



Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program 2025/26

Guidelines for Applicants

Background

Protected areas are internationally recognized as one of the most effective strategies for biodiversity conservation. Protected areas provide ecosystem services to communities, such as clean air and water, enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g., flooding, drought), and offer the benefits of nature to human health and well-being. Maintaining healthy natural ecosystems is a cost-effective way to support sustainable and livable communities, protect the environment, and advance economic development. Nature also underpins Ontario's reputation as a top destination in which to live, work and invest.

Conservation of Ontario's rich biodiversity is a shared responsibility. The Greenlands Conservation Partnership program is a plan to conserve ecologically important natural areas and contribute to the government's climate change objectives. The Province committed in the Spring 2024 budget to partially match private contributions to the Greenlands Conservation Partnership with the Recipient. The government is committed to strengthening conservation partnerships to preserve more areas of significant ecological importance, protect natural areas and promote the importance of healthy, natural spaces.

This investment in protected lands contributes to global area-based biodiversity targets to protect 30% of land and water by 2030 and to manage these areas effectively for the primary purpose of biodiversity conservation. Private land Securement is a key strategy for advancing these targets, especially in parts of the province where there is little Crown land, the threats to biodiversity are highest, and where there is the greatest need for more publicly accessible natural areas. This Project will support the Securement and Management of new privately-owned protected areas for their contributions to biodiversity conservation and for the ecological, social and economic benefits these areas provide.

This Program has received funding support from the Government of Ontario.

Introduction

This funding cycle represents the second round of funding (2025/26) of a four-year fund. These guidelines are for the 2025/26 round only. The current funding cycle has a focus on supporting projects that acquire and manage ecologically sensitive lands, as well as restoration/stewardship/outreach (SRO) activities for properties that were previously secured through the program. There is strong encouragement for projects with SRO elements.

Please note that following a condensed first round of funding for 2024 – 25 due to the timing of contract signing with MECP, the funding rounds will resume a late winter/early spring application timeframe for the remaining program years of this four-year fund as in the previous program iteration. Additional rounds may be launched as needed but the main funding round will have applications open in late winter/early spring.

Applications are being accepted to consider support for:

- Land acquisition – fee simple or conservation easement agreement
- Associated costs of land acquisition
- Restoration and stewardship costs on properties secured through this program, in this or previous rounds
- Outreach events, including those focused on increasing the availability of green spaces and trails for the people of Ontario to enjoy, on properties secured through this program.

Please note that GCP only funds projects with activities occurring within Ontario.

Program Objective

The objective of the Program is to increase the protection of Ontario's ecologically important natural landscapes and secondarily, to increase the availability of green spaces and trails for the people of Ontario to enjoy.

1. Submission

Please thoroughly review:

- 1) OLTA GCP Guidelines for Applicants (this document)
- 2) OLTA GCP Application Form (within the Foundant grant application portal)
- 3) OLTA GCP Project Budget Spreadsheets
- 4) OLTA GCP 2025 - 26 Agreement Sample (*draft*)

Completed applications and all documentation are to be submitted electronically via the Foundant Technologies grant application portal by **11:59 pm on Sunday, March 9, 2025**. There are two application forms in the grant application portal – one for Securement Projects, and one for Stewardship/Restoration/Outreach Projects. Please refer to the information below on Project Eligibility to determine which application form is required for your Project.

You will need to submit multiple attachments with your application directly through Foundant. **Please allow yourself enough time to ensure you have all documentation required for submission.** While OLTA has increased the file size availability for uploads, it is strongly recommended to use reduced file sizes where possible as there is an overall system limit. When uploading files please name the file as follows: Land Trust-Project Name-Document Name. **Please contact the OLTA office if you have any problems or questions.**

2. Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must be:

- A non-profit, registered Canadian charity;
- A member or associate of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance in good standing;
- Have the principal objectives of natural heritage protection and conservation

Note: that the GCP only funds activities occurring within Ontario

If applicants are unsure of their eligibility or have questions, please contact OLTA to discuss. Conservation Authorities are not eligible applicants, but their foundations may be – **please contact OLTA.**

If applicants are requesting funding for a project for which the eligible recipient is partnering with a non-eligible group, the following must accompany the application:

- 1) A partnership agreement between the parties specifying the roles and responsibilities of each organization for the project.
- 2) A letter to OLTA specifying which organization is responsible for the various costs, along with any other relevant information required to evaluate the project. **Note: only costs incurred by the eligible recipient will be considered.**

3. Project Eligibility

Organizations may submit any number of applications. Each project must be submitted in its own application (ie. two distinct projects/properties cannot be combined into one application). Each project must be at least \$5,000 submitted through its own application. Unless otherwise determined by the External Review Committee, no applicant will receive more than 34% of available funds.

Important Note: any project requesting \$500,000 or more in funding must be prepared to complete an external project audit of the entire project, undertaken by a qualified CPA, by the end of February 2026 as per program requirements. Costs related to undertaking an external project audit are an eligible expense. Please keep this timeline in mind when preparing your applications.

A **Securement Project** may be defined as a parcel or grouping of parcels that may or may not share the same landowner and may consist of either conservation easement agreement or fee simple acquisition or a combination. Transaction types are purchases, donations and split receipts. Securement projects may or may not have elements of stewardship/ restoration/ outreach included. Fee simple Securement projects require a completed Property Management Plan within one year of the property closing date.

A **Stewardship/Restoration/Outreach Project** may be identified as implementing an activity identified in the Property Management Plan, management actions as identified through a Conservation Easement Agreement, priority actions addressing a safety hazard or biodiversity threat, public engagement or outreach events, and more. Funding for Property Management Plan development on properties previously secured through Greenlands is eligible – but be mindful of the competitiveness of this program as more in-depth projects with tangible conservation outcomes may be scored more highly. Stewardship/restoration/outreach projects do not include any element of securement. **If you are unsure about the eligibility of planned activities, please contact OLTA to discuss.**

Eligible securement projects must have a transaction closing date between February 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026. Project expenses related to securement must be incurred between February 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026. Stewardship/restoration/outreach activities and expenses of securement projects are only eligible from the property closing date to January 31, 2026.

Eligible stewardship/restoration/outreach projects must be completed between February 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026, **on properties previously secured through the GCP (since January 1, 2021).** Expenses for stewardship/restoration/outreach projects are eligible from February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

A project with one parcel or a group of parcels may have up to two individual landowners.

To be eligible, a project must meet all the following criteria:

1. Have been identified as priorities through systematic conservation planning consistent with the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices (2019);
2. Contribute to connectivity of the existing protected and conserved areas network and other natural spaces, such as areas that contribute to structural or functional connectivity through natural linkages, buffers, infilling, or steppingstones; or areas identified as ecological corridors in strategic conservation plans;
3. Meet, or are likely to meet, pan-Canadian standards for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures as defined in the Pathway to Canada Target 1 Decision Support Tool (DST);
4. Have at least 75% Natural Land Cover. 'Natural Land Cover' refers to the ecosystems present on the landscape. This includes forests, prairie, wetlands, and other types of ecosystems where native vegetation and natural features predominate with minimal human impacts.
5. Have, or will have, some form of public access prior to February 18, 2028 (this does not apply to Conservation Easement Agreements with private landowners). **Please reach out to OLTA if you have questions on what constitutes public access.**
6. Have a recent (no more than one year prior to acquiring the property) appraisal completed by an appraiser designated by the Ontario Association of the Appraisal Institute of Canada
7. Have matching contributions at a rate of a **\$2.00** non-provincial investment for every dollar of provincial funds. **Please reach out to OLTA with questions on the match if you are anticipating that your expected match could be lower than 2:1.**

Please note that the GCP only funds activities occurring within Ontario.

Applicants are required to complete a DST checklist as part of the application, to assist OLTA in determining whether a proposed project meets, or is likely to meet, pan-Canadian standards for protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. See the following link if you are interested in learning more about accounting for protected areas <https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting>.

Conservation easement agreement projects are only eligible for funding if a Baseline Documentation Report has been completed or will be completed by the end of the project. The Baseline Documentation Report must follow the Baseline Documentation Report (BDR) For Natural Heritage Properties and Natural Heritage Conservation Easement Agreements (2006) prepared by the Ontario Heritage Trust and Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

For every \$1 of Program funds awarded, a minimum of **\$2.00** in matching funds from sources other than Ontario Government must be contributed to the project. Matching funds may include both cash and in-kind contributions. See Eligible Expenses for details on what expenses can be considered for the match. **Please reach out to OLTA with questions on the match if you are anticipating that your expected match could be lower than 2:1.**

Please note that:

- Program funds may be combined with federal funds on the same project, as long as funds go towards unique expenditures; and
- Provincial funds cannot be used as matching funds. Ontario Trillium Foundation funds are not eligible matching funds.

Stewardship Endowment

Funded securement projects require a cash contribution to a stewardship endowment fund for the long-term stewardship of the lands. Funds from Ontario provincial government sources **cannot** be used for the stewardship endowment. Pre-existing funds in an endowment cannot be re-assigned/extended to cover this stewardship endowment fund requirement.

Projects must fund the stewardship endowment from other sources. Cash in reserve can be used to fund the stewardship endowment so long as these reserve funds were not in a stewardship reserve for already conserved properties.

The stewardship endowment contribution must be accounted for separately (meaning the stewardship funds cannot be pooled with general operations funding and the earnings must be used to fund long-term stewardship of the property). Stewardship endowment funds may be pooled in an internally-restricted general stewardship reserve.

The amount of stewardship endowment required is determined by using the table below:

Value of Land or CEA	Stewardship Endowment Contribution Required
<i>Less than \$50,000</i>	<i>Minimum of \$5,000</i>
<i>>\$50,000</i>	<p><i>Note that a minimum of \$5,000 is required, regardless of which option is used to determine stewardship endowment contribution.</i></p> <p><i>There are 2 approaches to choose from:</i></p> <p><i>1) Use the Stewardship Calculator based on the land trust's estimate of the actual stewardship costs associated with a particular property. OR</i></p> <p><i>2) Apply a flat rate of minimum 10% of the fee simple land value or Conservation Easement Agreement value, up to a maximum cap of \$400,000 in stewardship endowment funds</i></p>

4. Eligible Activities

This round of funding will support the following:

- The acquisition cost of fee simple land properties.
- Purchases, donations and split receipts are eligible transaction types.
- Associated costs of acquisition - fee simple or conservation easement agreement.
- Stewardship, Restoration and Outreach costs.

Grant program eligible expenses:

Expenditures	Is the expense eligible?	Is the expense eligible as Matching Funds (Cash)?	Is the expense eligible as Matching Funds (<u>In-kind</u>)?	Notes
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY-BASED EXPENDITURES				
<p>Costs associated with eligible land planning and securement initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraisal Costs • Survey Costs (if applicable) • Legal • Baseline documentation reports (only for CEA) • AFCC consultation costs • Land transfer tax • Environmental Assessments (if applicable) • Conducting site inventories to inform the securement of the property or management plan development • Development of property management plan • External audit for projects receiving greater than \$500,000 in GCP funding. 	✓	✓	✓	<p><i>Reported as staff or consultants' time, services, travel and hospitality</i></p>
Purchase Price / Cost of Land or Conservation Easement Agreement	✓	✓	X	
Donated value of Land or Conservation Easement Agreement	N/A	X	✓	

Stewardship Endowment Fund	X	✓	X	<i>To be identified as match for securement projects only</i>
Legal Defense Endowment Fund	X	✓	X	<i>To be identified as match for securement projects only</i>
Costs associated with communication about secured properties such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Property identification or interpretative signage</i> <i>Communications about trails, outreach, or education events</i> <i>Media to raise the profile of properties (press releases, paid ads, printed materials)</i> 	✓	✓	✓	<i>Max \$5,000/ project</i> <i>Reported as staff or consultants' time, goods, or services</i> <i>Communications directly related to fundraising are ineligible</i>
Fundraising Costs	X	✓	✓	
Costs associated with management stewardship, restoration, and outreach for a property previously secured through this program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Implementation of property management plans</i> <i>Visitor management</i> <i>Facility (trails, viewing towers, parking lots) development and maintenance</i> <i>Outreach and education</i> <i>Ecological restoration/site rehabilitation</i> 	✓	✓	✓	<i>Management includes stewardship, restoration, & outreach</i> <i>Reported as staff or consultants' time, goods, services, equipment/capital, or travel and hospitality</i> <i>Max \$5,000/ project for outreach & education</i>
ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES				
Salaries and wages - including all existing benefits for employees and contract staff, and mandatory employment-related expenditures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Includes all staff time necessary for planning, negotiating,</i> 	✓	✓	✓	Combined staff and/or contractor costs for securement projects cannot be more than the lesser of \$25,000 or 30% of total GCP funds disbursed to

<p><i>managing, coordinating and completing the project</i></p>				<p>each grantee per property. Please ensure GCP-funded staff and/or contractor costs are at or below this maximum in your request.</p>
<p>Contractors - costs associated with contractors engaged to undertake the project activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Including planning, negotiating, managing, coordinating and completing the project.</i> 	✓	✓	✓	<p>Combined staff and/or contractor costs for securement projects cannot be more than the lesser of \$25,000 or 30% of total funds disbursed to each grantee per property. Please ensure GCP-funded staff and/or contractor costs are at or below this maximum in your request.</p>
<p>Volunteer time - costs associated with volunteers engaged to undertake the project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Youth (under age 25): \$17.20/hr</i> <i>Adults (over age 25): \$20/hr</i> <i>Professionals (e.g. lawyer, accountant, consultant, biologist): \$50/hr</i> 	X	X	✓	
<p>Travel and vehicle rental, lease and operation expenditures - travel expenditures that are necessary to the successful completion of the project. To be eligible, travel must take place by the least expensive means, and rates may not exceed the maximum allowances permitted by Ontario government guidelines.</p> <p>Transportation when the distance to the meeting or event venue is less than: 30 km is not eligible.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p><i>Define the purpose of trips</i></p>

Services – for eligible project activities	✓	✓	✓	<i>Must comply with the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010 (Ontario) and the related Procurement Directive Summary</i>
Goods – for eligible management activities	✓	✓	✓	<i>Must comply with the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010 (Ontario) and the related Procurement Directive Summary</i>
Equipment/Capital Item - for eligible management activities E.g. porta-potty	✓	✓	✓	<i>Costs \$25 000+ would need to receive written approval from MECP and OLTA</i> <i>Must comply with the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010 (Ontario) and the related Procurement Directive Summary</i>
Admin costs	✓	✓	✓	<i>Max \$2,500 or 10% of request, whichever is less. Please ensure GCP-funded admin costs are at or below this maximum in your request</i>
HST	X	X	X	

Eligible expenses notes:

- Timeframes for eligible match expenses are the same as for eligible expenses.
- Match funds must be directly linked to the project for which funds are being requested.
- Communication and outreach costs directly linked to fundraising are ineligible.
- Insurance and taxes (aside from land transfer tax) are not eligible expenses or match costs.

- Travel expenses are only eligible at the rates listed in the [Ontario Travel, Meal, and Hospitality Expenses Directive \(2020\)](#).
- Land trusts must comply with the [Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010 \(Ontario\)](#). Expenses for Goods, Services, Capital and Equipment items between \$5,000 - \$24,999 must be procured through a competitive process supporting best value for money. Three quotes should be obtained but do not need to be provided to OLTA unless requested.
- Appraisers must be designated by the Appraisal Institute of Canada-Ontario.
- Capital/equipment expenses \$25,000+ need to receive written permission from OLTA and MECP in advance of procurement.
- As noted above, combined GCP-funded staff and/or contractor costs for securement projects cannot be more than the lesser of \$25,000 or 30% of total funds disbursed to each grantee per property. Please ensure combined staff and/or contractor costs are at or below this maximum in your request.
- **For purchase securement projects - due to administrative processing time for applications and agreements and for OLTA to receive the funds, there is no guarantee first installment funds will be received by the land trust before April 30, 2025.**
 - If this timeframe prevents your project from moving forward, **PLEASE LET US KNOW so we can track and report to MECP**. While we cannot disburse funds until we receive them, it is important in our reporting to demonstrate any barriers that projects faced due to the constricted timeline of this round. We encourage you to explore options such as shifting the closing date, wherever possible.

Donated land - When a project is a 100% donation, the entire appraised value would count as an in-kind match.

Purchase at a reduced cost -- When a property is appraised at \$100,000, and the landowner has agreed to lower the purchase price to \$80,000, the landowner would receive a charitable receipt for \$20,000 and \$20,000 can be included in the project budget as an in-kind match.

Part donation, part purchase -- When a property is appraised at \$100,000, and the landowner agrees to donate a portion of the property value, say \$80,000, the land trust would pay \$20,000 for the property. The \$20,000 paid by the land trust would be an eligible expense or an eligible cash match under the funding formula.

The proportion of purchase to donation could be different (e.g. 75% donation / 25% purchase). Bear in mind that for the split receipt – part donation / part purchase -- the value of the donated portion must be at least 20% of the appraised value to qualify as a charitable donation and Ecological Gift.

Associated project expenses that occurred from February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026, can be considered as matching funds so long as the funds did not come from a provincial government funding source. *Funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is not an eligible match.*

5. Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated against the project eligibility and ranked based on the following priorities or co-benefits including:

- Takes place in an area recognized nationally, provincially, regionally or locally as significant. This can include Areas of National or Scientific Interest, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Key Biodiversity Areas, Natural Heritage designation, Important Bird Areas, RAMSAR Wetlands of Significance, Biosphere Reserves, etc.
- Support recovery of SAR
- Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Provision of Ecosystem Services
- Opportunities for completion of Ecological Gifts
- Contributions to human health and wellbeing
- Provides recreational Trails/Public Access.

Stewardship, Restoration and Outreach Projects will also be evaluated based on additional criteria such as:

- How well does the Project link to the property management plan for the property?
- How well does the Project address threats to biodiversity on the property?

The risks related to meeting the Project close date would also be a consideration. OLTA reserves the right to request clarification and/or additional information from an applicant to aid in consideration of the request. OLTA will take into consideration Projects that cannot proceed unless the full funding request is granted. However, OLTA reserves the right to award partial funding to eligible Projects.

In the event that funds are returned to the Program, the Funding Agreement will be nullified and OLTA will begin the process of re-allocating the returned funds to other eligible projects before the end of the program year. Applicants with eligible projects that are not initially approved for funds will therefore be placed on a “waiting list”. Those approved from the “waiting list” will be notified.

Please remember that this is a competitive funding program, and that meeting project eligibility does not guarantee that your request will be successful and/or that full funding will be granted. Application rounds are often highly oversubscribed and only the strongest applications may receive funding. Your application will be evaluated by an External Review Committee of subject matter experts solely based on the information provided within your application. Do not assume any prior knowledge of your project, progress to-date, or previous projects.

6. Auditing

OLTA reserves the right, on behalf of the Greenlands Conservation Partnership with MECP, to complete an audit of the financial records of grant recipients to ensure compliance with the terms and obligations of the grant recipient agreement. When requested, the recipient shall provide and make available to such auditors any records, documents and information that the auditors may require. The scope, coverage and timing of such audits shall be as determined by OLTA. OLTA will inform the recipient of the results of any audit and the recipient will address,

or put into place measures to address, as soon as possible after the completion of the audit, any activities, which the audit may show to be necessary to be in compliance with the intention of Greenlands Conservation Partnership.

7. Required Documentation

Required documentation for securement projects that have closed prior to the application deadline of March 9, 2025.

Documentation to be submitted	Required with Application Form	Required for Final Payment
1) UTM coordinates/GIS files of the property vertices and UTM zones; or other spatial files (shp, kmz). If you do not have spatial files, please send a table of coordinates of the property boundaries.	✓	
2) Location and property maps	✓	
3) Conservation Plan - How is the area identified as a priority through conservation planning? Identify the plan and include the relevant pages of the plan.	✓	
4) Completed Project Budget (as a spreadsheet, not a pdf).	✓	
5) Evidence of an established stewardship endowment fund policy/process.	✓	
6) Calculation for the required stewardship fund amount.	✓	
7) Signed DST permission letter from the applicant, and landowner for CEAs* a. Appendix A to be signed by the land trust for Fee Simple b. Appendix A to be signed by the land trust AND landowner for CEA		✓
8) A copy of the appraisal summary (appraiser designated by the Appraisal Institute of Canada-Ontario).	✓	
9) Written acknowledgement regarding information/data disclosures.* For land/easement donations - confirmation that the donor understands that information regarding the donation will be submitted to OLTA in a funding request and may be shared with government partners.	✓	
10) A representation from a senior officer that all matching funds (excluding land value) are in place and no other sources of provincial government funds have been used as match.	✓	
11) For Conservation Easement Agreements only, a copy of the signed Conservation Easement Agreement and the full signed Baseline Documentation Report (BDR).	✓	
12) A copy of the post-closing title report (transfer deed), updated parcel register, and land title demonstrating ownership (Fee Simple) or registration of Conservation Easement Agreement.	✓	
13) Copies of invoices for all Project expenses requested.	✓	
14) A copy of the Statement of Adjustments (if applicable).	✓	
15) A signed partnership agreement (if applicable).	✓	
16) Completed PMP within one year of closing date		Not required for final payment
17) At least two high quality images of the Project properties, for possible use in OLTA social media and other promotional materials, with authorization to OLTA for the use of the image(s).	✓	

18) Fully signed Grant Agreement.		ASAP once received
19) Invoice addressed to OLTA requesting total grant amount.		Upon OLTA confirmation of reporting completion

Required documentation and when required for requests for securement projects that have not closed before the application deadline of March 9, 2025.

Documentation to be submitted with application; for mid-project milestones; and for first and final installment	Required with Application Form	Required at Mid-Project Milestone	Required with Final Reporting and for Final Installment
1) UTM coordinates/GIS files of the property vertices and UTM zones; or other spatial files (shp, kmz). If you do not have spatial files, please send a table of coordinates of the property boundaries.	✓		
2) Location and property maps	✓		
3) Current title abstract for the property	✓		
4) Conservation Plan - How is the area identified as a priority through conservation planning? Identify the plan and include relevant pages of the plan.	✓		
5) Completed Project Budget (as a spreadsheet, not a pdf).	✓		Revised project budget at reporting
6) Evidence of an established stewardship endowment fund policy/process.	✓		
7) Signed DST permission letter from the applicant, and landowner for CEAs* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Appendix A to be signed by the land trust for Fee Simple b. Appendix A to be signed by the land trust AND landowner for CEA 			With reporting
8) A copy of the appraisal summary: -If a full or draft appraisal is not available at time of application submission, then an assessment of the value of the project land(s) with clear rationale explaining how the value was determined will be required. Acceptable documents include a short form appraisal, or a letter from your appraiser outlining how the value was determined.	Assessed Value with rationale, draft appraisal OR final appraisal, if complete.	Full Appraisal Summary (as soon as available and no later than close)	

Documentation to be submitted with application; for mid-project milestones; and for first and final installment	Required with Application Form	Required at Mid-Project Milestone	Required with Final Reporting and for Final Installment
9) Fee simple only: Purchase and Sale Agreement / Option to Purchase / Signed Donation Agreement or Intent to Donate	Signed non-binding letter of intent OR Signed APS / Option to Purchase / Signed Donation Agreement / Intent to Donate	Signed APS / Option to Purchase / Signed Donation Agreement / Intent to Donate (as soon as available and no later than 30 days prior to close)	
10) Conservation Easement Agreement only: Letter of Intent / Conservation Easement Agreement/ Agreement of Purchase and Sale	Signed non-binding letter of intent with draft CEA OR signed Conservation Easement Agreement	Signed copy of Conservation Easement Agreement (as soon as available and no later than 30 days prior to close)	Proof of registration on title
11) Written acknowledgement regarding information/data disclosures for donations.* Confirmation that the donor understands that information regarding the donation will be submitted to OLTA in a funding request and may be shared with government partners. a. Appendix B to be signed by the landowner for donations.	✓		
12) A signed partnership agreement (if applicable).	✓		
13) A copy of the preliminary title report/title search from legal counsel which acknowledges the Fee Simple land or Conservation Easement Agreement is free and clear of financial encumbrances, or evidence that the lender has agreed to postpone their financial interest in favour of the Conservation Easement Agreement and to have this postponement registered on title with the Conservation Easement Agreement.		As soon as possible and prior to close	
14) Fully signed Grant Agreement.		ASAP once received from OLTA	
15) For grants for land purchase, name, contact information, and banking details of the recipient's lawyer handling the transaction.		With the Grant Agreement	
16) Invoice addressed to OLTA requesting First Installment amount.		Upon instruction from OLTA	
17) A representation from a senior officer that all matching funds (excluding land value) are in place			✓

Documentation to be submitted with application; for mid-project milestones; and for first and final installment	Required with Application Form	Required at Mid-Project Milestone	Required with Final Reporting and for Final Installment
and no other sources of provincial government funds have been used as match.			
18) Final calculation for the required stewardship fund amount.			✓
19) For Conservation Easement Agreements only , a copy of the full signed <i>Baseline Documentation Report (BDR)</i> .			✓
20) A copy of the post-closing title report (transfer deed), updated parcel register (must be certified), and land title demonstrating ownership (Fee Simple) or registration of Conservation Easement Agreement.			✓
21) Copies of invoices for all Project expenses requested.			✓
22) A copy of the Statement of Adjustments (if applicable).			✓
23) Invoice addressed to OLTA requesting Final Installment amount.			✓
24) At least two high quality images of the Project properties, for possible use in OLTA social media and other promotional materials, with authorization to OLTA for the use of the image(s).			✓
25) A completed PMP			Within one year of closing date

*Notes:

- DST permission letter sample is in Appendix A.
- Landowner permission letter template is in Appendix B.

Required documentation for stewardship/restoration/outreach only projects:

Documentation to be submitted	Required with Application Form	Required for Payment
1) Species at Risk observation table, if updated since previous application	✓	
2) If applying for stewardship/restoration funds – completed PMP, draft PMP, or summary of urgent restoration priorities	✓	
3) Workplan outlining all activities and draft timelines	✓	
4) Completed Project Budget (as a spreadsheet, not a pdf).	✓	
5) Copies of invoices for all Project expenses requested.		✓
6) Location and property map	✓	

7) A representation from a senior officer that all matching funds (excluding land value) are in place and no other sources of provincial government funds have been used as match.		✓
8) A signed partnership agreement (if applicable).	✓	
9) At least two high quality images of the Project properties, for possible use in OLTA social media and other promotional materials, with authorization to OLTA for the use of the image(s).		✓
10) Fully signed Grant Agreement.		ASAP once received
11) Invoice addressed to OLTA requesting total grant amount.		Upon OLTA confirmation of reporting completion

8. Grant Agreement and Payment

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with OLTA, outlining the terms and conditions of the grant acceptance, approved expenditures and related information, before any funds will be released.

Payment schedule with deliverables will be outlined in the Grant Agreement.

For reimbursement grants, OLTA will provide payment after approval of the final report, with required documentation.

For purchase of land grants, 85% of the funds will aim to be paid in trust to the Recipient's lawyer three business days prior to close. Final payments (of the remaining 15%) will be made after approval of the final report, with required documentation.

For 100% donations, payment will be made after approval of the final report, with required documentation.

For stewardship/restoration/outreach only Projects, 50% of the funds will be paid upon receipt of the signed agreement, and the remaining 50% will be paid after approval of the final report, with required documentation.

For combined securement and stewardship/restoration/outreach Projects, a payment schedule will be agreed upon with the recipient prior to the development of the Grant Agreement.

9. Communications

Information about this program shall not be publicly shared until permitted by OLTA and the Province of Ontario. Further details on communications and approval requirements will be included in the Grant Agreement.

Appendix A: DST Permission Letter Sample (not required at application stage but required with final reporting – to be signed by the land trust for fee simple; land trust and landowner for CEAs)

Date

Name [add contact information for your organization]

Title

Organization

Address

Re: Permission to report specific [organization name] properties to the Ontario Land Trust Alliance Inc., the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, and to share Canada Target 1 Decision Support Tool screening results

Dear [Organization or landowner contact name],

We would like to acknowledge your efforts in establishing potential protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). We also congratulate you on managing these properties in such a way that they meet international standards and are eligible to be reported toward Canada's international biodiversity targets on protected and conserved areas

This letter is to seek your approval to work with OLTA to report eligible properties, owned by your organization, or protected through a conservation easement agreement, to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD) if they meet the criteria for Protected Areas or OECMs.

Reporting of your areas to CPCAD means that certain information on these areas will be publicly available. The information includes spatial polygons and specific attributes such as year of establishment, type of governance, and IUCN protected area category. Interested members of the public will be able to download the data from CPCAD. In addition, Environment and Climate Change Canada will submit the information to the World Database on Protected Areas maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Provinces and territories are responsible for reporting non-federal protected areas and OECMs to CPCAD.

This public reporting means that your areas will be counted as contributing towards national and international area-based conservation targets. It may also provide you with additional recognition for your conservation efforts. Participating in this reporting does not entail any regulatory or policy restrictions for the property; however, if the use or management of the property changes in the future, it would need to be re-assessed to see whether it still qualifies for international reporting.

Your permission is required before Ontario can report your properties to CPCAD or share your completed Decision Support Tool screening templates. Using the check boxes below, please indicate with your initials beside the check boxes, the actions for which [Organization Name or landowner name for a CEA] grants permission, and sign and date to indicate your approval.

Required:

Permission for OLTA to complete and share the Decision Support Tool and supporting documentation with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for projects funded through the Conservation Partnership.

Permission for OLTA to complete and share the Decision Support Tool and supporting documentation with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for other properties owned and under CEA.

Permission for MECP to report the confirmed protected areas / OECMs to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD).

Optional:

Permission for MECP to share the finalized assessment documents for these properties within the protected areas community of practice (e.g., experts with the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, program staff within provincial and federal governments).

Permission for MECP to inquire in the future about potential inclusion of your areas in specific technical publications (e.g. summary reports, case studies). This permission would be reconfirmed prior to publication.

Permission for MECP to share finalized assessment documents for any of the above-named properties that **do not** meet the Decision Support Tool screening criteria within the protected areas community of practice for the purposes of sharing expertise (e.g., experts with the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, program staff within provincial and federal governments).

Contact	_____
Title, Organization	Date

Contact	_____
Title, Organization	Date

(A second signature is only required if, two signatures are required for your organization, or if you are providing permission for CEAs, in which case a signature is also required from the landowner).

Sincerely,

Alison Howson, Executive Director, Ontario Land Trust Alliance

Appendix B: Landowner Permission Letter Template - to be signed by the landowner for donations

This is a template, which should be submitted on your letterhead.

[legal description of property]

To whom it may concern:

I am the owner [we are the owners] of the property described above. It is my [our] intention to ensure permanent protection of this property through [transferring title in fee simple to/registering a conservation easement on this property in favour] of [insert name of land trust].

I [we] understand that [insert name of land trust] will be submitting a funding application to the Ontario Land Trust Alliance for costs associated with protecting the property and will be sharing information about the property with them. I [we] understand that information about the property may also be shared with provincial government departments and agencies.

I [we] agree that [insert name of land trust] may share information about my [our] property as above.

[date]

[signature of owner(s)]

[Name of owner(s)]

[Address]

[Telephone number]

[Email]