

# Steward Large Cap Growth Fund

Commentary | Quarterly update: 1Q25

Institutional shares



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## Snapshot

Ticker	SJGIX
Inception date	11/15/2021
Prospectus dated	8/28/2024
Prospectus expense ratio <sup>1</sup>	Gross 0.95% Net 0.75%
Primary benchmark	Russell 1000 Growth Index

## Top 10 holdings (%)

Microsoft Corp.	9.22
NVIDIA Corp.	8.56
Apple Inc.	7.15
Alphabet Inc. Class A	4.98
Amazon.com, Inc.	4.90
Meta Platforms Inc. Class A	3.71
Visa Inc. Class A	3.49
Mastercard Inc. Class A	2.89
Broadcom Inc.	1.96
Tesla, Inc.	1.82
<b>Total % of portfolio</b>	<b>48.67</b>

## Markets and performance

The Steward Large Cap Growth Fund (Institutional shares) returned -9.53% in the first quarter, outperforming the Russell 1000 Growth Index (-10.00%) by 47 basis points (bps). This relative performance was influenced by a positive sector allocation effect of 1.45%, though it was partially offset by a stock selection effect of -56 bps.

## Positive and negative contributors to performance

Within the sectors, financials contributed positively with 84 bps, led by the financial services industry, which added 44 bps. Conversely, industrials detracted from performance (-48 bps), with the commercial & professional services industry being the largest detractor within this sector, accounting for -31 bps.

On an individual position basis, the underweight to Tesla was the largest contributor to performance—the company faced lower 1Q delivery estimates from multiple analysts due to seasonality and weaker demand in the sector. On the negative side, Decker Outdoor Corp. was the largest detractor from performance. The footwear sector faced selling pressure following the company's weak outlook despite strong 3Q performance.

## Looking ahead

Recently, the S&P 500 traded at an all-time high with enthusiasm among consumers, businesses, and investors. While the initial reaction to Trump's victory in November was certainly pro-risk (stocks rose, the U.S. dollar strengthened, and bond yields fell), the markets settled back into an uneasy holding period, acknowledging the challenges that await the new administration, and corrected 10%. The policy uncertainty stemming from the on-again, off-again tariff announcements has done little to restore confidence, and the biggest risk now is that the market has entered a negative feedback loop, contributing to a sentiment-induced slowdown. As a result, recession probabilities have moved up from 20% at year-end to 35–40% now. Earnings estimates are only beginning to fall and multiples, while down a bit, are still high.

Considering the market environment, the fund continues focus on companies with higher management quality and earnings yield while underweight size and beta. During the quarter, the fund trimmed exposure to the information technology and consumer discretionary sectors while adding exposure to financials and healthcare. At the end of the quarter, the fund held the largest overweight positions in financials and real estate while being underweight information technology and communication services.

<sup>1</sup> The net expense ratio reflects a contractual commitment by the fund's investment adviser to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses through Aug. 31, 2025. Absent the waiver and/or reimbursement, expenses would be higher and total returns would be less. Please see the prospectus for details.

Performance (%)	Quarter	YTD	1-year	3-year	Since inception
Steward Large Cap Growth Fund (SJGIX)	-9.53	-9.53	5.82	9.72	5.80
Russell 1000 Growth Index	-9.97	-9.97	7.76	10.10	6.20

Index returns shown assume the reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. An investment cannot be made directly in an index. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The fund's current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. Before investing in a mutual fund, you should read the fund's prospectus carefully and consider the fund's investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. The prospectus contains this and other information about the fund. To obtain fund performance as of the most recent month-end or to obtain a copy of the Steward Funds' prospectus free of charge, call Crossmark Distributors at 888-845-6910.

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The fund's values-based screening policies exclude certain securities issuers from the universe of otherwise available investments. As a result, the fund may not achieve the same level of performance as it otherwise would have in the absence of the screening process. If the fund has invested in a company that is later discovered to be in violation of one or more screening criteria and liquidation of an investment in that company is required, selling the securities at issue could result in a loss to the fund. Further, the fund's values-based screening policies may prevent the fund from participating in an otherwise suitable investment opportunity.

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