Core values for the Rootskeeper Community

Caretaking. It is our responsibility to take care of ourselves, each other, and our world.
- We are responsible to ourselves for creating the life we want for ourselves. We are responsible to co-create a social structure that is just, and offers opportunity to everyone, and not just to some. We are responsible for creating a nourishing and reciprocal relationship with our planet, and all the creatures we share it with. We envision a world where people recognize their deep connection to one another and to the natural world.
- We recognize that fossil fuels pose a fatal and urgent threat to the survival of thousands of species, including our own. We believe that it’s not too late for humanity to collectively wake up to the reality of this dangerous course and choose another path. We are doing whatever we can to hasten that awakening.

Self-determination. We need the freedom to lead meaningful lives of our own design.
- We should have the opportunity to construct a life unhampered by fear, discrimination, and oppression. We are entitled to basic physical safety, economic security, health care, education, and access to nourishing food and clean air and water. We should have control over the choices that are our own, such as what we do with our own bodies and whom we choose to marry. We each should have a voice in public life, and with it the ability to influence our collective management of the commons.
- As leaders, we each put ourselves forward, taking action in the world on our own initiative and using our own judgement, because we feel called to do so. Each of us answers first and foremost to him or herself, and takes responsibility for his or her own choices. We put ourselves forward with authenticity, humility, and a sense of humor. We strive to be audacious, to take chances, risk making mistakes, and learn from our victories and setbacks. We allow, with patience and love, others to do the same.

Collaboration. We make space to receive the unique gifts and wisdom of other people.
- We recognize that what each of us can do alone is not enough, and so make space in our minds and hearts to take in each other’s experiences and learn from them. We give all people equal opportunity to speak and be heard, and work as a community to create a safe space in which everyone is comfortable expressing themselves. We endeavor to show each other the same compassion that we would like to receive from one another and hold the Golden Rule - treating others as we wish to be treated - as sacred.

Honest conflict. We address conflict as directly as we can, whether it arises within our community or between us and other people in the world.
- Within our community, when conflict or misunderstanding occurs, we will try to address it by speaking directly to the person or people involved. We won’t engage in gossip. If we need help from others in finding a resolution, we will ask for that help. But we will do so in the spirit of finding a resolution to the conflict, not in order to express anger and hostility toward people behind their backs. In interacting with each other, our allies, and even our political adversaries, we will express our views and feelings as directly as we can, ask real questions, and listen to the answers we receive. Developing healthy systems of addressing common problems in communication is essential in order to sustain a healthier world, spread love, and develop resilient communities.

Experiential learning. We are committed to learning and evolving as we go.
- We accept the reality of uncertainty, and dedicate ourselves to keep learning. We know that political organizing is an art, not a science, and that there are no definitive answers. So we don’t expect anyone to tell us what to do. And we don’t tell each other what to do either. We know that we each need to figure things out, each step of the way.