

Introduction

Including the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) in your will or estate plans is one of the finest ways to leave your legacy. By doing so, you will leave a gift that will last forever.

Legacy gifts support our mission to preserve land and shoreland throughout the northwoods of Wisconsin. Legacy gifts are the primary way NWLTL builds its capacity to protect more land, and sustain conservation and stewardship programs into the future.

As a legacy donor, you may choose to give a portion of your estate, specific assets or your residual estate (after payment of other bequests). There is no limit to the amount you can leave to a charity such as NWLTL.

Legacy gifts to NWLTL are free from federal estate tax and may therefore offer significant estate tax benefits. Please speak with your financial advisors about setting a percentage, fixed dollar amount or specific asset to support our mission.

If you are planning to include, or have already included, NWLTL as a beneficiary in your will or estate plans, please let us know by filling out the [Legacy Gift Intention Form](#). *We ask that you please inform us to be sure your gift can be accepted and your intentions honored.*

Once you confirm that NWLTL is in your legacy plans by returning the intention form, we welcome you a member of the [Northwoods Legacy Society](#). Society members are listed on our website and recognized in the Annual Report (in the year you join). We honor requests for anonymity if you'd prefer to not be named on the website or in publications.

Legacy gifts may include naming the Northwoods Land Trust as a beneficiary in your:

Will or trust

Bequests involve designating a specific asset, amount or percentage of an estate to NWLT in your will. Bequests can involve gifts of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate or other assets, or you can name NWLT as residual beneficiary of your estate. *View the following page for examples of bequest language.*

If you are considering a *bequest of land to be preserved for conservation purposes*, we ask that you notify us in advance. We prefer to work with you up front to ensure that we would be able to conserve the property consistent with your intentions. If so, we may choose to own and manage the land as a conservation area. If there are structures such as a home or cabin, we may place a conservation easement on the natural lands, and sell the entire property to someone who we believe would be a responsible steward and partner, resulting in both preserved land as well as income to support NWLT's mission.

Retirement, brokerage and bank accounts

One of the most simple, flexible and inexpensive ways to leave your legacy is by designating NWLT as a beneficiary of your retirement or financial accounts.

Eligible Accounts Include:

- Retirement, IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) accounts
- Brokerage accounts
- CDs
- Money market, savings, checking accounts

To name the Northwoods Land Trust to receive a portion or all of your unused or remaining assets, simply list Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. Tax ID: 31-1776860, ____%.

Life insurance plan

Life insurance plans can name NWLT as a beneficiary. You can do so by simply contacting your insurance agent. This type of gift may come with eligible tax savings.

- Name the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. as a beneficiary; full value or partial percent value of the policy
- Gift a fully paid-up life insurance policy outright to NWLT

Charitable remainder trust

Name the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. as a beneficiary in your charitable remainder trust. A charitable remainder trust is a tax-exempt irrevocable trust designed to reduce the taxable income of individuals. A charitable remainder trust dispenses income to one or more noncharitable beneficiaries for a specified period of up to 20 years, and then donates the remainder to one or more charitable organizations.

Carl Anderson bequeathed 22 acres of land to NWLT with Wisconsin River flowage frontage – property he cherished for 63 years before his passing.



NWLT sold the land subject to a conservation easement – permanently protecting it while establishing an endowment fund to support NWLT's operations.

Examples of Bequest Language

The information provided here is general in nature, applicable to wills and trusts.

Portion of estate:

"I give to the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321, ____% of my estate to be used by the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. for purposes related to its mission of land protection and stewardship."

Residual estate (after other bequests are named):

"I give to the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321, the rest and residue of my estate to be used by the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. wherever the need is greatest."

Specific amount:

"I give to the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321, the sum of \$_____ to be used by the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc. wherever the need is greatest."

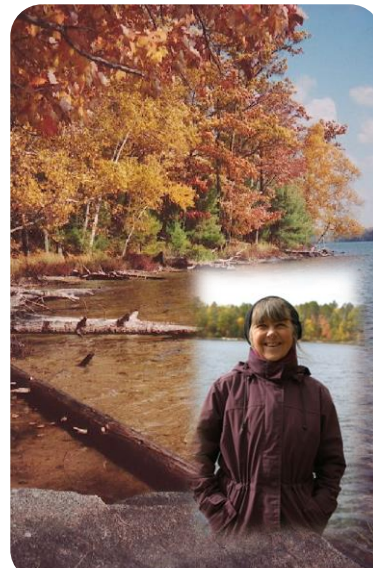
Specific property:

"I give to the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321, all of my right, title and interest in the following described real estate [insert legal description of property]."

If you are considering a gift of land to be preserved for conservation purposes, and have verified that we can honor your intentions, you would add *"to be used by the Northwoods Land Trust for conservation purposes"* to the end of the above statement.

Specific assets:

"I give to the Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321, the following described assets to be used by the Northwoods Land Trust wherever the need is greatest [insert description of assets to be included such as stocks, bonds, proceeds from retirement plans or life insurance, art, non-conservation lands and buildings, vehicles, boats and other equipment, or any other valuable tangible personal assets]."



Willa Schmidt was NWLT's first conservation easement donor in 2003. She has also included the land trust in her will to continue to support northwoods conservation into perpetuity.

Conclusion

- ◆ We recommend that you contact your own professional tax advisor to learn how giving options relate to your specific circumstances. Planned giving specialists and other financial advisors oftentimes suggest that if you are considering making an outright specific bequest to a charity, it is best to specify that a percentage of your estate go to that organization, rather than a specific sum. This allows your charitable giving to adjust with your changing life circumstances.
- ◆ As a reminder, if you are planning to include, or have already included, the Northwoods Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will or estate plans, please let us know by filling out the [Legacy Gift Intention Form](#). *We ask that you please inform us to be sure your gift can be accepted and your intentions honored.* The Northwoods Land Trust applies legacy gifts to support conservation priorities outlined by our strategic plan unless otherwise agreed upon with a legacy donor.
- ◆ For legal purposes, the organization is described as the “Northwoods Land Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and with a current business mailing address of PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521-0321.” Our federal identification number is 31-1776860. Our Wisconsin Certificate of Exempt Status number is CES# 008-0001908280-04. You may wish to keep this information on file and also provide a copy to your attorney.

If you, your attorney or other financial advisors have any questions or would like assistance planning and directing your gift to NWLT, please contact us at:

Ted Anchor, Executive Director
Northwoods Land Trust
PO Box 321, Eagle River, WI 54521
(715)479-2490
nwlt@northwoodslandtrust.org

The Northwoods Legacy Society is dedicated to those who leave their legacy through a bequest to NWLT. To make a planned gift during your lifetime (to realize estate and/or income tax benefits during your lifetime), visit our [Support page](#).

Thank you!

