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**We help people like you protect the places you love.** Our website has information and resources for landowners, land trusts, policymakers, partner organizations, and others who care about land protection.

Land conservation is a team effort and Gathering Waters Conservancy depends on the generosity of people like you. To learn about membership and other ways to support our work, visit our website or call (608) 251-9131.

[www.gatheringwaters.org](http://www.gatheringwaters.org)

*Gathering Waters Conservancy's mission is to help the people and communities of Wisconsin protect their land and water resources by strengthening the state's land trust movement.*



*because place matters*



*Protecting the places that make Wisconsin special*

**Everyone has a special place.** It might be a quiet lake where your grandfather taught you to fish. It could be the prairie where you walk your dog. Maybe it's the best blackberry patch on your family's farm, or a forest hollow where you take your kids for picnics.

Wisconsin is full of special places. Some, like the Great Lakes, or the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, are grand and magnificent. Others are smaller and more personal—the secret natural treasures in your own backyard. We are working to protect all of these places for the future.

*"For thousands of years, people lived and hunted and walked and dreamed on this place we call ours... I am powerless to know what lies ahead except for one thing—this farm will remain as we love it." - Maureen Ash, landowner, Pierce County, WI*



Gathering Waters Conservancy works with land trusts and individuals around Wisconsin to ensure a legacy of wild lands and special places for our children.



*Protecting Places Together*





## What is a land trust?

Land trusts are private, non-profit organizations that exist that protects natural places. While some land trusts work on a national scale, most work regionally or locally. Land trusts are run by people who understand that natural resources are important in our communities.

Land trusts are community institutions, like local libraries. By protecting the places that make a community a great place to live, work, and play, land trusts promote the well-being of people and sustain the outdoor traditions that are part of our Wisconsin heritage.

## How does it work?

Land trusts work with individuals and families who want to protect their land for future generations. This protection can take many forms. It can mean preventing subdivision on a family farm creating a natural area that is open to the public for recreation. It can also mean preventing subdivision on a family farm or restoring habitat for rare species. Land trusts use a variety of conservation tools that are flexible enough to help each landowner protect the values they cherish.

More than 50 land trusts are protecting land in Wisconsin. Chances are that there is one working in your community, protecting the places that are special to you.

## What is Gathering Waters Conservancy?

**Gathering Waters Conservancy** is a statewide resource center for land conservation in Wisconsin. We are non-profit and non-partisan. We believe that land trusts play a vital and unique role as stewards of Wisconsin's natural places. Our mission is to help them succeed.

## A statewide voice

Gathering Waters Conservancy supports Wisconsin's land trusts by championing state policies and programs that protect natural places—like the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. We also get the word out about the great work that land trusts do.

## An information hub

Have a question about land conservation? Ask Gathering Waters Conservancy. We provide training, one-on-one consultation and technical assistance to land trusts. We also provide information to landowners, local governments, partner organizations, and anyone else interested in learning more about private land protection.

## A record of success

Since Gathering Waters Conservancy was founded in 1994, the land trust movement in Wisconsin has taken off. When we formed, there were fewer than a dozen land trusts in the state. Now there are more than fifty. Together, we have protected over 130,000 acres of Wisconsin's special places.

Gathering Waters Conservancy is widely recognized as the leading land trust resource center in the nation. We are proud to be able to help Wisconsin's land trusts safeguard our state's special places so that that they will be there for our children and grandchildren to treasure.



*"I know of no movement as radical, as convincing, as effective, and as compassionate as the land trust movement. It is like water, seeping into the most unexpected places."*

*-Terry Tempest Williams, author and conservationist*

