[**Policy 1.1 Ethics**](#bookmark=id.gjdgxs)

**Committee Responsible**: Executive Committee

**Adopted**: **[DATE]**

**Amended**: **[DATE]**

**Purpose**

It is the intent of the Land Trust to maintain the highest level of credibility, confidence, and trust with the community it serves and all parties with whom it works. All Land Trust operations are conducted based on conservation values.

**Policy**

The conservation values that we promote through our mission and our actions are:

1. Creating a legacy of conservation of land, water and scenic resources
2. Stewarding our protected land
3. Educating people about conservation and protection of land
4. Promoting environmental health among all ecosystems
5. Connecting people to the land
6. Facilitating community engagement in land protection
7. Fostering an appreciation of nature

The Directors of the Land Trust dedicate themselves to carrying out the mission of this organization. As such, they adhere to the following tenets:

1. Recognize that the chief function of the Land Trust is to serve the best interests of our constituency and the conservation values we hold dear.
2. Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and effectiveness.
3. Respect the structure and responsibilities of the Board, provide it with facts and advice as a basis for making policy decisions, and uphold and implement policies adopted by the Board.
4. Conduct our organizational and operational duties in accordance with the By-laws and with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion and a culture that respects diversity.
5. Exercise the discretionary authority we have under the law to carry out the mission of the organization.
6. Serve with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness in carrying out the organization's mission.
7. Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in all our activities in order to inspire confidence and trust in our activities.
8. Avoid any interest or activity that is in conflict with our official duties.
9. Respect and protect privileged information to which we have access in the course of our official duties. Directors should keep information learned during the course of Board activities in confidence when that information is not generally available to the public. Directors are not to discuss donor information or landowner/land project details with anyone outside of the Land Trust, except as has been disclosed to the public media at the discretion of the Board or designee.
10. Strive for personal and professional excellence and encourage the professional developments of others.