



2015 Pennsylvania Land Trust Census Report

(includes transactions completed through 12/31/2015)

Compiled by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association

Land Trusts Expand Conserved Lands by 46% in Last Decade

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association's biennial census found that, in Pennsylvania between January 2006 and December 2015, land trusts:

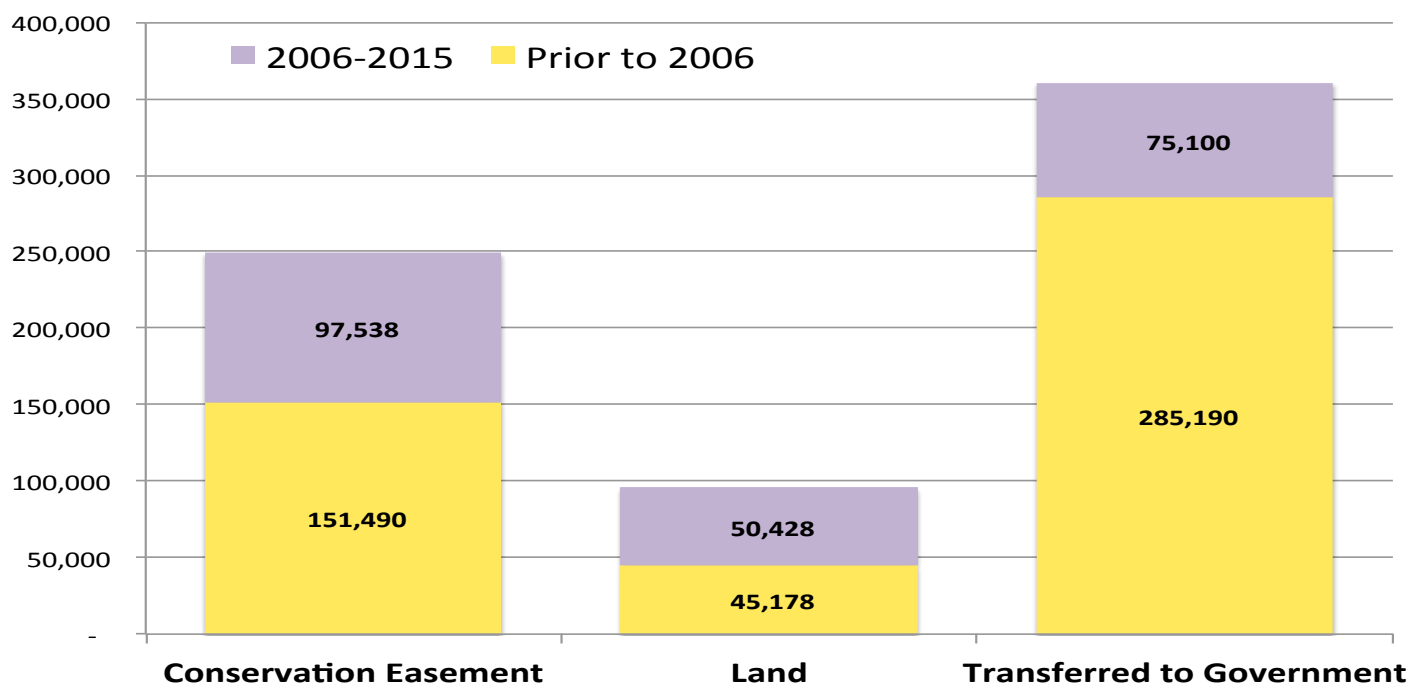
- conserved 223,000 acres* of land—348 square miles—roughly the area of Lehigh (or Lawrence) County;
- conserved, on average, 61 acres per day (a square mile every ten-and-a-half days);
- increased the acreage protected by conservation easements by 64%;
- increased the acreage owned in fee by land trusts by a whopping 112%; and
- increased by 26% the land transferred to governments for parks, gamelands, and other public conservation and recreational purposes.

In 2014 and 2015 alone, Pennsylvania land trusts protected 59 square miles of land, an area larger than the City of Pittsburgh.

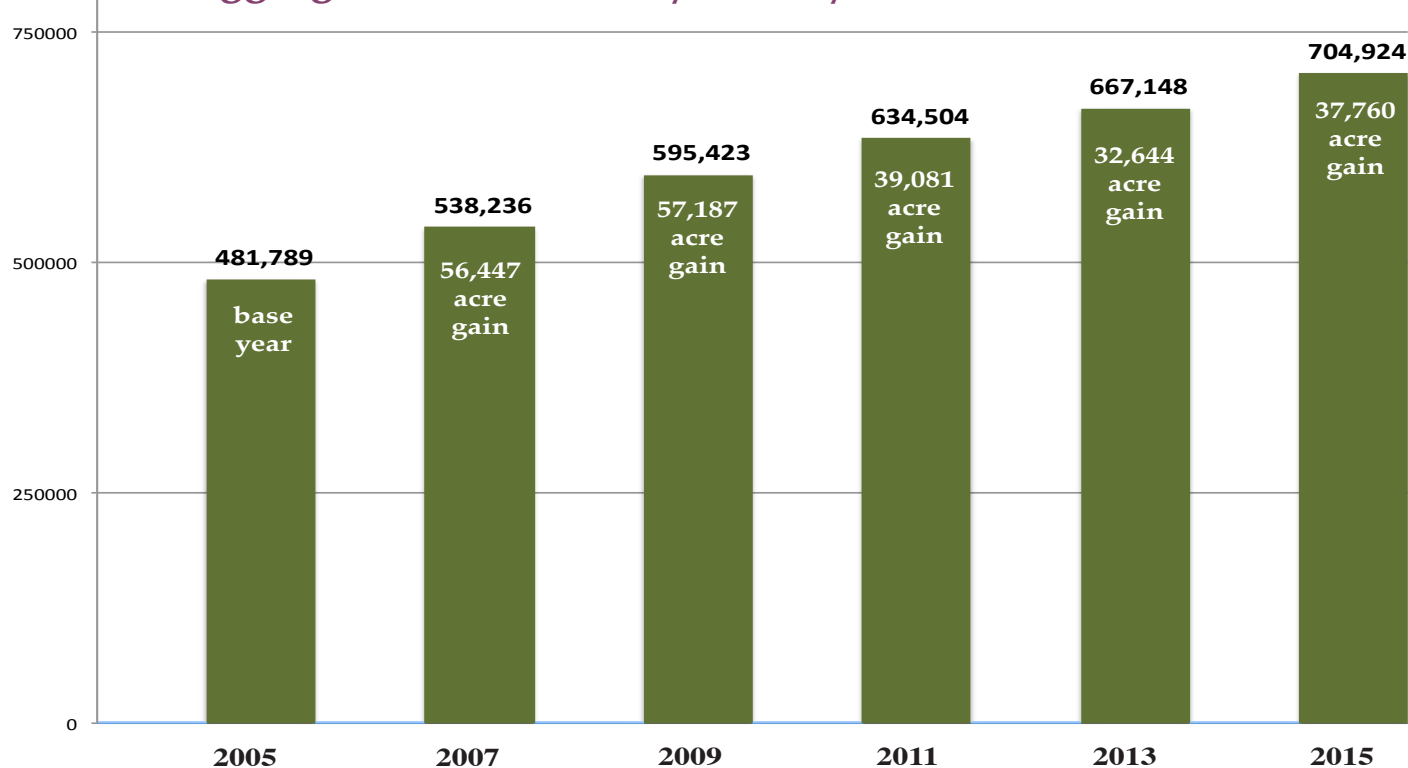
This and past PALTA censuses have identified 89 private charitable organizations with a continuing commitment to conservation that have completed conservation real estate transactions in Pennsylvania.

* An acre is roughly equal to a football field not counting end zones (43,560 ft² for the acre versus 48,000 ft² for the field). There are 640 acres in a square mile.

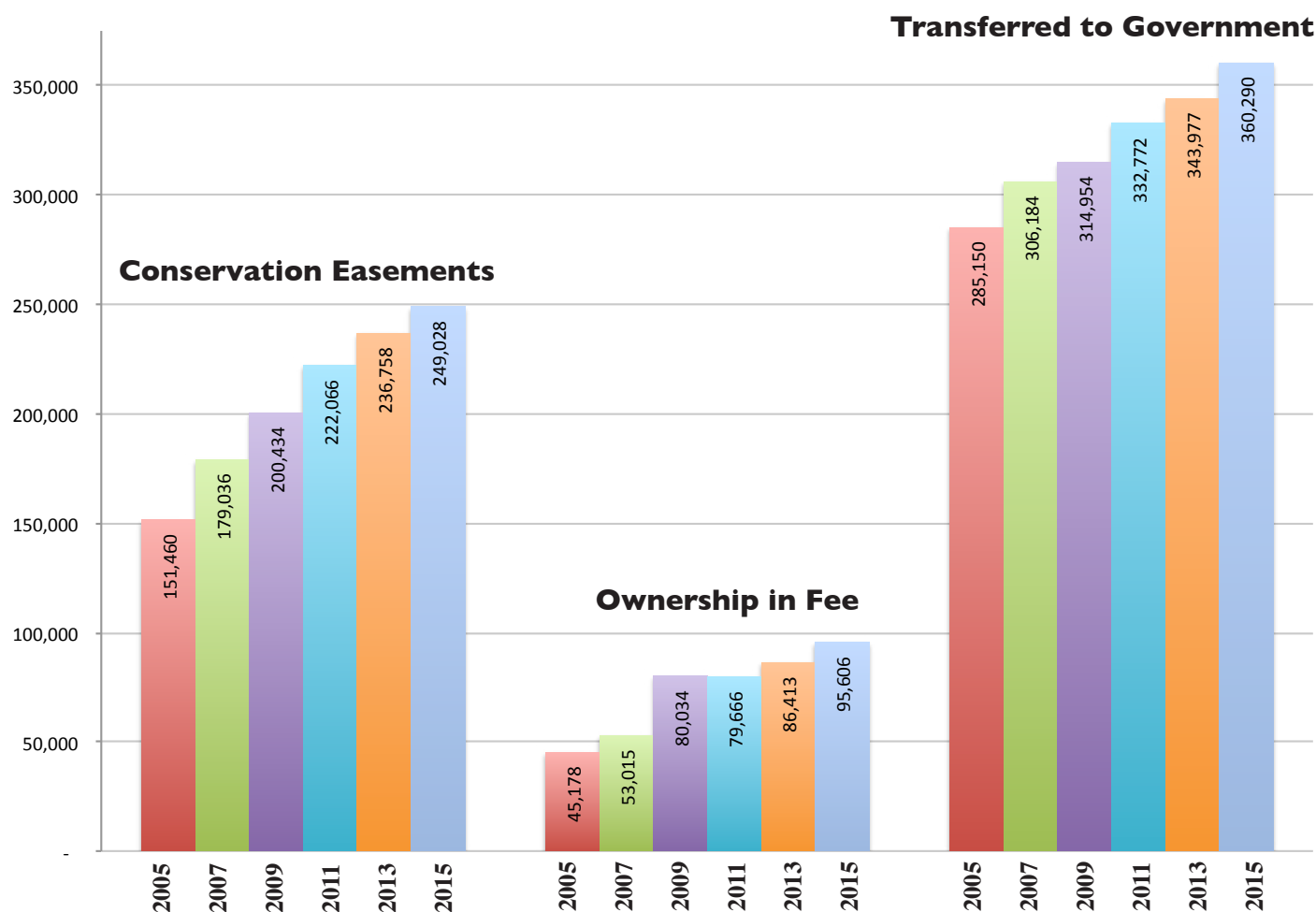
Acres Protected in Past Decade Compared to All Prior Years



Acres in Aggregate Conserved by Pennsylvania Land Trusts



Acres in Aggregate Conserved by PA Land Trusts (by methodology)



Total Land Owned

Sixty-nine conservation organizations own 95,606 acres in Pennsylvania.

1	The Conservation Fund (PA Office)	14,084	36	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	380
2	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	12,696	37	Montour Trail Council	344
3	The Nature Conservancy	12,417	38	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	304
4	Natural Lands Trust	12,393	39	Conemaugh Valley Conservancy	297
5	Earth Conservancy	8,300	40	Civil War Trust	244
6	Lancaster County Conservancy	4,470	41	Mokoma Conservancy	243
7	Brandywine Conservancy	2,844	42	Willistown Conservation Trust	232
8	Wildlands Conservancy	2,518	43	Land Conservancy for Southern Chester Cty	224
9	Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association	2,500	44	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	208
10	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	2,068	45	Lake Erie Region Conservancy	160
11	Allegheny Land Trust	1,689	46	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	150
12	North Branch Land Trust	1,539	47	Chartiers Nature Conservancy	148
13	Heritage Conservancy	1,447	48	Audubon Pennsylvania	142
14	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	996	49	Manada Conservancy	130
15	Edward L Rose Conservancy	935	50	London Britain Township Land Trust	92
16	Mount Nittany Conservancy	765	51	Scott Conservancy	77
17	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	734	52	Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	68
18	Foundation for Sustainable Forests	728	53	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association	67
19	Roaring Run Watershed Association	653	54	North Fork Conservancy	56
20	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	637	55	Independence Conservancy	47
21	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	630	56	ClearWater Conservancy	44
22	French Creek Valley Conservancy	607	57	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	37
23	Somerset County Conservancy	573	58	Fox Chapel Land Conservation Trust	35
24	Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation Inc.	545	59	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	29
25	Armstrong Cty Conservancy Charitable Trust	501	60	Gettysburg Foundation	19
26	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	500	61	West Vincent Land Trust	15
27	The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation	480	62	Neighborhood Gardens Trust	11
28	Wild Waterways Conservancy	477	63	North American Land Trust	11
29	Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania	474	64	Evergreen Conservancy	10
30	Westmoreland Conservancy	444	65	Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy	9
31	Friends of Salt Springs Park	437	66	Land Conservancy of Adams County	6
32	Countryside Conservancy	428	67	Shenango Conservancy	2
33	Hollow Oak Land Trust	427	68	Westmoreland Land Trust	1
34	Berks Nature	421	69	Chestnut Hill Historical Society	<1
35	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	407			

Total Land Protected by Conservation Easement

Sixty-six conservation organizations have protected 249,028 acres of land in Pennsylvania through perpetual conservation easements.

1	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	35,964	34	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	453
2	Brandywine Conservancy	35,332	35	Edward L Rose Conservancy	436
3	Lancaster Farmland Trust	28,469	36	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association	419
4	Natural Lands Trust	20,575	37	Land Conservancy for Southern Chester Cty	412
5	The Nature Conservancy	17,585	38	Earth Conservancy	300
6	North Branch Land Trust	11,400	39	Gettysburg Foundation	298
7	Delaware Highlands Conservancy	9,731	40	Eden Hill Conservancy	217
8	Land Conservancy of Adams County	9,642	41	West Vincent Land Trust	200
9	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	9,362	42	Allegheny Land Trust	190
10	Wildlands Conservancy	7,602	43	Pennsbury Land Trust	180
11	Berks Nature	7,326	44	The Wallace Trust	180
12	Heritage Conservancy	7,146	45	Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania	126
13	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	6,199	46	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	126
14	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	4,891	47	Lower Merion Conservancy	97
15	Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy	4,723	48	Hollow Oak Land Trust	95
16	Tinicum Conservancy	4,500	49	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	93
17	North American Land Trust	3,379	50	Chestnut Hill Historical Society	92
18	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	2,416	51	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	75
19	Willistown Conservation Trust	2,266	52	Foundation for Sustainable Forests	75
20	ClearWater Conservancy	2,056	53	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	68
21	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	2,000	54	London Britain Township Land Trust	62
22	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	1,947	55	Independence Conservancy	52
23	Manada Conservancy	1,733	56	Schuylkill County Conservancy	50
24	Merrill Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	1,109	57	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	40
25	Lancaster County Conservancy	1,031	58	Lake Erie Region Conservancy	35
26	Centre County Farmland Trust	1,024	59	Sandy Creek Conservancy	35
27	French Creek Valley Conservancy	947	60	Fox Chapel Land Conservation Trust	32
28	Countryside Conservancy	915	61	West Pikeland Land Trust	25
29	Lebanon Valley Conservancy	781	62	Montour Trail Council	20
30	Civil War Trust	696	63	Radnor Conservancy	12
31	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	632	64	Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation Inc.	10
32	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	615	65	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	5
33	The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation	523	66	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	1

Total Land Transferred to Government

Twenty-six conservation organizations have transferred 360,290 acres to governmental entities (e.g., Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission and municipalities).

1	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	197,740	14	Berks Nature	637
2	The Conservation Fund (PA Office)	83,604	15	Gettysburg Foundation	320
3	Wildlands Conservancy	38,050	16	Lancaster County Conservancy	260
4	The Nature Conservancy	12,674	17	Montour Trail Council	96
5	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	6,280	18	Allegheny Land Trust	87
6	Earth Conservancy	5,000	19	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	45
7	Seneca Highlands Conservancy	4,000	20	Land Conservancy of Adams County	41
8	The Trust for Public Land	3,589	21	Countryside Conservancy	34
9	North Branch Land Trust	3,467	22	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	25
10	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	1,410	23	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	27
11	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	1,199	24	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	25
12	Natural Lands Trust	937	25	The Wallace Trust	23
13	Armstrong Cty Conservancy Charitable Trust	700	26	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	19

Total Number of Conservation Easements

Sixty-six organizations hold 3,123 perpetual conservation easements in Pennsylvania. The median number of easements held is seven. Organizations with full-time staff hold a median of 31 conservation easements; organizations with only part-time staff hold a median of 11 conservation easements. All-volunteer organizations hold a median of two conservation easements.

1	Lancaster Farmland Trust	465	15	North American Land Trust	64
2	Brandywine Conservancy	444	16	Delaware Highlands Conservancy	58
3	Natural Lands Trust	298	17	North Branch Land Trust	51
4	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	189	18	Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	46
5	French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	182	19	Chestnut Hill Historical Society	40
6	Tinicum Conservancy	164	20	The Nature Conservancy	31
7	Land Conservancy of Adams County	136	21	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	30
8	Heritage Conservancy	134	22	Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	22
9	Berks Nature	118	23	The Wallace Trust	22
10	Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County	115	24	Countryside Conservancy	20
11	Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy	112	25	Manada Conservancy	19
12	Willistown Conservation Trust	72	26	Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County	19
13	Wildlands Conservancy	70	27	Lower Merion Conservancy	18
14	Lancaster County Conservancy	67	28	ClearWater Conservancy	16

Perpetual Conservation Easements (cont'd)

29	Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	15
30	Centre County Farmland Trust	12
31	French Creek Valley Conservancy	12
32	Lebanon Valley Conservancy	12
33	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	10
34	Pennsbury Land Trust	10
35	West Vincent Land Trust	10
36	Gettysburg Foundation	9
37	Allegheny Land Trust	8
38	Civil War Trust	8
39	Allegheny Valley Conservancy	6
40	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	6
41	London Britain Township Land Trust	6
42	Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association	6
43	Edward L Rose Conservancy	5
44	Pocono Heritage Land Trust	5
45	Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	4
46	Independence Conservancy	3
47	Radnor Conservancy	3
48	Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania	2
49	Eden Hill Conservancy	2
50	Foundation for Sustainable Forests	2
51	Lake Erie Region Conservancy	2
52	West Pikeland Land Trust	2
53	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	1
54	Earth Conservancy	1
55	Fox Chapel Land Conservation Trust	1
56	Hollow Oak Land Trust	1
57	Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation Inc.	1
58	Lackawanna Valley Conservancy	1
59	Montour Trail Council	1
60	Norcross Wildlife Foundation	1
61	Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust	1
62	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	1
63	Sandy Creek Conservancy	1
64	Schuylkill County Conservancy	1
65	Southern Alleghenies Conservancy	1
66	The Buck Hill Conservation Foundation	1

Total Perpetual Trail Easements

Sixteen land trusts hold 177 trail easements in Pennsylvania.

1	Natural Lands Trust	103
2	French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	32
3	Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association	15
4	Countryside Conservancy	7
5	Willistown Conservation Trust	6
6	Earth Conservancy	2
7	Allegheny Valley Land Trust	2
8	Brandywine Conservancy	2
9	Pennsbury Land Trust	2
10	The Wallace Trust	2
11	Hollow Oak Land Trust	1
12	North Branch Land Trust	1
13	Open Land Conservancy of Chester County	1
14	Schuylkill County Conservancy	1
15	Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County	1
16	Westmoreland Conservancy	1

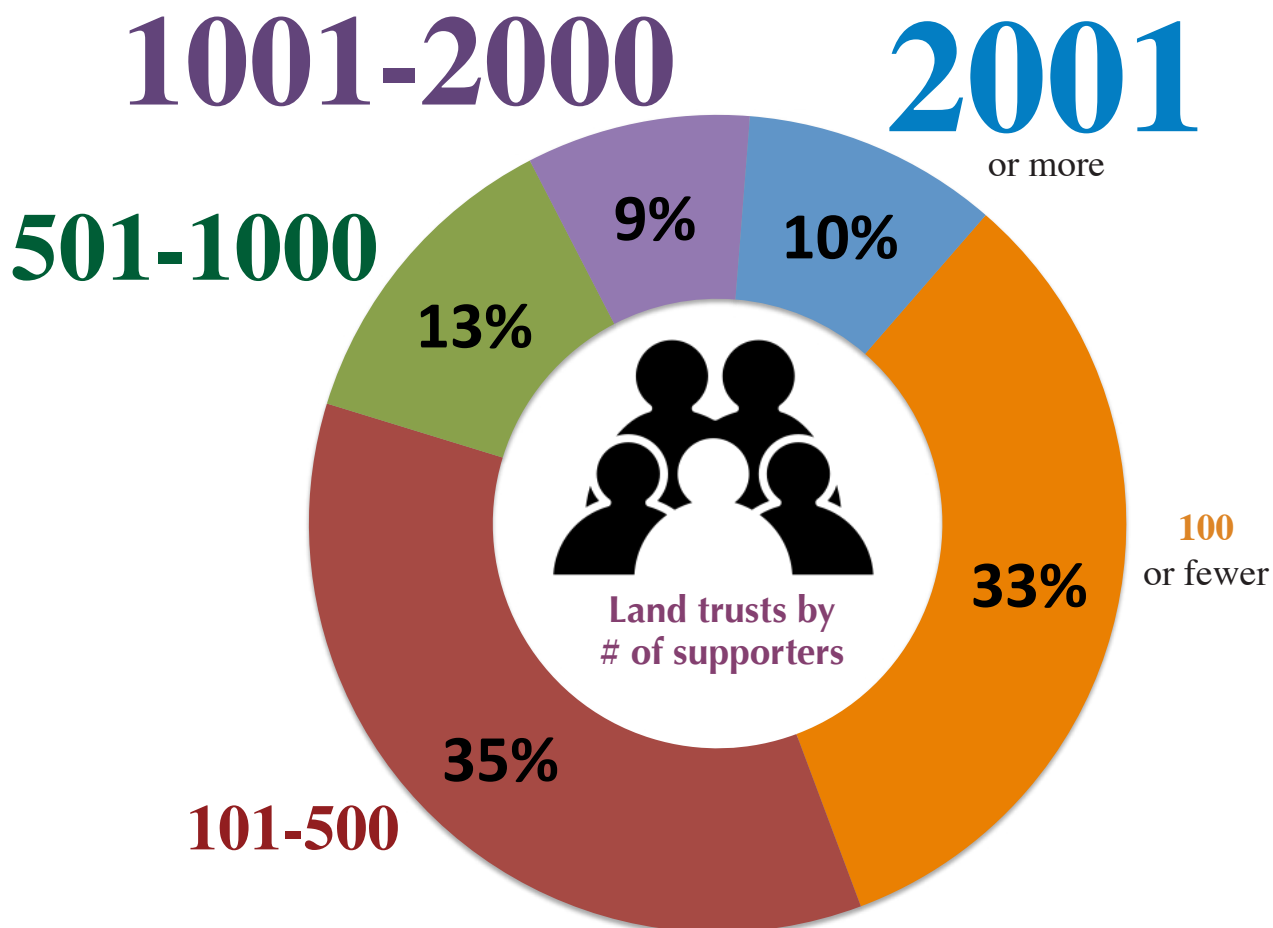
Protecting Land Through Other Means

Land conservation organizations also protect land through other means or on a non-permanent basis. The latest census found:

- eight organizations hold over 23,000 acres of land in nine time-limited easements;
- five organizations hold 10 time-limited trail easements; and
- thirty-two organizations report protecting over 116,000 acres of land through other means (this may include supporting conservation efforts through in-kind or monetary support).

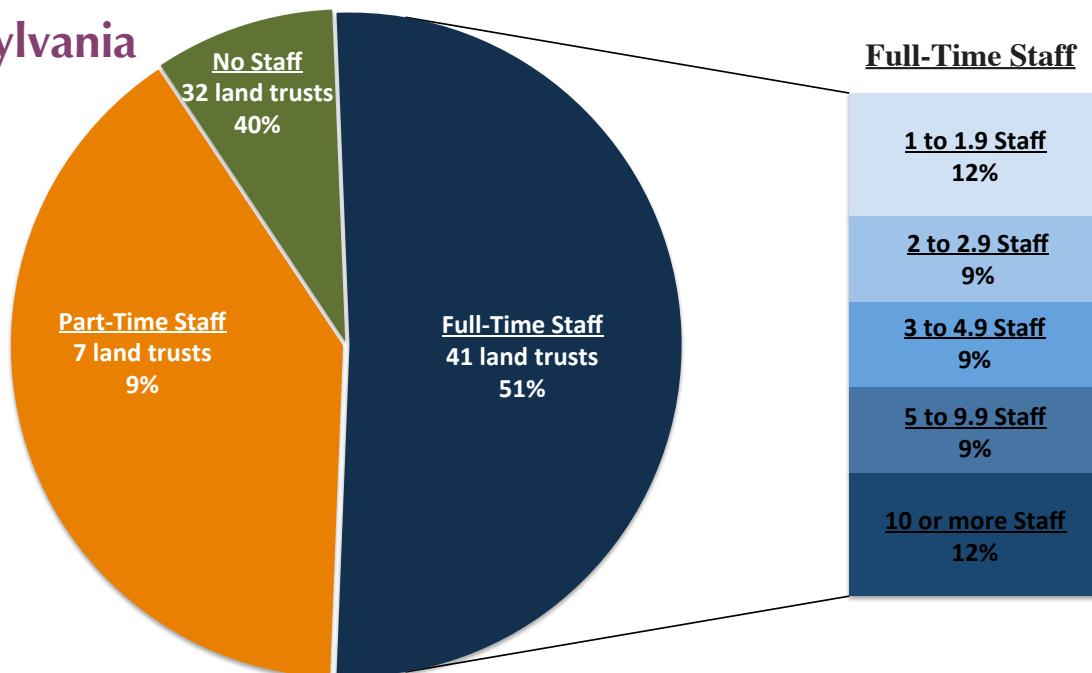
Land Trust Members and Individual Contributors

Eighty-one local and regional PA land trusts count a total of 68,000 Pennsylvanians as financial contributors. They have a median of 250 supporters. Three national land trusts count an additional 43,000 Pennsylvanians as financial contributors.



Staffing of Pennsylvania Land Trusts

Note: Chart does not include national land trusts working in Pennsylvania.





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Is this the *land trust century*?

The enclosed 2015 Pennsylvania land trust census findings suggest it is.

32% of all the conservation accomplished by land trusts occurred in the past decade.

The census and this report were made possible, in part, by financial support from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Number of Pennsylvania Land Trusts
by Year of Incorporation

