

Sakonnet Preservation

Conserving land  Preserving Little Compton

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get more information to determine whether or not I want to conserve my property?

Sakonnet Preservation Association has numerous resources that outline conservation options as well as policies and procedures for donating property. Call 635-8800 or send an email to the office at (spa@sakonnetpreservation.org). We are happy to walk you through the process and offer guidance on how to reach your conservation goals. In addition, the [Land Trust Alliance](#) offers detailed information about conservation across the country.

Would Sakonnet Preservation Association be interested in buying my land?

Typically, Sakonnet Preservation acquires a property or conservation easement by donation. Occasionally Sakonnet Preservation purchases land, but it is unusual due to our limited financial resources. We sometimes collaborate with other organizations to conserve land.

Are there tax benefits for putting a conservation easement on my property?

Yes, please consult with a tax advisor about the potential tax benefits of conserving your land. The [Land Trust Alliance](#) website outlines the most current federal tax incentives for conservation easements. More information can be found at Internal Revenue Code § 170(h) Qualified Conservation Contribution, (www.irs.gov), and IRS Form 8283 Noncash Charitable Contributions, (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8283.pdf).

How will conserving my property affect my local property tax?

Consult with the Little Compton Board of Assessors Office at the Little Compton Town Hall (www.little-compton.com). That office in the Little Compton Town Hall can be reached by calling: 635-4509.

What is "stewardship"?

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of a conservation easement or land entrusted to our organization's care. Sakonnet Preservation's Land Trust Alliance accredited stewardship program ensures that each property held, either as a conservation easement or as a property donated outright, is visited every year. Highly trained volunteer monitors check for any encroachment or damage to a property's conservation values. Stewarding the properties we own may additionally involve such maintenance responsibilities as keeping fields open by mowing to protect habitat or historic uses, working to reduce invasive species, and removing litter.

What is stewardship "in perpetuity"?

Perpetuity means forever, and we take that responsibility very seriously. When Sakonnet Preservation accepts a conservation easement or a gift of property for conservation, it takes on the responsibility to stewards and protect its conservation values *forever*.

Do you accept every property offered to Sakonnet Preservation?

When assessing whether a property is appropriate for conservation with Sakonnet Preservation, we measure conformance with IRS criteria for charitable conservation gifts that provide public benefit, as well as aspects of the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan. Conservation resources that are considered to have public benefit include forest, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat, farmland, scenic views, unique flora and fauna, and historic features or uses.