

## **FOLLOW UP RESOURCES for *Building Community Resilience: How Housing & Conservation Groups Can Collaborate* | Land Trust Alliance Rally | September 8, 2023**

**Key takeaway:** There are many ways that conservation land trusts can support affordable housing and other community visions for land. There is great power that can come from working together: integrating a community-based housing focus has the potential to improve conservation and encourage residential development where it is appropriate, reuse vacant / underutilized lands for community purposes, address inequitable access to land and natural resources, and conserve greenspaces and natural areas for climate and community resilience. So - where to start?

*First, do no harm: do not oppose affordable housing projects.*

*Second, create purposeful relationships.*

- Identify partners in your community - including community land trusts, land banks, other affordable housing groups, municipal or town government agencies with an interest in conservation or housing - and get to know them.
- Visit the others' properties, learn about their projects.
- Formal and informal meetings with housing organizations with staff and board members.
- Identify common goals and needs.
- Housing and conservation staff serve on each other's boards.
- Share resources and expertise.
- Consider LTA Standard 8b: how does this project fit into existing plans and regulations?
- Improve access to existing conserved lands. Consider how different community members can access new conservation projects.
- Explain how affordable housing and conservation can be complementary, and each are important needs at multiple scales - from local town planning, to regional and/or statewide.
  - Develop and advocate for policies, regulations and funding to support both
  - Land trusts and their supporters have strong social capital and community connections. Both can be powerful advocates for an affordable housing project.

*Third, consider joint projects that advance housing and conservation.*

- Apply for government and philanthropic funding together with housing or community development partners.
- Purchase property and allocate part to affordable housing and part for conservation.
- Add housing adjacent to conserved land (e.g., housing for local farmers).
- Prioritize conservation projects near affordable housing.
- Land exchanges.
- Land trusts land bank for affordable housing partners.
- Support the creation of community gardens and parks near existing affordable housing.

## Resources for further learning:

### Reports:

- [Breaking Ground: An Affordable Housing Resource Guide for Land Trusts](#) – Colin Custer, Forrest King-Cortes, Raffaele Sindoni; Land Trust Alliance (2023) - LTA report detailing why collaboration between housing and conservation groups is relevant; defining affordable housing terminology; and four case studies of collaborative projects from across the country.
- [Introduction to Affordable Housing for Land Trusts Webinar](#) - Colin Custer, Dick Dolan, Katie Michels, Forrest King-Cortes, Christine Walker; Land Trust Alliance (2023) - Summary of LTA report, featuring case study of a housing/conservation project in Bozeman, MT.
- [Building Collaboration among Community Land Trusts Providing Affordable Housing and Conservation Land Trusts Protecting Land for Ecological Value](#) – Katie Michels and David Hindin; Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (2023) - Report summarizing the benefits of collaboration between affordable housing organizations and conservation land trusts, barriers to collaboration, and recommended pathways for further collaboration.
- [National Land Bank + CLT Map](#) – Center for Community Progress (2023) - Map of land banks and community land trusts. Land trusts will be added to this map very soon.
- Community Land Trust Directory - Schumacher Center (2023) - Map of CLTs [across the US](#) and [around the world](#).
- [Land Banks and Land Banking: Second Edition](#). – F. S. Alexander; Center for Community Progress (2015) - Report detailing the fundamentals of how land banks work.

### Recent examples of collaborative efforts:

- [It Takes a Village to Make a Village](#) - Lisa Foderaro; Trust for Public Land (2023) - Examples of municipalities and land trusts partnering to complete projects together.
- [Methow Valley Conservancy Stays Firmly on the Ground](#) - Lazo Gitchos; Methow Valley News (2023) - summary of Sunny M, a 1200 acre project with housing, agriculture, and recreation, and natural area conservation led by the Methow Conservancy.
- [What works in housing affordability: Creating middle-income housing with the Bridger View neighborhood](#) - Landon Peterson and Libby Starling; MN Fed (2022) - summarizes Story Mill Park, a 60 acre park and 62 unit, mixed-income housing project in Bozeman, MT. Project led by TPL.
- [Finding Common Ground: Conservation Groups & Affordable Housing Advocates Explore New Collaborations](#) – Audrea Lim, Land Lines (2023) - Article summarizing joint efforts.
- [Hudson Valley Affordable Housing & Conservation Strategy](#) – Regional Plan Association (2023) - Report summarizing the Hudson Valley efforts.

### Presenter Contact Information:

- Allison Handler - Principal, Travertine Strategies - [allison@travertinestrategies.com](mailto:allison@travertinestrategies.com)
- David Hindin - Sustainability Advocate - [DavidHindin@outlook.com](mailto:DavidHindin@outlook.com)
- Brian Larkin - National Land Bank Network Director, Center for Community Progress - [blarkin@communityprogress.org](mailto:blarkin@communityprogress.org)
- Katie Michels - Graduate Student and VT Housing & Conservation Board - [kzmichels@gmail.com](mailto:kzmichels@gmail.com)
- Peter Stein - Managing Director, Lyme Timber - [peterstein@lymetimber.com](mailto:peterstein@lymetimber.com)
- *For broader questions on this topic:* Forrest King-Cortes - Director of Community-Centered Conservation, Land Trust Alliance - [king-cortes@lta.org](mailto:king-cortes@lta.org)