

# Groundswell Conservancy Policy

**Name:** Easement Enforcement Endowment

**Approval:** Approved by Stewardship Committee June 3, 2004  
Approved by Development Committee October 8, 2004  
Adopted by Executive Committee February 9, 2005  
Amended by Executive Committee June 14, 2010  
Amended by Board of Directors November 16, 2011  
Amended by Executive Committee October 20, 2016  
Amended by Executive Committee October 14, 2020

Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices 6A5. Fiscal Health. Build and maintain dedicated or restricted funds sufficient to cover the long-term costs of stewarding and defending the land trust's land and conservation easements

For every easement that Groundswell Conservancy accepts, we must receive a payment or contribution of at least \$10,000 to support our long-term obligation to steward and defend the easement. Groundswell Conservancy deposits these funds into our Easement Endowment Fund held at Madison Community Foundation. The amount is based on estimates of annual monitoring and periodic enforcement costs. However, the payment for easements co-held with partners who share in monitoring and enforcement responsibilities is \$8,000.

Groundswell Conservancy will review and consider adjusting the payment amount every three years.

If an agency funder places a limit on the amount of the payment or contribution that may be made by the landowner on whose property the easement would be placed, and if that limit is below the amount determined by the Endowment Worksheet, then the lower limit will be the required payment or contribution amount.

Payments or contributions to the Fund can come from a variety of sources, including:

- Landowner
  - by payment or contribution at time easement is conveyed;
  - by payment or contribution made in installments over time.
  
- Other payments or contributions
  - fundraising from general membership;
  - fundraising from neighboring landowners or other interested parties;
  - special fundraising campaign.

Payees and donors shall be informed that payments/contributions to the Easement Endowment Fund are pooled for the benefit of all easements held by Groundswell Conservancy.

Groundswell Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Policies may be updated to reflect changing accreditation standards and practices, as well as changing local organizational needs.