Our Generous Heritage

Des Moines is a community rich in parks and recreation stewardship dating back to the early 1900s when citizens donated land for baseball fields (now Field House Park).

In 1984, Thomas Wooton bequeathed two acres of valuable land (Wooton Park) in the heart of Redondo so that children there would always have grass to play upon.

In 1996, Daisy Sonju left a 9-acre wooded oasis that now hosts the city’s community garden, orchards and hiking trails.

In 2010, Phyllis Moore gave a generous endowment for a future children’s play area.

Here’s What We Do

The Des Moines Legacy Foundation works to provide services, programs, equipment and other materials critical to our parks, recreation and senior services programs when city funds are not available.

Here’s just a sampling of the programs and projects we support:

- Scholarships that broaden opportunities for youth participation in Des Moines recreation activities
- Sonju Community Orchard and Garden pea-patches and the Georgie Nupen greenhouse grow food for the Des Moines Food Bank
- Summer lunch and recreation programs for low income youth
- Des Moines Arts Commission’s Summer Concerts at Beach Park and public art projects
- Park improvements at Des Moines Beach Park, Field House Park and Steven J. Underwood Park.
- Enhancements to the Activity Center

Who We Are

Since its creation in 1999 the Des Moines Legacy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is committed to continuing the city’s rich tradition of expanding parks and recreation opportunities and facilities for youth, adults and seniors throughout our community.

Our 15-member board of directors is made up your friends and neighbors, dedicated to raising funds through legacy and other charitable donations for the betterment of the community.

Our Vision

Together, we can build a brighter future through parks, recreation, and senior services in the Des Moines community.

Our Mission

- Improve and create community and park and recreation services
- Promote interest in and opportunities for charitable giving
- A positive force in providing tools to assist the changing needs of our community
- To enhance services for all ages

What will be your Legacy?

Whether you consider yourself rich or poor, your gift will make a difference. Even small amounts can have a big impact over time.

Give Back

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

Pericles

TAX IDENTIFICATION: 91-2019863
There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children... one is roots, the other is wings

Stephen Covey

What better legacy can we leave than a place that is better than we received it?

Make a difference today!

Leaving your legacy can be of great value to you and to our community

Tax Benefits
Donating to a charity provides tax write-off opportunities. You can claim both monetary donations and donations of items. The deduction is dependent upon the value of the items you have donated. The more you give, the more you are able to write off on your taxes and help a nonprofit organization at the same time; it is a win-win situation.

It Feels Good
One of the best reasons to donate to charity is to help with a cause that is important to you and feel great at the same time. Donating to charity can help you give back.

In Memoriam or Honor
A gift is a wonderful way to recognize someone who made a difference in your life. You may also specify to which program, project, or community facility your gift will be directed.

Many families ask for contributions to a particular charity in lieu of sending flowers to a funeral. Some people do the same for birthdays, asking for donations in lieu of gifts.

Matching Gifts
Many corporations match employee gifts to charities, enabling you to double your contribution to the Des Moines community.

You may wish to make a donation of cash, stock, life insurance, bonds or real estate as a memorial to a loved one or by leaving a gift in your will.

Annuities and IRAs can also be an excellent source of funds. Within certain guidelines, withdrawals are tax-free.

Who can help arrange my gift?
Although more than 70 percent of people in this country give money to charitable causes, only 4 percent leave a legacy in a will or trust to charities after their death.

Your lawyer or financial adviser can assist you with these options.

www.desmoineslegacy.org