

## Conservation Acquisitions

Since our first loan in 1993, we've helped our partners protect more than 140,000 acres across 35 states and five Canadian provinces—lands valued at nearly \$380 million. By continuously revolving our \$50 million loan fund, we're advancing the pace of conservation in communities and connecting more people to nature.



### Summit Land Conservancy - Park City, Utah

When a group of Oakley, Utah, residents approached Summit Land Conservancy with an idea to work with private landowners to protect public access to the Weber River, the Conservancy was all ears. The residents had worked for years developing a plan to build a public trail along the riverbank, to connect the town with public trails on U.S. Forest Service land leading into the nearby Uinta Mountains. Summit Land Conservancy embraced the vision, and when 23 acres with a half mile of river frontage came on the market, the conservancy seized the opportunity to ensure the lower section of the trail would be possible.

Summit Land Conservancy staff and board dreamed big, and we helped them in their first fee acquisition by providing bridge financing for two years while they implemented a funding strategy. This strategy includes a land exchange to add additional public access along the river, and protecting the property with a conservation easement before transferring fee ownership to the City of Oakley.



### Capitol Land Trust - Olympia, Washington

In Capitol Land Trust's recent update of its five-year strategic plan, the community's need for a nature preserve for children was a high priority. The Trust envisioned creating an outdoor "classroom" for local public schools and a place for kids and families to learn, play and be inspired. So, when 100 acres of diverse natural habitat that included a mile of Puget Sound shoreline and was close to downtown Olympia came on the market, Capitol Land Trust knew this was a perfect opportunity.

However, the Trust did not have the funds on hand to buy the first parcel within the seller's timeline. Capitol Land Trust, which had never borrowed money before, worked closely with The Conservation Fund to develop a funding plan consisting of numerous grant requests, its first capital campaign, and a loan.

"A loan from The Conservation Fund allowed us to purchase land that had previously been under contract to developers. In addition to providing the necessary funding, The Conservation Fund's staff gave us great advice on the structure of our capital campaign."

- Cheryl Fox, Executive Director,  
Summit Land Conservancy



### **Nature Conservancy Canada**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada leads an international collaboration of partners to conserve more than 12,500 acres of the most significant habitat along 70 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. For fifteen years, the group strategized on how to protect the Trout Bay property, consisting of 13 miles of pristine Lake Superior shoreline in Ontario, just north of Duluth, Minnesota. The property's 2,541 acres of coastal boreal forest provide habitat for more than 80 species of fish, hundreds of species of birds, and several iconic species like bald eagle, peregrine falcons, moose, caribou and wolves.

Mounting development pressure had put the Trout Bay property at risk, but The Conservation Fund's ability to offer quick financing allowed the Nature Conservancy of Canada to swiftly purchase this ecologically important area before it was lost forever. Our Conservation Loan program provided the Nature Conservancy of Canada with a three-year loan of \$1.1 million U.S. dollars to bridge the gap while the Conservancy raised funds to pay for the acquisition.



### **Driftless Area Land Conservancy - Dodgeville, Wisconsin**

A 220-acre natural area rife with wetlands, remnant prairie, bur oak savanna and river frontage sits adjacent to the village of Argyle's park and K-12 school. For many local residents, the property was one of the first places they were introduced to nature, but when the landowner put it on the market, the property's future was unknown.

In its first fee acquisition, Driftless Area Land Conservancy stepped up to the plate and acquired the property on behalf of the community, thanks to a generous discount on the sale price from the landowner and with the assistance of our Conservation Loan program to bridge public grant funds. The property now has formal trails and public river access, and it serves as an outdoor laboratory for students at the adjacent school.

“Nature knows no borders and fortunately neither does collaboration between conservation partners. The Nature Conservancy of Canada could not have successfully acquired the Big Trout Bay lands without the advice and support of The Conservation Fund - it's as simple as that.”

- James Duncan, Vice President,  
Nature Conservancy Canada, Ontario

### **About The Conservation Fund**

At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states since 1985 to protect nearly 8 million acres of land.

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