

LCHIP Stewardship Plan Guidelines

A stewardship plan is important to ensure consistent and effective monitoring and stewardship of protected properties over time. The plan itself can vary depending upon many factors, such as the type of property (land or structure), how it is protected (fee owned or easement) and the grantee itself (town or not-for-profit organization). Due to these variables, there is no standard stewardship plan required through LCHIP. Instead, these guidelines have been established to help applicants write an individualized stewardship plan.

LCHIP's definition of stewardship:

Stewardship means planning for and taking the necessary actions over the long term to successfully preserve and protect the natural cultural, or historical value of a resource asset. Such actions included, as applicable, managing the resource asset in accordance with all legal obligations entered into under this chapter, performing regular maintenance and upkeep, providing for necessary monitoring, educating or informing those that might negatively impact upon the resource asset about the need for and/or legal obligation to protect and preserve it, paying taxes or in-lieu-of tax obligations, obtaining liability insurance, and securing sufficient levels of financial resources to carry out all such necessary actions.

The Land Trust Alliance's *Land Trust Standards & Practices* (S&P's) have been developed for land trust organizations, but the concepts identified are equally applicable to land conservation efforts in municipalities, as well as directly comparable to the concepts that historical preservation groups and communities need to think about when considering long term stewardship. Simply substitute "buildings" for land when appropriate, and "community" or "preservation organization" for land trust.

Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices [Link to: <http://www.lta.org/sp/>]