



STOWE LAND TRUST

— PLAN YOUR LEGACY —





## - LAND LASTS FOREVER -

Home to majestic Mount Mansfield, Stowe has been a favorite destination of visitors to the region for more than a century.

Stowe has an equally rich agricultural history, and today the town has more than 1,200 acres of working farmland – from traditional dairy operations to small heritage meat and cheese producers.

Stowe's forested hillsides provide a stunning scenic backdrop for the historic village, and unique features such as the conserved Bingham Falls offer numerous opportunities for enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world.

Cover: This image captures two characteristics of Stowe's stunning landscape: antique farm equipment rests as a testament to our agricultural heritage that maintained these beautiful open lands while forested hillsides provide the vibrant backdrop on this autumn day (photo: Richard Levine).

Left: **The Bouchard Farm** in early summer (photo: John Sharpless).





## TOGETHER, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH

In 1987, when our community was troubled by the threat of losing the iconic Mayo Farm to development, a group of concerned citizens formed Stowe Land Trust (SLT) to begin conserving Stowe's farms and forests for future generations.

Today, with support and involvement from community, staff and members of the Board of Directors, SLT has permanently protected over 3,500 acres of land in the greater Stowe area. This includes five SLT-owned properties on more than 300 acres.

### OUR MISSION

Stowe Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation of scenic, recreational, and productive farm and forest lands for the benefit of the greater Stowe community.

Left: Volunteers gather at Stowe Land Trust's **Kirchner Woods** property for the annual spring clean up (photo: Stowe Land Trust).



## STEWARDSHIP: TAKING CARE OF LAND FOREVER

As the ink is drying on the legal documents for ownership or easements, the work of land protection is just beginning. Each acre conserved by Stowe Land Trust comes with a “forever” responsibility and cost. We manage owned land, oversee trail work and signage, maintain insurance, and monitor the use and protection of each property.

And while we raise money for each property in the initial project fundraising, and then annually for operations costs, there is an increasing cumulative expense for land protection. The more land we conserve, the larger the ongoing stewardship expense.

For those of us who deeply care for our wild and beautiful lands, there is a way to help assure ‘forever stewardship’. A planned gift, from your estate or your assets, provides us with meaningful support and provides you with the knowledge that you are giving long term care to our protected places.

Right: A brook meanders its way through **Wiessner Woods** (photo: John Sharpless).

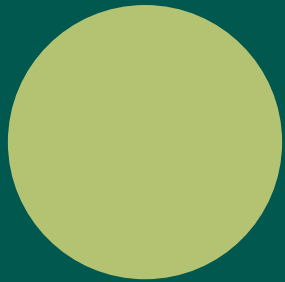


### STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT BY THE NUMBERS

2016 ENDOWMENT  
**\$315,000**  
GENERATED INCOME  
= **\$8,000**



ENDOWMENT GOAL  
**\$2,500,000**  
GENERATED INCOME  
= **\$100,000**



At this writing, in early 2017, the Stowe Land Trust Stewardship Endowment is approximately \$315,000.

It generates an estimated \$8,000 in annual income that is applied to our annual stewardship expenses.

Our long term goal is to achieve a Stewardship Endowment of \$2.5 million, with \$100,000 income drawn per year.

This will assure the highest quality, professional land conservation and stewardship for all Stowe Land Trust conserved properties.





## YOU CAN BE PART OF OUR FUTURE...

There are many ways to establish a legacy for the lands of Stowe and our community. Some are gifts that will occur upon your passing. Others may offer you income during your lifetime, and many may offer a tax benefit for you now, or later for your heirs.

The first step is to decide you would like to create a legacy for our land. Next, you may meet with your own advisors to determine the best way to accomplish your long term goals while providing lasting support to Stowe Land Trust.

*“Every day I am reminded that I live in a special and beautiful place. I feel a responsibility to help preserve and protect this beauty, which is why I support the Stowe Land Trust now and in the future with a bequest to help them carry on the valuable work they do.”*

– KATHERINE L. COPPOCK

Left: Children learn about nature and the history of the land through Stowe Land Trust's **Summer Naturalist** program (photo: Stowe Land Trust).



| Your Gift*   | Your Goals  | Your Benefits   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Stocks, Bonds, or Mutual Funds.</b> Use securities to make your planned gift.   | Use securities with a low cost basis and appreciated value to make a gift.  | Avoid capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold securities now.   |
| <b>Bequest.</b> Make a bequest of funds or securities in your estate plan.   | Include a simple provision in your Will or Revocable Living Trust to leave a gift to SLT upon your death.                   | Charitable donation deduction to reduce your taxable estate.  |
| <b>Charitable Gift Annuity.</b> A charitable gift annuity is a simple one-page document.   | Make a gift while you are living, reduce income taxes, and obtain guaranteed income for life.                               | Immediate income tax charitable donation deduction; fixed income stream for life; eliminate capital gains tax on donated low-basis securities.                        |
| <b>Life Insurance Beneficiary Designation.</b> You can designate SLT as a beneficiary to receive a portion of your paid-up life insurance. | Make a meaningful gift to SLT using funds that become available upon your death.  | The beneficiary designation process is a simple mechanism that you can implement yourself.  |
| <b>Retirement Account Beneficiary Designation.</b> You can designate SLT as a beneficiary to receive a portion of your retirement account. | Make a meaningful gift to SLT using funds from your retirement account.   | The beneficiary designation process is a simple mechanism that you can implement yourself; avoid income tax otherwise due on distributions from a retirement account. |
| <b>Charitable Remainder or Charitable Lead Trusts.</b>   | Make a significant gift during your life, but reserve rights in the Remainder or income for family protection and benefits. | Utilized for significant gifts, particularly real estate; immediate income tax charitable donation deduction.   |
| *Stowe Land Trust does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your own attorney and tax advisor for such advice.                  |   |   |



Enjoying a summer stroll on the Quiet Path at **Mayo Farm** with a friend (Photo: Richard Levine).

## IT'S YOUR DECISION

A gift from your estate is a powerful way to recognize the work of Stowe Land Trust and help assure the forever beauty and access to our undeveloped lands.

We recognize and thank our donors with inclusion in our Legacy Society. Once you have arranged your planned gift, and with your permission, we will include your name among our Planned Gift Donors each year. We also host periodic Legacy Society gatherings.

We invite you to talk with us, whether you are in the early stages of planning, or have already made your decision. We welcome the opportunity to work with you, and would be proud to welcome you to the Legacy Society to recognize your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you for considering Stowe Land Trust in your estate commitments.

## CONTACT US

Please contact us for more information and to discuss your planned gift.

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