YOU LOVE YOUR LAND

You Can Protect It for Present and Future Generations

What is a Conservation Easement?

A Conservation Easement helps to protect your valuable land forever. Also called a land preservation agreement, it is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a willing landowner and a land trust. It permanently protects the important conservation values of a property, usually by limiting future development, although other restrictions may be included. Every agreement is unique and tailored to the landowner’s goals and the property’s characteristics.

The landowner continues to own and manage the land, subject to the restrictions detailed in the agreement. The land does not need to be open to public access, and future landowners are bound by the same terms.

“If I had the money, I would preserve every piece of natural land in the world. This is the piece I have, so that’s what I’ll protect...I have tremendous devotion to what’s wild.”

— Lou Barr

“On our farm, always there was the idea that this was just too precious a place to allow an unforeseen future. We are just caretakers...we’re just here for a very short time.”

— Anita Orlow
Healthy forests protect and filter the pristine waters of the Upper Delaware River region and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, including a thriving bald eagle population. They provide clean drinking water for people here and millions downstream in New York and Philadelphia, and create abundant outdoor recreational opportunities that contribute to the exceptional quality of life we all enjoy.

Protecting and stewarding your forests means that present and future generations will benefit from your actions.

“We in NYC are completely dependent on water that comes partly from the Upper Delaware region. Water is the source of life and it’s because of the Conservancy’s protection of land that our water is so pure. My land is a part of that. We’re all connected. And we need that connection to the land because it’s also a source of rejuvenation and recreation.”

– Helen Beichel

5,000 acres of land in the United States are developed every day. Conserving your working farms and forests ensures that these valuable lands are protected—and affordable—for the next generation of landowners, and helps to support a sustainable local economy.

“When our family started talking about a conservation easement, we had owned our forest for nearly 100 years and in that time period, the number of co-owners grew from two to nine. All held varying ideas on what the land meant to them and what should be done with it. Without protecting the land under a conservation easement, its long-term future was at risk. Nothing makes me happier than knowing that our cherished forestland is now protected forever, and that it still serves both as a place for our family to come together, and as a working forestland.”

– Leila Pinchot, Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Contact the Delaware Highlands Conservancy to learn more about conservation easements and all of your options for protecting and stewarding your land. We have experts to guide you through the entire process, and there is no cost or obligation to request information or schedule a meeting.

“The Delaware Highlands Conservancy helped us preserve our land in exactly the way we wanted to do it, but for other people who don’t really know what they want to do, the Conservancy can give them a very nice outline of what the easement can do for them and for their property.”

– Star Hesse and Michael Lovelace

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