

Yolo Land Trust NEWSLETTER



Photo by Yvonne Hunter

Create a Lasting Legacy

According to a recent Caring.com survey, only 42 percent of U.S. adults currently have estate planning documents such as a will or living trust. For those with children under the age of 18, the figure is even lower, with just 36 percent having an end-of-life plan in place.

Many of us don't want to think about planning for our death. But if there are loved ones in your life, preparing for them financially after you are gone will save them money and much emotional stress. Plus by having an estate plan, you can determine how your assets will be distributed. Without an estate plan, the State of California will make that determination, and it may not be what you would want.

Peace of mind is one of the most tangible benefits of careful estate planning. Consulting an estate planning attorney is wise and will ensure that you are taking into consideration the various laws governing your estate.

Another benefit of estate planning is the ability to leave a legacy. One easy way to do that is to designate the Yolo Land Trust as a beneficiary of your estate. The work of the Yolo Land Trust is to preserve farmland forever, so leaving a gift to YLT will mean that your gift helps keep farms in Yolo County forever.

The most common type of legacy gift to the Yolo Land Trust is in your will or trust. You can arrange to leave YLT a specific dollar amount or asset, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after specific gifts to loved ones have been made.

"I started volunteering with the Yolo Land Trust shortly after I retired. I took pictures of the beautiful farms they have conserved throughout Yolo County and at A Day in the Country. After learning more about what the Yolo Land Trust means to our community, I decided to leave a gift to the Yolo Land Trust in my estate plan. Because my trust had already been established, I consulted with my attorney and learned it was very easy to amend my trust documents. The cost to me to make the change was minimal, and the process was completed quite quickly. I feel good knowing I'm contributing to the future of Yolo County in this way."

-Yvonne Hunter

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Gifts of Stocks Will Save You Money

A gift of stock, mutual funds or bonds is an attractive way to make a generous donation to the Yolo Land Trust. By giving appreciated property you may avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciation up to 30% of your adjusted gross income under the new tax code. You will also receive a tax deduction on the full value of the gift. This is particularly attractive if you have a low basis in the stocks, mutual funds or bonds. **Check with your tax advisor for the specific rules governing your assets.** If you decide it is right for you, the process is very simple: just direct your broker to transfer the property to the Yolo Land Trust at Fidelity Investments – DTC#0226 – Account #638245596 – Yolo Land Trust. You will have made a gift that will last into perpetuity – conserving productive farmland of Yolo County forever!

American Adults Don't Have a Will

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Another option is to name the Yolo Land Trust as the beneficiary of your individual retirement account (IRA), 401(k), 403(b), donor advised fund, or life insurance policy. These gifts are usually easy to arrange by completing a beneficiary designation form from your plan administrator. You can designate whether the Yolo Land Trust will receive all or part of your account or policy. If you have already named a beneficiary, amendments are allowed by completing a new beneficiary designation form.

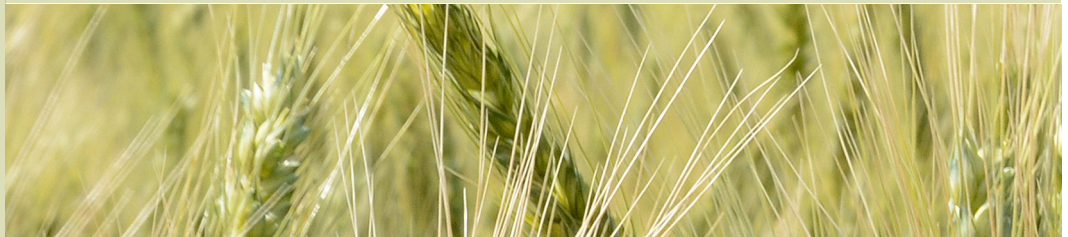
“My husband and I have no children, so establishing an estate plan was critical to be certain our assets were distributed as we wanted without hassle. I have been impressed by the work of the Yolo Land Trust for many years so we named the Yolo Land Trust as one of our beneficiaries. We are leaving YLT a percentage of our estate because we value the rural heritage of Yolo County and want it protected forever.”

-Anonymous Donor

The Yolo Land Trust can also receive gifts of real estate, whether during your lifetime or as part of your estate plan. Depending on the type of land, the Yolo Land Trust may lease it to a local grower or sell it to fund our work. We are happy to confidentially answer your questions about the many options available for legacy gifts. We can work with your estate advisors to determine which gift will be best for you to create your legacy.

Creating a Will is Easy

You are never too young to make a will and not having one could prove costly. If you die without a will, what happens to your assets will be determined by the state. A will is the best way to ensure people, charities and organizations that are important to you benefit from your estate. It can also help those close to you avoid higher legal costs to administer your estate. If you have a simple estate and an uncomplicated family situation, there are do-it-yourself resources that can help you create a will for free or for very little money. If, however you want assistance or if you have a complicated financial situation, you should hire an attorney.



Lasting Legacy

Consider a gift to the Yolo Land Trust in your will, trust or other estate plan and create your own legacy, a legacy that will benefit future generations.

You will truly have given a gift that lasts forever.



Welcome Board Member: Mark Harrison

The Yolo Land Trust is happy to welcome Mark Harrison to our Board of Directors. Mark is a well-established attorney in Sacramento, and fifth-generation Yolo County resident. Mark earned his B.A. with honors in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley, and his J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law. He is a partner in the law firm Harrison, Temblador, Hungerford and Johnson in Sacramento. As an attorney, Mark focuses primarily on land use and mining law, but Mark has also served as lead counsel for local government in matters involving local control over land use decision making. Mark has also served the Cache Creek Conservancy on the Board of Directors, and as a former President. Mark and his wife Karen live and farm on the family ranch outside Woodland where they grow walnuts and row crops. The Yolo Land Trust holds an agricultural conservation easement on a portion of their farm.

“We are delighted Mark has joined the Board of Directors of the Yolo Land Trust,” said Lynnel Pollock, President of the Yolo Land Trust. “Mark brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in farmland protection to the organization. We look forward to his contributions to the Land Trust’s work of conserving important farmland and rangeland in Yolo County.”

Qualified Charitable Distribution

An attractive gift for anyone 70 ½ or older is to direct the required minimum distribution from an IRA be sent directly to a qualified charity like the Yolo Land Trust. Such a gift is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. The QCD satisfies the taxpayer’s obligation to take the required minimum distribution from an IRA and the distribution is not included in the taxpayer’s income. This way, you pay no tax on the amount the charity received. Note, the taxpayer may not take a charitable deduction for the gift. This tax-free transfer from an IRA gives you the benefit of making a gift to the Yolo Land Trust even if you are not otherwise itemizing your deductions. The rules governing QCDs are strict so getting tax advice is strongly advised. For example, the distribution must come directly from the plan administrator to the Yolo Land Trust for this to work. Getting tax advice is also advisable if considering a QCD from an inherited IRA.

Monitoring Q&A with Jessica Grant

Conservation Associate, Jessica Grant, is responsible for the annual monitoring of YLT’s easements.

Q: What does a monitoring visit entail?

A: It starts by driving out to one of our conservation easement properties located throughout the County and then deciding whether to drive or walk around the property to check for changes. It’s great when I’m able to meet with a landowner out at the property and hear from them what changes have taken place in the past year, what crops they are growing and what changes they anticipate in the upcoming years. Any changes I see during the visit I will note on a monitoring checklist created specifically for that easement based on the corresponding conservation easement agreement. I will also take photos using an iPad. Lastly, I will make sure to get any GPS coordinates that may be useful when creating GIS maps back in the office.



Q: What are some of the challenges you face when monitoring?

A: The biggest challenge I’ve faced so far when monitoring or preparing for a monitoring visit is not having up to date and accurate aerial maps. This makes it hard to see exact easement boundary lines and photo locations.

Q: How have you improved the monitoring process?

A: It is now a digital-based process which has eliminated the need for paper documents. I am now able to more efficiently monitor easements with only a handheld GPS unit and an iPad.



Our Lands. Our Future.

221 W. Court Street, Suite 5
Woodland, CA 95695

Support YLT at Nugget Markets

Nugget Markets has partnered with the Yolo Land Trust to raise funds for the preservation of farms and ranches in Yolo County. Through the Nugget Markets Scrip Program, Nugget Markets donates up to 4% of your purchases to the Yolo Land Trust each time you shop at Nugget Markets. **THE SCRIP PROGRAM IS SIMPLE TO USE AND ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

- Simply obtain a card from the Yolo Land Trust.
- Register it online.
- Show it to the cashier each time you shop.
- Sit back and feel gratitude that you are conserving the land that grows our food.

Call YLT's office at 530-662-1110 or send an email to tloveridge@theyololandtrust.org to get your own Nugget Markets Scrip card.



The Yolo Land Trust is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1988 by an innovative group of farmers, ranchers, community leaders, and conservations dedicated to conserving Yolo County's land. The Yolo Land Trust has helped landowners place voluntary farmland conservation agreements on over 60 family farms throughout Yolo County, permanently conserving over 11,000 acres for future generations. These farms remain privately owned and operated. The Yolo Land Trust is working to preserve the rural heritage of Yolo County.

For more information about the Yolo Land Trust, visit www.TheYoloLandTrust.org