



Riveredge Gift Acceptance Policy

Board approved 5/13/2026

Riveredge Nature Center (RNC) is a 501(c)(3) organization which relies on charitable contributions to fulfill its mission. Riveredge encourages gifts that will help it further and fulfill its mission, and which reflect the values of the organization.

This policy supplies important information for Riveredge representatives who may be involved in solicitation and acceptance of gifts, to outside advisors who may assist in the gift planning and solicitation process, and to prospective donors in order to help them fulfill their philanthropic intent. The policy describes the procedural and substantive screening requirements for all gifts to Riveredge. These requirements are intended to ensure that Riveredge maintains the public's trust as it carries out its mission to preserve and protect the environment.

Riveredge encourages donors to seek their own legal or tax counsel before making a gift.

Riveredge accepts gifts of:

1. Cash
2. Bequests
3. Life Insurance
4. Retirement Accounts and Pension Benefits
5. Charitable Remainder Trust
6. Charitable Gift Annuity
7. Charitable Lead Trust
8. Pooled Income Fund
9. Gifts in Kind

All other gifts including, but not limited to the list below, shall be evaluated and accepted on a case-by-case basis.

1. Closely Held Securities
2. Real Estate
3. Deferred Gifts



Substantive Rules of Gift Acceptance:

Charitable giving involves balancing philanthropic, personal, financial, and tax considerations to achieve a fair and proper balance of interest of the donor and the purposes of Riveredge Nature Center. This includes the following standards.

- A. The principal basis for making a gift should be the desire on part of the donor to support the mission, programs, and initiatives of Riveredge Nature Center.
- B. Riveredge fundraisers shall advise donors only in areas in which they are professionally qualified and shall defer to other professional advisors as necessary. All potential donors shall be advised to use their own legal and tax counsel on matters relating to a potential gift. No gifts shall be knowingly urged upon any prospective donor that would benefit Riveredge at the expense of the donor's interest and welfare.
- C. Riveredge reserves the right to refuse or return any gift that is not consistent with its mission, that could introduce a conflict of interest, that is prohibitively restrictive, that could expose Riveredge to liability or adverse publicity, or that could violate local, state or federal law. Furthermore, gifts will be accepted only when:
 - a. Undue influence would not be exerted by the donor to share the spending of Riveredge nor to distort the programs or initiatives of Riveredge and
 - b. The gift does not endanger the public's trust in Riveredge to preserve and protect the environment or provide informed environmental education.
 - c. The sources of the gift are lawful.
 - d. No goods, services, or more than incidental benefits are provided to the donor or recommending donor if given via a donor advised fund.
- D. Riveredge will honor all requests by donors for anonymity when anonymity would not violate any legal requirements for disclosure.
- E. Riveredge prefers unrestricted gifts. In drafting instruments for restricted gifts, donors and their advisors are encouraged to use language that would permit application of the gift to a more general purpose.



Donor Confidentiality:

- A. All information concerning donors and prospective donors shall be held in strict confidence by Riveredge, subject to legally authorized and enforceable requests for information by government agencies or courts.
- B. Riveredge will not disclose the amount of a gift if the donor requests to be anonymous. Donors who do not wish to be anonymous will be acknowledged in our Annual Report. Any other public acknowledgement will only be given with express permission from the donor.