

Groundswell Conservancy Policy

Name: **Land Management Planning and Funding**

Approval: Approved by Executive Committee June 8, 2006
 Amended by Executive Committee February 9, 2018
 Amended by Executive Committee October 14, 2020

Standard 12. Fee Land Stewardship

A. Funding Land Stewardship. 1. Determine the immediate financial and management implications of each conservation property acquisition and estimate the long-term implications. 2. Anticipate and track costs associated with long-term land management, stewardship and enforcement of conservation properties.

B. Land Management and Stewardship. 1. Develop a written land management plan for each conservation property within 12 months after acquiring the land to: (a) Identify the property's conservation values, including any significant cultural and natural features or those that have significant community value; (b) Identify the overall management goals for the property; (c) Identify activities to achieve the goals and to reduce any risks or threats to the conservation values; (d) Specify the uses that are appropriate for the property, in keeping with the property's conservation values, any restrictions and donor or funder requirements; provide public access opportunities as appropriate to the property and the land trust's mission. 2. Manage each conservation property in accordance with its management plan, and review and update the plan as necessary. 3. Perform administrative duties (such as paying insurance, filing required forms, keeping records) in a timely and responsible manner. 4. Maintain the property in a manner that retains the land trust's public credibility, manages community expectations and minimizes risk.

In advance of the acquisition of property Groundswell Conservancy intends to hold in fee ownership, Groundswell Conservancy determines if ownership would incur land stewardship costs (including enforcement) that are not likely to be met through annual fundraising activities or from revenue from crop leases, CRP payments, etc. If any costs are not likely to be covered by these means, Groundswell Conservancy creates a plan to secure these funds in a certain period of time.

A management plan will be developed within 12 months after a property is acquired. For parcels that are additions to our natural preserves, Groundswell will update the existing nature preserve land management plan within 12 months of acquisition of the additional parcel. Groundswell will develop management plans for properties within 12 months of acquisition even if the property is intended for eventual transfer or sale. The management plan must consider at least the following: the property's conservation values, including any significant cultural and natural features or those that have significant community value; (b) the overall management goals for the property; (c) activities to achieve the goals and to reduce any risks or threats to the conservation values; (d) the uses that are appropriate for the property, with consideration given to these factors: the property's conservation values, any restrictions due to donor or funder requirements, and public access opportunities appropriate to the property and Groundswell Conservancy's mission.

Groundswell Conservancy will manage its properties in accordance with its management plans and review and update the plans as necessary.

Groundswell Conservancy will perform administrative duties related to land stewardship (such as paying insurance, filing required forms, keeping records) in a timely and responsible manner.

Groundswell Conservancy will maintain its properties in a manner that retains Groundswell Conservancy's public credibility and minimizes risk.

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.