



**This example can be used as a starting point to create a policy or other document for your own land trust, but should be altered as necessary to reflect your organization's unique circumstances using guidance found in the *Land Trust Standards and Practices Guidebook* text and corresponding Standards and Practices Curriculum.**

**Please note: If you are using this material for accreditation purposes, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission's *Requirements Manual* provides guidance on how the Commission evaluates compliance with indicator practice 8B Project Selection and Criteria. The *Requirements Manual* is available at**

**<http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/requirements-manual>**

**To search for policies from accredited land trusts on the Learning Center (<http://learningcenter.lta.org>), include the word "accredited" along with your search terms (e.g., conflict interest policy accredited).**

## SELECTION CRITERIA, ALL-VOLUNTEER LAND TRUST

### South County Conservancy, Inc. Ranking and Priority Point System

Criteria	0	1	2	3
Size of Parcel	<1 acre	1-5	5-10	Over 10 acres
Groundwater protection	No impact	Wellhead protection	Aquifers	Recharge areas
Proximity to other protected land or to ponds or barrier beaches	>1/2 mile	¼ to ½	<1/4 mile away	Abutting or connecting such areas
Ecologically significant habitat	Degraded Habitat	Average	Above average	Prime habitat
Farmland Preservation	No	Inactive farm	Active farm < 10 acres	Active farm >10 acres
Potential to offset impact of development: # of housing units possible	0	1-10	11-20	Over 20
Protects rural character	Minimal	Low	Medium	High
Historic value	Minimal	Low	Medium	High
Scenic value	Minimal	Low	Medium	High
Price to SCC	>\$25,000	10-25,000	Up to \$10,000	0

Each parcel will be evaluated on the 10 criteria above. For each criterion a point score will be assigned, with the maximum score possible of 30. Projects scoring 14 or above will be considered priority projects. Projects scoring less than 14 will be put on a list for possible later consideration. Exceptions to this priority ranking may be made in cases where funding is immediately available and may be lost by delay. Flexibility may also be needed due to the timing of the agreement and needs of the landowner. If projects are selected for these exceptions, the recommendation to proceed with the project must be documented in writing.

Projects that meet the threshold rank of 14 may be funded whenever agreement can be reached with the owner, SCC and any other party participating in the project.

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° This material is designed to provide accurate, authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is provided with the understanding that the Land Trust Alliance is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional counsel. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of competent professionals should be sought.