



Helpful Planned Giving Information

Make a Bequest

A bequest is one of the easiest and most common ways to make a gift in your will. There are two basic types of bequests:

- *Specific bequest.* A fixed amount of money, stock, bonds, a percentage value of an estate or other property is designated for the Conservancy.
- *Residuary bequest.* Once all other specific gifts have been distributed, the Conservancy receives the remainder (or a portion of the remainder) of your estate.

The assets you will to the Conservancy are deductible for estate tax purposes. *No minimum contribution required.* If considering adding the Conservancy to your will, this sample language can be used:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Hermann Park Conservancy, 1700 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004 (TAX ID # 76-0327389): _____ . I request the Conservancy (or its successor) use this bequest for the following purpose:*

Non-Probate Assets

Do you have an IRA, 401(k), life-insurance policy, or any other assets not included in your will? If so, these are called non-probate assets and you must plan your beneficiaries for them separately. Designating beneficiaries ahead of time helps with the smooth transition of these assets later.

The Conservancy has partnered with FreeWill to help with your estate planning in an easy and free online format. Click [here](#) if you are interested in using FreeWill to help create a will or trust. If you are interested in designating a beneficiary for any non-probate assets, please visit this [FreeWill form](#).

Charitable Remainder Trusts

If you wish to contribute a significant sum of money or property in return for income at a rate you determine, you may want to consider a charitable remainder trust. Charitable remainder annuity trusts pay a fixed amount based on the initial fair market value of the gift. Charitable remainder unitrusts pay a percentage of the trust's fair market value as valued annually. Both types of trusts allow you to choose the rate you want (within limits), receive a partial tax deduction, avoid capital gains tax up front on appreciated securities, and enjoy other tax advantages. (Minimum suggested contribution: \$100,000)

Conservancy Endowment Funds

The Conservancy has several endowment funds created with the future of Hermann Park in mind. The funds are invested for growth and income, and the Conservancy spends the annual earnings to support general operations or specific preservation of the Park's trees, gardens, and wildlife habitats. Choosing one of these funds ensures your gift continues in perpetuity.

- **General Endowment**
- **Garden Conservancy Fund**
- **Tree Conservancy Fund**
- **Habitat Conservancy Fund**
- **Fund for Public Art**
- **Named Endowments** (please contact the Conservancy for more information)

**Please consult the Conservancy if designating a purpose for your gift to ensure it is within the organization's scope of work. If a purpose is designated that does not exist within the Conservancy's scope, or a bequest is undesignated, it is the Conservancy's policy that the gift will be allocated to the Conservancy's long-term maintenance fund.*

The Conservancy staff and the board of directors cannot advise on estate planning. For guidance, please contact your financial or legal advisor.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about planned giving at Hermann Park Conservancy, please contact Meghan Miller, director of development, at mmiller@hermannpark.org or 713-360-1464.