selected to participate!
  - Brewster Conservation Trust
  - The 300 Committee Land Trust
  - Dennis Conservation Land Trust
  - Dover Land Conservation Trust
  - Greater Worcester Land Trust
  - Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
  - Metacomet Land Trust
  - Nantucket Land & Water Council
  - Opacum Land Trust
  - Williamstown Rural Lands

# Advancing Conservation Excellence

## Targeted Microgrants

- Modest grants (\$1,000-\$2,500) to initiate specific projects to assist with organizational development and activities to sustain your work.
- This program is an ideal resource for land trusts looking to make strategic, low-cost improvements.
- Applications are open until September 15.
- Questions? Email Jen Plowden ([jplowden@lta.org](mailto:jplowden@lta.org))



# Advancing Conservation Excellence

## Stewardship Short Course

- Learn best practices and hear from your colleagues about how they've addressed common challenges
- 4 virtual sessions, 90 minutes each:
  - January 20 – Introduction to conservation restriction stewardship
  - January 27 – Conservation restriction stewardship continued
  - February 3 – Fee land stewardship
  - February 10 – Insurance and funding stewardship programs
- Cost: \$50 for either members of MLTC or LTA, \$75 non-members.
- **Sign up once to join all sessions!** Price is per organization, so come one, come all!

# Advancing Conservation Excellence

## Building the Bench: 2026 Leadership Summit

- A one-day summit for MA land trust leaders – including executive directors, members of staffed leadership teams, and board members.
- Strengthen skills, build your network, discuss critical issues shaping conservation
- Please save the date!
  - June 24, 2026
  - Wildlands Stewardship Training Center, Plymouth, MA
- Interested or have questions?
  - Email Jen Plowden at [jplowden@lta.org](mailto:jplowden@lta.org)

# Land Trust Alliance Job Board

[landtrustalliance.org/job-board](https://landtrustalliance.org/job-board)

Submit a job [here](#).

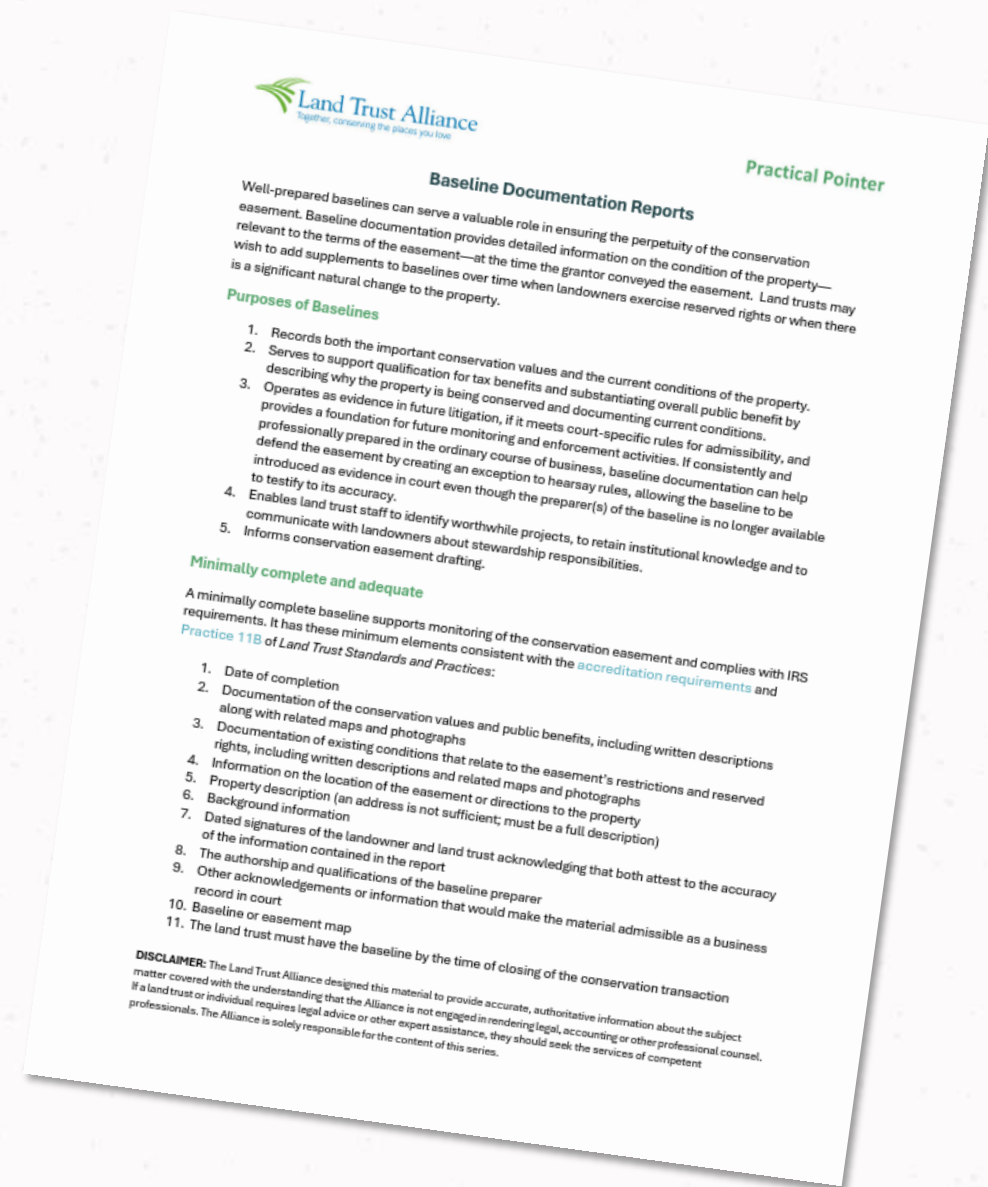
- Executive director, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy (CT)
- Development and communications manager, Joshua's Trust (CT)
- Executive director, Maine Woodland Owners (ME)
- Staff accountant, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (CT)
- Community Engagement Coordinator, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy
- **And more!**



# \*New\* Practical Pointer

## Baseline Documentation Reports

- If consistently and professionally prepared in the ordinary course of business, baseline documentation can help defend the easement by creating an exception to hearsay rules, allowing the baseline to be introduced as evidence in court even though the preparer(s) of the baseline is no longer available to testify to its accuracy.
- This [factsheet](#) explains the purpose of baselines, describes "minimally complete and adequate," and discusses certification and storage.





# \*Updated\* Practical Pointer

- What you need to know from Tax Cases (Shorn of Nuance)
- Conservation tax law continues to evolve.
- We prepared [this summary](#) of the basic results of conservation tax cases to aid land trusts, but not to give tax, legal, or other advice.
- To aid digestion, we distilled the cases to only their essential points and removed nuance.



# Learning Paths – Resource Center

## Just added



### STEWARDSHIP

#### Conservation easement stewardship

Alliance resources to help your land trust steward its easements



### STEWARDSHIP

#### Fee land stewardship

Alliance resources to help your land trust steward the properties it owns

## Also available



### LAND PROTECTION

#### Acquisition

Understand the steps in acquiring land or conservation easements



### ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

#### For board members

Alliance resources specifically for land trust board members



### FINANCE

#### Financial management

The nuts and bolts of managing your land trust's finances

A group of people, mostly older adults, are sitting on a grassy field. They are engaged in a discussion, with some looking at papers or folders. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and greenery.

# Wentworth Leadership Program

Land trusts with in-depth training from the Alliance are better equipped to handle the nuances of land conservation. The Leadership Program is one way we're strengthening land conservation across America.

- A multi-year endeavor designed to empower executive directors to heighten their organization's innovation, capacity and strategy. Coached by top experts, participants explore mission and strategy, leadership skills, financial management and fundraising. You can submit an interest [form](#) now.



# Upcoming national webinars

- **September and October**
- [Unrestrict Your Mind: Fundraising for a Whole Organization](#) - 9/25/2025
- [Basics of Real Estate Appraisals for Conservation Easement and Fee Simple Transactions](#) - 10/7/2025
- [Becoming a Stewardship-Focused Land Trust](#) - 10/9/2025
- [Leading Your Land Trust to Be the Best Place to Work](#) - 10/15/2025
- [Environmental Justice 101: Land Trust Allyship in Environmental Justice Work](#) 10/22/2025
- [Building Resilient Communities: The Role of Land Conservation in Climate Adaptation](#) - 10/23/2025
- [Planning and Communicating for Excellent Public Access](#) - 10/29/2025
- [Build Your Tax Foundation: Six Land Conservation Topics](#) - 10/30/2025

# Upcoming national webinars

- **November and December**
- [Acquiring Land and Conservation Easements: Title Review](#) - 11/3/2025
- [Preventing Fieldwork Problems: Heat and Ticks](#) - 11/5/2025
- [The What, How and Why of Drones for Land Trusts](#) - 11/6/2025
- [Providing Health Benefits at Your Land Trust](#) - 11/17/2025 (Free for members)
- [Understanding insurance and avoiding common mistakes that can jeopardize coverage](#) – 11/20/2025 (Free Risk Management webinar)
- [Benefits and Risks of Recreational and Educational Public Access on Fee Lands](#) -12/3/2025
- [Tips from Terrafirma](#) - 12/4/2025 (Free Risk Management webinar)
- [Once Upon a Time: How to Tell More Memorable Stories](#) - 12/10/2025
- [Good Processes, Healthy Organizations: How to See What's Working and What's Missing](#) - 12/11/2025

# Thank you

We'd love to connect. Please reach out!

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