Thank You!

More than 45 donors have responded to our appeals for support during the COVID-19 shutdown, contributing nearly $15,000 since we first made you aware of the effect of cancellations on Osprey Wilds. With program revenue dried up, your gifts have truly been our lifeblood! When we made the decision to make a deep cut in expenses by reducing all employees to halftime but keeping them on payroll, we knew that donor support would be key. Your incredible generosity has been a morale-boosting show of support for our staff and a powerful demonstration of your commitment to the mission and work of Osprey Wilds. Thank you!

The CARES Act and state initiatives will provide some assistance through the next few months, but contributions will remain an important part of our survival and recovery plan. Your gifts are needed and will be greatly appreciated. Click here to make a gift now or set up a recurring gift as an Osprey Wilds Sustainer.

Your help allows us to continue our mission of instilling a connection and commitment to the environment in people of all communities through experiential learning.
On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The massive $2.2 trillion stimulus package is intended to provide swift relief to individuals and organizations alike, as well as stimulate the economy.

In addition to direct payments and other provisions that may benefit your family, the CARES Act includes new rules to encourage charitable giving.

If you are among the 90 percent of American taxpayers who take the standard deduction, you will be able to deduct $300 in charitable gifts from your gross income in 2020. This above-the-line deduction applies only to cash gifts made directly to a non-profit such as Osprey Wilds; they cannot be made into a donor-advised fund.

You may deduct cash gifts up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2020. All gifts made directly to charity qualify, regardless of whether they relate to COVID-19 relief. The previous deduction limit for cash gifts was 60 percent.

The CARES Act waives the required minimum distribution (RMD) from IRAs for 2020. But if you’re over 70 ½ talk to your tax advisor about whether a qualified charitable contribution (QCD) from an IRA could still be the most cost-effective way for you to give. Remember, distributions made directly to charity are not treated as taxable income.

You could also find that donating appreciated stock or other assets remains a cost-effective giving option since you will receive a fair market value deduction at the time of your gift and avoid capital gains taxes. And, if you made gifts of stock or other assets into a donor-advised fund earlier, please consider making a distribution from your account to support us through this time.
Fran Duritsa’s legacy

Frances Duritsa died peacefully on March 6 at age 96. She left a rich legacy of loving relationships, professional achievements, and volunteer activism. After her children were fully-fledged, she became involved with the Minneapolis Audubon Society, serving for many years as its program chair. That brought her into contact with Northwoods Audubon Center, as the organization was known at the time.

“My mother delighted in learning and sharing knowledge about the natural world and the role of humans within it,” said Fran’s daughter Mary. “Our family’s connections to Northwoods go back to 1973, and my mother had many great experiences there.”

Included in Fran’s legacy was a planned gift benefiting Osprey Wilds. Fran directed that Osprey Wilds receive half of the remainder in her Catholic Community Foundation annuity.

If Fran’s example inspires you to explore the benefits of a charitable gift annuity or other type of legacy gift, contact Jim DeYoung, Development Director, at 320-245-7791 or deyoung@ospreywilds.org.

Event Updates

Osprey Wilds will continue to monitor and assess the current situation, and follow all recommendations and guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC. We have policies in place to ensure the safety and health of our visitors and employees.

As a result, we have rescheduled April’s Dinner at the Lake for June 13 and have canceled all events in May, including Women’s Wellness Weekend. We will continue to assess the situation and update the status of summer events as soon as possible. Please check our program calendar for more details.

Our trails remain open to the public and we encourage all visitors to maintain a safe distance and follow all recommendations from the CDC.

June Dinner at the Lake will feature guest speaker Bridget Mendel, Program Manager at the UMN Bee Squad. RSVP Here

For more information visit OspreyWilds.org or email frontdesk@ospreywilds.org.