



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As of January 1, 2022, Lowcountry Land Trust (LLT) and East Cooper Land Trust (ECLT) are now one organization! For decades, LLT and ECLT have both served land protection needs in a rapidly growing Charleston Region. While ECLT has focused on the geographic area between the Cooper and Santee Rivers, LLT has worked across 17 counties of coastal South Carolina. We have chosen to scale both organizations by merging our efforts into one diverse and robust organization. The resulting new Lowcountry Land Trust will draw from the strengths of two established organizations.

### ***Organizational:***

**Q: What will the new organization be called?**

*A: The combined organization will operate as Lowcountry Land Trust.*

**Q: Where will your office be?**

*A: Lowcountry Land Trust's office is located at the corner of Rutledge Avenue and Huger Street: 635 Rutledge Avenue, Ste. 107, Charleston, SC 29403*

**Q: How will this change staffing for the organizations?**

*A: ECLT's Executive Director position has transitioned to serve as Community Conservation Director at Lowcountry Land Trust. This position will carry on the work and relationships with ECLT's established support base and professional/business contacts. No other staffing changes at LLT are expected as a result of the merger.*

**Q: Will the ECLT Board be a part of the LLT Board?**

*A: Paul Butler, Justin Craig, and Richard Morrison have transitioned from ECLT's Board to LLT's Board.*

**Q: Does LLT anticipate any other mergers? Is this just the first?**

*A: This merger was a result of a clear mission alignment between ECLT and LLT, and out of a desire to improve operational efficiency in order to heighten program investment. No other mergers are anticipated at this time.*

**Q: Will it still be accredited?**

*A: Both organizations are accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. LLT is due for a routine re-accreditation in the fall of 2022.*

### ***Properties:***

**Q: Will LLT continue to work to conserve large properties?**

*A: Large landscape conservation is important, and LLT will continue to protect properties whose size and location contribute to fulfilling the organizational mission of protecting land and water forever, nurturing relationships between people and place, and connecting conservation to*



*community. As a united organization, we will build on ECLT's expertise in delivering smaller projects that have a high positive impact for local communities.*

**Q: What will happen to the publicly accessible properties that ECLT owns?**

*A: These owned, or "fee-simple properties" are publicly accessible and usable to varying degrees. Ownership will transfer to independent LLCs under Lowcountry Land Trust. While no other changes are planned, we will consider all options for property enhancements and stewardship duties including possibly transferring ownership to local municipalities with larger sets of resources if deemed appropriate. A conservation easement or some layer of protection would be placed on any lands that are transferred.*

**Q: ECLT holds my easement. What does this mean for me?**

*A: Your easement will continue to be monitored annually by Lowcountry Land Trust staff. Our stewardship staff may be reached at (843) 410-0671.*

**Q: What are the combined assets of the organizations?**

*A: Over 500 properties totaling more than 150,000 acres are permanently protected.*

**Outreach:**

**Q: Will LLT take on ECLT's popular Race & Roast and Harvest Feast?**

*A: Nearly all of both organizations' most popular events have been on hold since the beginning of the pandemic. While we miss interacting with our supporters, it's given us a good time to review our calendars. We anticipate many new events and outreach efforts, and will aim to preserve as many beloved events as possible. What are you looking forward to? Email us at [hello@lowcountrylandtrust.org](mailto:hello@lowcountrylandtrust.org) and share your thoughts on what we should bring back as we enter a post-pandemic season.*

**Q: How can I continue to support the kinds of work that ECLT does?**

*A: ECLT and LLT have always had closely aligned missions. While ECLT focused on the geographic area between the Cooper and Santee Rivers, LLT's focus spans 17 counties in coastal South Carolina. Donations made to Lowcountry Land Trust support all of our conservation efforts in these areas.*

**Q: Will you continue the partnerships that ECLT has established? East Coast Greenway, area chambers, Walk Bike BCD?**

*A: ECLT is not going away, merely joining forces with LLT. We plan to continue existing ECLT and LLT partnerships, periodically assessing them for effectiveness and community relevance.*