

Your invitation to join the  
*Door County Land Trust Legacy Circle*



*Leave a legacy that sustains Door County's  
exceptional lands and waters forever!*





Photo by Julie Scharfner

Those of us who intimately know Door County have been fortunate to experience its great and often undisturbed beauty. Our lives have been enriched by this place with its stone fence-lined fields, quiet cedar forests, miles of pristine lakeshore, and breathtaking views atop majestic bluffs.

“Because the Land Trust helps to preserve the quality of life in Door County, we look for ways to help preserve the future of the Land Trust. We do this through our annual giving as well as through estate planning with a Charitable Remainder Trust that will distribute assets to the Door County Land Trust upon our death. We consider it a privilege to support the protection of the lands we have come to know and love.”

Lucy and Karl Klug  
Door County Land Trust members

The Klugs are members of the Northern White Cedar Society and the Land Trust Legacy Circle.



# Leaving a Legacy

There are fewer and fewer places like Door County in the world. We have an opportunity and an obligation to future generations to identify, protect and care for the special places that help to make Door County one of the most inspiring places to live and visit.

Let's meet this challenge together!

The inclusion of the Door County Land Trust in your estate plan creates a lasting legacy, allowing you to continue to make a difference in protecting and caring for the lands and waters we love for many years to come.

- You can make a gift in your will or trust of cash, real estate, personal property, investments and other appreciated assets.
- You could name the Door County Land Trust as a beneficiary of your retirement plans and life insurance.
- You may choose from several options for directing your gift to the Land Trust, all of which protect the places you love.

The Door County Land Trust assumes the responsibility of caring for its protected lands and waters in perpetuity. Upholding this promise is not a choice but a necessity. That is why your support is so valued.

*Leave a legacy that sustains Door County's  
exceptional lands and waters forever...  
become a member of the Land Trust Legacy Circle!*



# What Is the Legacy Circle?



By making a planned gift to the Door County Land Trust through your will or beneficiary designation, you will be welcomed into the Legacy Circle, a group of our benefactors who have indicated that the Land Trust is included in their wills or estate plans.

Legacy Circle members are recognized in listings within Land Trust reports and on our website. If you prefer, you may request to be listed as an anonymous member. Also, as a Legacy Circle member, you receive invitations to special Land Trust events.

For our records, the Door County Land Trust asks that you return the “Note of Intent” envelope attached in this booklet to the Land Trust. This is not a legally binding document, but is helpful for our planning.

*If you have already included the Door County Land Trust in your estate plans, please let us know by calling us at (920) 746-1359 or returning the estate planning Note of Intent. We would love to extend our sincere thanks and welcome you into the Land Trust Legacy Circle!*

# Directing Your Gift

You may designate how your gift is to be used by the Land Trust by directing your gift to any option as follows:

## Option 1. Stewardship Endowment

The Stewardship Endowment Trust ensures funds will always be available to fulfill the obligation of caring for the lands long into the future. Your gift directed to this fund will be invested and managed by the Door County Land Trust Endowment Board of Trustees. The principal of this fund remains untouched and the interest or earnings generated by the Trust investment will provide income year after year.

## Option 2. Land Acquisition Fund

This special fund provides the Land Trust with a ready source of dollars to respond to immediate opportunities to purchase and protect properties of high ecological and scenic value.

## Option 3. General Fund

Gifts directed to the General Fund will be used to accomplish the Land Trust's mission of protecting Door County's exceptional lands and waters forever. The Land Trust Board of Directors will direct your gift towards land acquisition, special projects, organizational development, Stewardship Endowment, or any combination of these activities.



*“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility.”*

Wendell Berry  
Author; environmental activist

# Making Your Gift to the Land Trust

Bequest language may vary from state to state so it is advisable to use an attorney who understands local estate laws. With that in mind, we suggest that you provide the following information to your attorney:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Official name:               | <b>Door County Land Trust, Inc.</b>   |
| Federal ID:                  | <b>39-1561423</b>   |
| Principal place of business: | <b>P.O. Box 65 (23 N. 5th Avenue)<br/>Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235</b>                               |
| Fund Designation Options:    | <b>Option 1. Stewardship Endowment<br/>Option 2. Land Acquisition Fund<br/>Option 3. General Fund</b> |

The information in this booklet is not intended as legal advice. All examples used within are for illustrative purposes only and are based on IRS regulations in effect at the time of this printing (2016). Please consult with your financial planner, tax advisor or attorney when making your giving arrangements to the Door County Land Trust.

The following pages suggest several customary ways for you to consider.



Photo by Dan Eggert

# Ways to Give

## Bequest Provision of Cash

An outright gift of cash is the simplest way to give. When bequeathing cash, decide how much you wish to donate and have your attorney include your bequest to the Door County Land Trust in your will or trust.

## Designation of Retirement Plan or IRA

You can name the Door County Land Trust as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts, including pension plans, profit sharing plans, stock bonus plans, Keogh Plans, 401(k) plans, and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). You can decide whether to leave a percentage or the entire amount of your retirement account to the Land Trust. If your retirement accounts are “tax deferred” accounts, this means that income taxes will eventually be paid by you or your beneficiaries. These accounts will also be subject to estate tax if the estate is large enough.

By naming the Land Trust as the beneficiary of your retirement accounts, you not only avoid estate tax, but also avoid income tax on all amounts passing to the Land Trust. This means that, in many cases, a beneficiary of a retirement account would receive less than forty percent of the amount after tax, while the Land Trust would receive the entire amount. Contact your IRA or retirement plan representative to make the appropriate changes to your beneficiary listings. Check with your attorney to see if you need to adjust your estate plan to reflect the changes made to your IRA or retirement plan.

## Insurance Beneficiary Designation

Many donors choose to name charities as beneficiaries of their life insurance policies. At death of the insured owner, proceeds are transferred, the owner’s estate gets a charitable deduction, and no federal estate tax is assessed on the transfer. You can name the Door County Land Trust as the primary or secondary beneficiary of your life insurance policy by simply contacting your insurance agent.

## Gift of Real Estate

If you intend to make any gift of land, please contact us so we may discuss your intentions. The Land Trust determines if the property meets the eligibility criteria for the land to be managed as one of our protected areas. Land or property not meeting those criteria could be sold with the proceeds used to further conservation efforts. The “retained life estate” gift of a residence or a farm allows you or others to continue living in or using the property, knowing that the Land Trust will eventually take possession of the property and sell it to generate cash to support the work of the Land Trust.

## Charitable Remainder Trust

Your attorney can help you create a trust using IRS-approved procedures. The trust is funded with cash or more typically with appreciated assets like stocks, bonds or mutual funds. With appreciated assets, you may authorize the trust to sell the assets and invest the proceeds. From this investment, the trust will pay you an annual income (five percent or more of the value of the trust assets) until the end of your life or other designated time period.

Upon death or termination of the time period, the remaining assets of the trust are transferred to the Door County Land Trust. You will benefit by receiving an income tax deduction for a charitable contribution at the time the charitable remainder trust is established. You will also eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale of the appreciated assets. It is important to note that with a charitable remainder trust, you are able to retain control over the management of the trust until the time of your death.

## Contact Us

We hope you will call or visit us if you have any questions about estate planning and the Door County Land Trust. We welcome a conversation about the use of your gift to help the Land Trust protect Door County's exceptional lands and waters forever.

Cinnamon Rossman, Development Director

Door County Land Trust phone: (920)746-1359

Email: [info@doorcountylandtrust.org](mailto:info@doorcountylandtrust.org)

Website: [www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.DoorCountyLandTrust.org)



Photo by Nancy Aten

Giving to the Door County Land Trust through your estate plan is a wonderful way for you to continue making a lasting, positive impact in Door County's future by preserving the ecological integrity and scenic beauty of this special place.

Thank you for your partnership in this most worthy endeavor.

**Thank you!**



## Door County Land Trust

PO Box 65 • Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

*“It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.”*

Christine Gregoire  
Former Governor of Washington

