

Conservation Vocabulary

When we talk about saving and, we tend to use some specialized terms. Have a look at a few of our most common terms and what we mean by them.



Conservation: preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment, natural ecosystems, vegetation, and wildlife

Land Trust: a private, nonprofit organization that works to conserve land.

Conservation Easement: a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners keep many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. The land trust must enforce the terms of the easement through stewardship in perpetuity.

Stewardship: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

Baseline Report: a compilation of information that documents the current condition and conservation values of the property at the time a conservation easement is granted, generally including maps, photographs and a description of significant features. The report is used to monitor and enforce the easement, and is signed by the landowner and the Conservancy.

Monitoring Report: an evaluation or report which is generated annually and describes the state and conditions of a conservation easement at that time.

Perpetuity: endless or indefinitely long duration or existence; eternity.