

The Bedminster Land Conservancy

Our Organization

Incorporated in August 1997, the Bedminster Land Conservancy (BLC) is a local, nonprofit, land conservation organization led by a board of directors and supported by several committees, all of whom are dedicated volunteers. The Conservancy is now assisted by a paid technical staff member serving as our Director of Conservation.

Based in Bedminster Township, the BLC serves the Upper Bucks County area and works with several area townships and open space organizations.



The Bucks County Conservation District awarded us the *Bucks County Conservation Organization of the Year, 2004*.

Our Mission and Goals

The BLC is committed to protecting and preserving the agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle that still characterizes Bedminster and the surrounding communities.

Our goal is to preserve farmland, open spaces, natural lands, wildlife habitats, and scenic features in Upper Bucks County, all which play a vital role in the well-being of our communities and the quality of life for future generations – and our own.

Therefore, we work to acquire conservation easements on the land, either through donation or by purchase, and to maintain a strong land preservation program in the area. Preserved land costs the communities much less than developed land by requiring less services.

We educate landowners about the environmental and economic value of conservation and encourage landowners to protect their properties.

The BLC also provides assistance to the land owners as we work together to craft the best way to protect the features of the property.

The Conservancy works to uphold and defend any conservation easements we hold or co-hold. Our monitoring team conducts annual site visits to assure that the preservation agreement for the property is in compliance.

Our funding comes from membership fees and contributions, fundraising activities, and our easement monitoring services. We also have received grants for specific projects.



What Is a Conservation Easement?

It is a legal agreement between the owner of a property and a nonprofit organization or a governmental unit in which the owner agrees to restrict future uses of a parcel of land.

Just as a piece of land and each landowner are different, each easement is slightly different, reflecting specific wishes of the grantor. Typical restrictions include a limitation on additional homes or no future development and typical requirements include good land stewardship practices.



The land *stays in private ownership*. It *does not* become a public property with public access unless the easement grantor specifically requests this. It can be resold like any other private property - but the easement stays with the land.

How Does an Owner Place an Easement?

A conservation easement may be donated or sold by the landowner. In either case, there can be substantial financial benefits to the owner and future heirs, who can continue to live on and own the land.

Contact the BLC directly and one of us will be pleased to provide further information on the process.

Membership form – fill in & return to:

**Bedminster Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 208
Bedminster, PA 18910**

Yes, I support the goals of the Bedminster Land Conservancy and enclose my annual dues.

Regular Membership Categories:

- \$15 Student/Senior Member
- \$30 Individual Member
- \$40 Family Member
- \$100 Business Member (Please include a Business Card, for publication in our newsletters.)
- \$100+ Conservationist
- \$200+ Preservationist
- \$1000 Benefactor (Lifetime Membership)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # (optional) _____

If you would like to volunteer to help us, (Mailing, events, etc), please note here: _____

If you would like to speak with one of us about preserving your land, please check here and provide your phone number: _____

How You Can Help

Become a member of the Bedminster Land Conservancy! When you join BLC, you are making an investment in your community's quality of life - and the future. It could be the best investment you make.

Tell your friends about us and encourage them to join! A membership form is included in this brochure.

Membership Benefits

First, you will receive a thank you letter and a welcome. Second, as member, you will receive three (3) issues per year of *The Conservator*, our highly-praised conservancy newsletter. We will keep you informed of important local as well as state and federal government decisions.

You will be invited to our annual meeting and all other conservancy sponsored activities- including our socials, garden tours, etc.

The most important thing you will get as a member of BLC is the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to make a difference for your benefit and for the future of your community's well-being. No matter how far apart our residences may (or may not) be, we share a genuine sense of community and pride in the unique and beautiful area in which we choose to live.



We *are* making a difference! Be a part of that difference while we can have the most impact - please join now.



Preserving the land Protecting the future



**PO Box 208
Bedminster, PA 18910**

215-795-2352 (BeLC)

www.bedminsterlandconservancy.org