

Little Traverse Conservancy

Conservation Easement Stewardship Philosophy and Principles



Little Traverse Conservancy's mission is to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan. As part of this mission, we help private landowners protect the natural resources on their property by holding conservation easements for the benefit of current and future generations. As part of our commitment to land protection we are obligated to monitor, enforce, and uphold conservation easements. Because we believe that open communication, collaboration, and allying with landowners is best for protecting private land in the immediate and the long term future, our goal is to build positive working relationships with landowners.

Achieving Our Goal

- Provide an easily accessible contact person for easement related questions.
- Communicate with landowners through newsletters, our website, and making staff persons available during annual visits or any other time throughout the year.
- Maintain a vigilant monitoring program to head off potential major violations.
- Limit needless red-tape while protecting the conservation values.
- Work with landowners to find solutions to reasonable concerns and needs.
- Be efficient, timely, and trustworthy in our interactions with landowners.
- Serve as a source of information and be able to refer landowners to helpful resources.

Position Statements

- We are committed to upholding the terms of each conservation easement.
- We start by assuming that landowners' actions were made in good faith.
- Our aim is to be a helpful advocate, a source of information, and when possible, to limit bureaucratic hurdles that landowners must cross when trying to responsibly manage their land consistent with the conservation values.
- We will encourage and foster voluntary corrections to easement violations.
- We will be ready to apply strict enforcement and corrective actions as a last option to uphold our ultimate responsibility to protect the natural resources and the stated conservation values of each conservation easement.