



**GREEN SOD
IRELAND**
PROTECTING WILD ACRES

**GREEN SOD LAND TRUST
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Working Title: Green Sod Ireland - *An Fóidín Glas*

Land Management Policy and Guidelines

"Our own human existence and well-being are dependent on the well-being of the larger Earth Community out of which we were born and upon which we depend for our continued survival."

Cormac Cullinan: Wild Law 2002

This Land Management Policy reflects our primary obligation to care for the larger Earth Community.

GREEN SOD LAND TRUST Company Limited by Guarantee

www.greensodireland.ie

LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Vision: *Ireland – a country where ecosystems are thriving and flourishing*

Green Sod Land Trust is established in order that land can be respected in its own right and conserved and protected for its own sake and for the sake of present and future indigenous members of the total Earth community: micro-organisms, plants, trees, animals, rocks, water and soil, as well as humans for whom it is a source of sustenance, inspiration and spiritual nourishment. By holding land in trust, we believe that it can be respected for its own sake regardless of any value it may have for particular human interests at any specific time.

We believe that the Earth is alive, and that all life is nourished and sustained in relationship to the Earth. We value the interconnectedness and interdependence of the whole of life and our privilege and responsibility as humans, the self-reflective consciousness of the Universe/Earth, to live in harmony with Earth's processes.

Mission: *Establishing Wild Acres (land in protection) across Ireland to create safe habitats, and to facilitate the free movement of wildlife, vital for biodiversity;*

Delivering ecological education to encourage the proactive preservation of Nature.

To operate as a countrywide, not-for-profit charity, facilitating the conservation and protection of land for its own sake in every region (bio-region) in Ireland, thus ensuring that a greenways system in the form of 'Wild Acres' enable indigenous populations to live in safety and security in their natural habitats; by promoting education initiatives across all sectors. In so doing we will be respecting, valuing and enhancing the rich biodiversity that is ours as the whole community of life.

Goals & Objectives:

- ❖ To protect and conserve land by bringing stretches of land into stable long-term ownership and to manage said land in accordance with Sustainable Land Management Practices
- ❖ To educate ourselves and others in the process of valuing land for its own sake, and working to conserve and protect it into the future for the good of the whole community of life
- ❖ To raise awareness of the interconnectedness of the entire web of life, and grow in sensitivity to, and in harmony with, the living Earth/Universe
- ❖ To acknowledge the mutual dependence between the land and ourselves by encouraging its natural processes, (habitats; ecosystems; life cycles etc.) and working to renew land where it has been damaged
- ❖ To live more sustainably and stimulate both local participation and public corporate support to protect land, including water, air, trees, hedgerows and the like from being treated as commodities.

Land Management Guidelines



The primary aim of Green Land Trust is to protect Irish ecosystems by bringing stretches of land into stable long-term ownership/care.

Trying to balance the idea of natural ecosystems evolving unmanaged with the reality of land use in Ireland today, presents a core challenge.

Because of intensive farming methods, use of chemicals etc., land has in the past and is presently suffering much ecological deterioration to the detriment of the communities who depend on it.

Therefore:

- Green Sod Land Trust focuses on promoting mutually beneficial partnerships with local communities and individuals who have an interest in land, taking into account ecological, social, cultural and historical aspects of the land.



- Green Sod Land Trust supports and promotes sustainable land management practices in compliance with internationally acknowledged standards in order to protect natural processes and where feasible restore natural processes to increase biodiversity and indigenous populations.
- Green Sod Land Trust aims to set high standards in management of land both for the sake of the land and its communities and, also to influence and direct the management of all land in Ireland.
- Aware of the value of land to human beings for both physical and spiritual nourishment and well-being, Green Sod Land Trust promotes explained limited access to certain areas to safeguard conservation interests and for essential management.
- Green Sod Land Trust aims to build a body of knowledge for each of its land lots through collaboration with relevant professionals. Land management plans will be regularly reviewed in the light of professional advice.
- Green Sod values collaborative management of land and is happy to work with local landowners to this end.



Building public support is crucial to the work of protecting and conserving land for future generations and so Green Sod Land Trust values highly the participation of members and volunteers in its work and encourages people to help in whatever way they can.

For further information please contact:

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www.greensodireland.ie

A Land Management Plan will include:

1. A description of the specific location of the land, its acreage etc., including descriptions of boundary structures; hedgerows, walls, fences or other.
2. A description of any adjacent neighbouring land and its use (public/private).
3. Legal descriptions including maps and folio numbers, photographs, access roads, paths, hedges, or other features such as buildings, walls, gates etc.
4. A description of any particular scenic or recreational qualities on the land.
5. A description of prior management methods/land use – wetlands, grazing lands, tillage, wood/trees, hill farm, fallow land etc.
6. A description of the impact on land of:
 - reclamation, run-off, over-grazing, erosion, mining, quarrying, farming, tourism etc.
7. A quantitative and qualitative inventory of:
 - soil types;
 - wildlife and wildlife habitats (flora and fauna populations and health)
 - threatened and endangered species
 - watersheds
 - vegetation to include wooded areas
 - historical/archaeological features
8. A description of local community.
9. Long/short-term work plans with varying objectives and measurable outcomes which will depend on the specific needs of a particular piece of land. Each land lot will be individually assessed and planned for, in compliance with internationally acknowledged standards of sustainable land management, to ensure the protection of natural processes and where feasible the restoration of natural processes in order to increase biodiversity and indigenous populations.
10. A record of work practices and outcomes including dates, costs and photographs. Evaluation of plan and its implementation and recommendations from resource professionals for necessary adjustments.