



NATIONAL PARK LEGACIES

Gift and Financial Planning Information

Summer 2016

IS IT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLANS?

In recent years, many have found that changes in the economy, federal tax law revisions and other life events have had an impact on their long-term financial and estate plans.

Review and revise

When was the last time you reviewed and updated your will and other long-range plans? Even the best and most comprehensive plans can require periodic updates.

Many events can affect your will, living trust or other plans, including:

- retiring from your job
- changes in the value of your assets
- the birth of a child or grandchild
- moving to another state
- the loss of a loved one
- changes in federal laws

Your will and other plans should be reviewed periodically and updated to reflect any changes in your

life. This is the best way to make sure your arrangements for the future distribution of your property are up to date and meet your current needs and goals.

Plan for the future

Taking the time now to look ahead and make appropriate plans can help prevent confusion concerning your intentions as well as unnecessary delays in implementing them.

As you evaluate your plans, you may find you can provide for loved ones while also arranging a wonderful gift to the National Parks Conservation Association. It may even be possible to include such a gift while helping to reduce taxes and maintaining financial security for yourself and/or a loved one.

Learn more

We would be happy to provide further information to you and your advisors, without obligation, about ways you can help provide for the future of our national parks in your plans.

Below left: Young Male Elk, Great Smoky Mountains National Park © Photosbjam | Thinkstock Below right: American Black Bear, Great Smoky Mountains National Park © jcrader | Thinkstock

Above: Acadia National Park © Coleong | Dreamstime.com



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AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE FOR GIVING

Using retirement funds for making charitable gifts is generally not among most people's plans at the outset. However, retirement plan assets can be a wise source to make your gifts, both now *and* in the future.

Giving Now

Make Tax-Free Gifts to NPCA From Your IRA.

If you are aged 70½ or older, you can give directly from a traditional or Roth IRA completely free of federal income tax (up to \$100,000 per person per year). Giving directly from your IRA won't increase your adjusted gross income and possibly subject your Social Security income to a higher level of taxation. Additionally, your charitable IRA gift may count towards your required minimum withdrawal.

Giving Later

Make NPCA the Beneficiary of a Retirement Plan.

When you leave the balance of an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) to your heirs, they must carefully manage the account to avoid losing its tax-deferred status and potentially triggering large income taxes and possible penalties. You can simplify matters for your loved ones by directing all or a portion of what remains in your retirement accounts to charities and leaving other more tax-favored assets to your heirs.

Designating a charitable beneficiary of a retirement account does not require you to change your will. For more information about making a gift using retirement plan assets, see your plan administrator, return the enclosed reply card or call us (toll-free) at 1-877-468-5775.

Below: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at Sunset © Mark Vandyke | Dreamstime.com Opposite: Female Hiker on the Tower Arch Trail at Arches National Park © kwiktor | Thinkstock

Your retirement plan can help you make the gifts you want to make....

CONVENIENTLY...

ECONOMICALLY...

THOUGHTFULLY...

For your heirs and the National Parks Conservation Association.



Mather Legacy Society Profile: Nancy DeForge

FORMER TEACHER BELIEVES EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL PARKS

After a lifetime of teaching, Nancy DeForge now wants to teach everyone to become engaged in protecting our National Parks system. “I urge everyone to visit the parks for enjoyment and education and to become an active advocate for the Parks’ future.”

“I was introduced to the National Parks magazine as a teenager by my grandmother, who passed on her copies to me. And my parents always included a National Park in our summer vacations. We spent many happy hours in the Park museums and on the hiking trails, taking in the beautiful scenery and birdwatching.” As a Girl Scout, Nancy also spent many summer vacations camping in New York state.

When asked if she had a favorite park, she replied “My favorite park is Acadia because of the sights, the sounds and the smells of being by the sea. I was eight years old on my first trip there and I remember the boat tour and eating lobster for the first time!”

Nancy married her husband, Wayne, in 1970. Although Wayne was handicapped from polio, Nancy said “We managed to find every park across the country that was accessible to him in his three-wheeled scooter!”



MATHER LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER NANCY DeFORGE

Nancy spent 38 years in the teaching profession, first as an early childhood teacher, then working to test and develop programs for learning disabled children, for which she received a Ford Foundation Grant in 1968. She also developed curriculum for college students in Special Education courses. She retired from teaching in 1999.

“I first read about the bequest program in the National Parks magazine. The efforts to preserve, expand and repair our National Parks are what prompted me to make a gift in my will. I feel a real commitment to make estate funds available to protect our National Parks for all to enjoy. I am honored to be a member of the Mather Legacy Society.”

We at NPCA are honored that Nancy has made a bequest gift in her will to help provide for the future of our National Parks. If you would like to join her, please see the suggested bequest language on page 4. And if you have any questions, please call us, toll-free, at 1-877-468-5775.



MANY WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

There are a number of ways you can make future gifts to NPCA, including:

- **A bequest in your will.** You can specify a gift to NPCA of a specific amount or property, a percentage of your estate or “what’s left” after your heirs have been provided for.
- **Living trust.** If you are using a living trust to distribute assets to loved ones, you can also include charitable gifts.
- **Life insurance proceeds.** You can name us to receive all or a portion of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for its original purpose.

- **Retirement plans.** It’s easy to include NPCA as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. This is a tax-wise way to make a charitable gift, as amounts remaining in these plans at death may be subject to both estate and income taxes when left to individuals. You can also make current gifts from your IRA. See page 2 for more information.

- **Savings, checking or investment accounts.** In most states, you can name a charitable organization as beneficiary of such an account through what is known as a “pay on death” (POD) provision.

Check with us or your advisors for more information about any of the ideas presented here.

SIX REASONS TO GIVE APPRECIATED PROPERTY

Making charitable gifts using appreciated assets can make good sense from both a philanthropic and financial planning perspective.

1. You may deduct the current full value of the asset instead of what you paid for it.
2. You bypass any capital gains tax you would owe if you sold the asset.
3. Your capital gains tax savings may never be more beneficial.
4. You can claim a deduction in as many as six years, if you itemize.
5. You conserve your cash for other purposes.
6. You make a meaningful gift to support NPCA’s efforts in preserving our national parks for future generations.



Giant Sequoia Trees, Sequoia National Park, California ©lucky-photographer | Thinkstock



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NPCA’s Recommended Bequest Language

Including NPCA in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of NPCA’s work for years to come. NPCA’s Board of Trustees has suggested the following language to include NPCA as a beneficiary of a will or trust: “I give _____ (specific amount, percentage, or residuary share) to the National Parks Conservation Association, having its principal offices at 777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-3723. (Federal Tax Identification Number 53-0225165).” If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include NPCA.

