
REAL ESTATE GIFTS: A SOLID LEGACY FOR PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

You can help create an enduring legacy for you and your family by donating your property to the Tinicum Conservancy - even if your land doesn’t have conservation values.

Consider deeding your property (such as a home, vacation home, commercial building or investment property) to the Tinicum Conservancy now or through a bequest in your will or trust. By donating all or part of your property to the Tinicum Conservancy, and you may be able to:

• reduce your capital gains tax;
• receive an income tax deduction;
• avoid the hassle of maintaining or selling a property; and
• help with your estate plans.

Best of all, your gift will provide significant support for our vital work to protect the community we all love.

Visit tinicumconservancy.org/volunteer for more information.

Leave a Legacy, Plan a Gift.

When you include the Conservancy in your estate plans, you help secure the future of our region's natural resources and rural character for future generations. Planning today extends your impact beyond your lifetime.

Conserve Your Property.

Preserving your land is a lasting way to contribute to our community.

Please contact our executive director, Jim Engel, at 610-294-1077 or email jengel@tinicumconservancy.org for questions and a confidential discussion about your options and opportunities.

Double Your Impact with an Employer Matching Gift.

Maximize your Conservancy support with an employer matching gift. Many companies make it easy to double or triple the amount you donate! Check with your human resources department.

HAWK’S EYE VIEW: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

During the past decade, the Tinicum Conservancy has written at length on the importance of our waterways to families, farms and wildlife through the Common Ground newsletter. We often take fresh and plentiful water for granted. However, past episodes of illegal dumping, toxic waste and soil erosion have been a lesson that we can't take our natural resources and water supply for granted.

Recently the Conservancy’s executive director, Jim Engel decided that he wanted to communicate the importance of the Tinicum Creek from a different perspective. Local resident and drone owner, Bruce Wallace, offered his expertise and time to help realize this vision.

Over a two day period, Mr. Wallace flew his drone at 150 feet above the ground and filmed the creek from where it meets the Delaware River all the way to its headwaters in Nockamixon and Bridgeton Townships.

“Being able to view the video as the drone flew above Tinicum Creek gave me the exhilarating sensation that I was experiencing what a hawk or eagle sees when it soars over our area,” explains Engel.

The dramatic footage is now being edited by another Conservancy supporter, John Clement, into a three minute video that will be made available via the Conservancy's website, Facebook page and other electronic media.

Look for an announcement via email and social media in late November for the debut of the video and experience the beauty of this local natural treasure.
As most of you know, the Conservancy has just celebrated its 25th Anniversary and we have lots of accomplishments to be proud of thanks to you. However, we can’t help but wonder where we’ll be 25 years from now. Certainly we have lots more basic land preservation to do before we can claim that we have really protected the water resources with which we are blessed and that we have prevented inappropriate housing development, subdivision of farms and destruction of wildlife habitat in our communities. In Tinicum alone, we estimate that we have another 4,000 acres to go and in Nockamixon and Bridgeton, there are an additional 2,000 more acres to be protected.

As we look down the road, where will the money for land protection come from? Our township’s open space funding is running low and we don’t sense much enthusiasm for additional open space funding from our local politicians. And finally, can we look to the state for open space funding? As of this writing, the budget battle in Harrisburg continues and any open space money is questionable.

So where does this leave us if we are to continue with our mission? One less well known fact about land protection comes from our generous members and local foundations. This is in addition to the funds we currently raise for our core programs and mission. Seeking donations now from individual donors is a viable but short-term solution to the longer term demand for reliable open space funding. Perhaps the best long-range solution to our funding challenge will be our legacy program. The Conservancy already has about $1.6 million in legacy pledges from 13 members. What if 100 or so of our members decided to make a bequest in their will for the Conservancy and open space protection? Our membership has been extraordinarily generous in our first 25 years. What a legacy we would leave if we continued that trend.

The amount of taxes they owe for up to 15 years. Hopefully additional generous landowners will continue to conserve their land in the years to come.

During the next three to five years, we fully expect that we will have to generate funding for additional conservation easements from our generous members. This is in addition to the funds we currently raise for our core programs and mission.

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On Saturday, September 16th over 100 members and non-members gathered for the annual celebration. Typically for members only, the party was open to the community to help commemorate our 25th anniversary. It was a beautiful, bright and sunny day as attendees enjoyed each other’s company, along with delicious snacks, desserts, refreshments and a taste of Owowcow Creamery’s heavenly ice cream. The event was held at Darke Hollow Farm, a 109-acre farm conserved in 2006 by neighbor, Philip Rushton. Thanks to Barry Arkles and Janine Black for hosting and to Maureen Santina for these photos.
Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, we’ve almost reached our original $18,000 goal. Now with the added generosity of a second inspired donor we hope to reach $25,000 to help ensure our next 25 years!

Double your impact! $18,000 will become $25,000. MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

By joining now, we can match dollar for dollar your gift to protect the future of our water, forests, farms and quality of life.

Already a member? Give more than last year and your additional gift will also be matched dollar for dollar.

Thanks to more than 60 loyal supporters and a group of first time donors from Tinicum, Nockamixon, Bridgeton and beyond, we are making great progress towards our goal of $25,000. Campaign gifts received between Aug. 1st and Oct. 31st:

- Anthony & Margaret Adamucci*
- Dorthea Adasavage*
- Stefan Aigner*
- Roberto & Rebecca Aguas*
- Anonymous (3)*
- Wendy & Gabriel Baptisti
- Andre Becker & Ray Albergotti*
- Charlene Briggs*
- Rosella Calenbro
- Neal & Leslie Carson*
- Robert & Patricia Cervin
- Christopher Connard*
- Pat & Diane Croce*
- David & Pat DeFinis*
- Susan Dryfoos
- Robert Ehrling*
- Neal & Heidi Feigles
- Maia Fell & Dennis Delaney
- Lec Fillius*
- Craig & Natalie Funt
- Ed & Jeanette Geiger*
- Ann Glaser*
- Geoffrey Haines-Stiles & Erna Auginow
- Tiffany Hamilton
- Kevin & Shira Harrison*
- J.P. & Jean Henry*
- Michael Herdits*
- Geoffrey & Sally Holstey-White*
- Michael Kaufman & Amanda Berkel
- Scott Kelly & Kathie Brown
- Cynthia & Tilden Keler
- Stacey & Brett Kendall*
- Kris Kern*
- Katherine Kevis (in memory of Bets Jacobs)
- Charles & Sandy Lizza*
- Triste Longcore & Kim Gostelow*
- Norm MacArthur & Bill Novak
- Mark & Polly Manchester
- John McGlinchey*
- Linda & William McLenney*
- Wendy McPherson*
- Adam Meshkov & Eleanor Breslin*
- Sally Minick
- John Monroe & Laura Hugh
- Joyce & Brian Murphy
- Ray & Lari O'Donnell
- Pat & Suzanne Patterson
- David Prystarska*
- Sue Ann Raine & Adelbert Gillen
- Charles Reichter
- Jonathan & Melissa Reiss
- Scott & Kathy Reynolds
- Ben Rotor
- William & Deborah Ruth
- Chuck & Sue Scholer
- Ian & Erica Shankland*
- Virginia & Neal Sigley
- Robert and Catherine Siley
- Gaye Singley & Joe Bird
- Sprocket Foundation (Jill & Stephen McDonnell)
- Suzanne Stratton & Louis Pruit
- Robert Tinnulo
- John & Linda White*
- David Umpale & Patricia Leonhardt
- Antonio & Kathleen Vega*
- Vernon & Jean Wehrung
- Dan & Mary Woodruff
- Tricia Zimic & David Segarick*
- * New Members—Welcome!

Maria Fell & Dennis Delaney
Neal & Heidi Feigles
Robert Erbrick*
David & Pat DeFinis*
Christopher Connard*
Robert & Patricia Cervin

Katherine Koos
Kris Kern*

Charles & Sandy Lizza*
Triste Longcore & Kim Gostelow*
Norm MacArthur & Bill Novak
Mark & Polly Manchester
John McGlinchey*
Linda & William McLenney*
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Amending the Future of Conservation Easements

Dictionary.com defines the word “amend,” as: To make changes in (a text) in order to make it fairer, more accurate, or more up-to-date; to modify formally, as a legal document; to make better; improve.

When the Tinicum Conservancy or another land trust accepts a perpetual conservation easement, it promises the easement grantor, land trust members, the federal government, funding sources and the public that the land trust will uphold every single term of the easement in perpetuity. That means forever.

The first known conservation easement (or “Purchase of Development Rights”) program began in 1974, in Suffolk County, New York. In 43 years of land protection, much has changed in how communities value their natural resources, and how land trusts define and protect those conservation values.

Once in a great while, a land trust or a landowner may request to amend certain terms in an easement. Amendments can allow land trusts to carry out the promises long ago.

1. To correct an error or oversight in the language of the original easement, such as an inaccurate legal description, or to clarify ambiguous terms with current standard language, or.

2. To achieve additional or enhanced conservation values that are consistent with the original conservation purpose of the easement. An amendment may, for example, increase the amount of land protected, reduce the size of or remove a building area, result in fewer allowed structures, or increase safeguards for protected resources.

Tinicum Conservancy has considered and welcomes, on a case-by-case basis, amendments that achieve a clear conservation gain. During the next 25 years, we will continue seeking new opportunities to protect our valuable land, water and natural resources. We will also encourage and be receptive to achieving enhanced and superior protections for the easements to which we pledged our promises long ago.

— Kelly Germann

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**DONATIONS THAT ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN CASH**

Nearing the end of every year, the Tinicum Conservancy receives a small hand full of powerful gifts from donors that come in the way of appreciated stock, mutual funds or a donation directly from an IRA retirement account. These types of gifts offer the donor a smart way to make a real difference by helping us accomplish our mission while costing the donor less compared to making a traditional cash donation.

Appreciated Assets Donation

The donation of appreciated assets, usually stock or mutual fund(s), allows the donor to receive a deduction for their gift and because the asset is transferred directly to the Conservancy, the donor can also avoid capital gains tax, an extra incentive for the donor.

Your brokerage firm, where the asset is held, can work directly with the Conservancy to make the transfer easy for you. Please note that the asset you use to make your gift must have been held by you for more than one year to be fully deductible.

Here’s a comparison of donating stock rather than selling the stock and sending the Conservancy a check.

Assumptions: Donor in 25% income tax bracket; Capital gains tax rate 15%

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Donate directly from your IRA and save on your taxes

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free distribution from your traditional or rollover IRA to the Tinicum Conservancy. You can donate as little as you want or up to $100,000 each year without incurring income tax on your withdrawal.

Here’s how it works. You request a cash distribution from your traditional or Roth IRA mailed or wired directly to the Tinicum Conservancy. This strategy shields you from federal income tax that you normally pay when receiving a distribution from your IRA plus the proceeds qualifies towards your annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Please contact our executive director, Jim Engel, at 610-294-1077 or email jengel@tinicumconservancy.org for questions and a confidential discussion about your options and opportunities.

Please note that The Tinicum Conservancy cannot render tax or legal advice and we urge you to consult with your professional advisor about your situation before making a charitable gift.

“...the quicker we humans learn that saving open space and wildlife is critical to our welfare and quality of life, maybe we'll start thinking of doing something about it.”

— Jim Fowler

Conserved Lands Photo Exhibit

Celebrating 25 years of conservation: A photographic retrospective

Visit the Conservancy office at 965 River Road in Erwinna, PA and enjoy our new photographic gallery. Twenty-seven photos covering 13 conserved properties gives you a rare view of these beautiful landscapes. Get the chance to learn more about the Conservancy and its mission to protect the natural resources, farms and rural character of the region.

If you’d like to stop by and view the gallery please call the office at 610-294-1077.

— Jim Fowler