# Driehaus Small Cap Growth Fund

Investor Class: DVSMX

Institutional Class: DNSMX

# **Key Features**

- Benchmark aware, not benchmark constrained
- Opportunistic investment approach
- High active share

# **Inception Date**

8/21/2017

The fund's predecessor limited partnership has a performance inception date of 1/1/2007.

#### **Fund Assets Under Management**

DVSMX: \$1.4 million // DNSMX: \$41.1 million

# **Firm Assets Under Management**

\$8.8 billion

# **Investment Style**

Growth equity

#### **Available Investment Vehicles:**

Mutual Fund Separately managed account

# **Portfolio Managers**



**Jeff James**Portfolio Manager
28 years of industry experience



**Michael Buck** Assistant Portfolio Manager 18 years of industry experience



# MARKET OVERVIEW

After a long absence, volatility returned to the equity markets in first quarter of 2018. January started bullishly as the major indices continued their steep upward trend from 2017. Investor optimism was boosted by the strong U.S. corporate earnings outlook for 2018, supported by the sweeping U.S. tax cuts, deregulation and a robust global macroeconomic picture. However, market conditions changed in early February as fear of inflation was stoked by higher January wage inflation data and the crowded shortvolatility trade was suddenly unwound, causing a significant sell-off in equities as the S&P 500 corrected greater than 10% in a matter of days.

From an oversold position, equities then bounced on the back of strong corporate earnings but the advance could not be sustained as the indices sharply pulled back in March to "re-test" the February lows to end the quarter. This technical "re-test" has occurred as the market is struggling to deal with the threat of a Trade War caused by President Trump's trade rhetoric and proposed tariffs aimed at China. The fear is that the proposed U.S. tariffs and China's retaliatory tariff proposals will become bad policy and will negatively impact global trade, economic growth and corporate earnings. It is significant that both sovbeans and aircraft have been included in the Chinese response. Fortunately, the U.S. says it is talking to China. The positive outcome would be a watered down set of tariffs and ultimately a better set of trade rules between the world's two largest and co-dependent economies. The next few months will be critical for both sides to resolve intellectual property issues and proposed tariffs on many key products.

In addition to the US-Chinese trade issue, real issues like higher interest rates and noisy ones like continuous personnel changes at the White House and Trump's tweet attacks are also weighing on equities as concerns grow that these will potentially offset the tax cuts impacting economic growth. Interestingly and positively, the credit, Treasury and currency market thus far are taking all these developments much more in stride and have been relatively calm. Perhaps the bond vigilantes of yesteryear have become "equity vigilantes" as Trump views the stock market as his key barometer.

For the moment at least, the equity market is no longer as forgiving of Trump as it once was. Also, the leading large cap tech stocks and large cap tech in general are no longer the safe havens they once appeared to be. The market is now lacking leadership in both cases.

While the market searches for leadership and a near-term bottom, we are constructive on multiple fronts. The U.S. economic outlook has broadly strengthened overall despite some indicators moderating. Fiscal policy is stimulative, job gains are boosting incomes and confidence, inflation remains consistently below the Fed's target and economic outlook is for continued expansion. Growth (as a style) is outperforming value. Small caps are outperforming large caps. Small caps have better earnings growth currently and are less exposed to trade and tariff issues. Overall earnings are growing rapidly and positive earnings per share (EPS) revisions are occurring at the fastest pace in many years. Anecdotally, the recent fourth quarter earnings season was one of

the strongest we have witnessed overall for our portfolio companies. We anticipate strong earnings again in the upcoming March quarter earnings season. Finally, equity valuations have come down nearly three price to earnings (P/E) turns in the past two months for both the major indices and for our portfolio as consensus earnings expectations have strongly risen and equity prices have pulled back.

# PERFORMANCE REVIEW

For the first quarter, the Driehaus Small Cap Growth Fund outperformed its benchmark. The fund returned 6.19% (DNSMX), and 6.11% (DVSMX), net of fees, while the Russell 2000 rose 2.30%.

By sector, for the quarter, the fund's relative outperformance was dominated by technology as well as consumer discretionary. Portfolio holdings in both sectors experienced strong earnings and both were market leaders outperforming all other sectors. Financials and health care also outperformed. In contrast to the last several quarters, we did have a few sectors detract from results as the market breadth did narrow during the quarter. On the downside, industrials, materials and energy sectors underperformed and contributed negatively to portfolio's total return for the quarter.

Technology was led by very broad leadership in cloud-based enterprise and internet software, followed by semiconductors and specialty hardware (memory components, systems and solar equipment), as well as e-commerce. Health care's outperformance was led by significant gains in a broad number of biotech holdings, followed by several medical device companies. Consumer discretionary did have strong performance from education-related companies and a few consumer brand name companies. Industrials had positive performance from transportation companies, offset by negative performance in building products. Materials and energy continue to be difficult sectors but are small in terms of absolute weightings.

# **OUTLOOK & POSITIONING**

Trade policy is the key concern for the market currently. It is fearful that Trump's tariff proposals and loud rhetoric will spark a Trade War which would impact economic growth. Trade negotiations to be conducted over the next couple months with China will help determine actual policy and then the eventual impact on economic growth. Thus far, our view is that this process may slightly impact economic growth on the margin but actual tariffs and their impact will be less severe than what has been proposed. Therefore, absent of additional information, it will likely not lead to a material economic slowdown or anything close to a recession.

Elsewhere, corporate earnings are expected to grow approximately 20% plus this year and economic growth should be sustained. Credit conditions are benign. Most key economic statistics and indicators are trending

positively, with many at new cycle highs. Tax cuts are incrementally boosting earnings (and helping valuations) and deregulation is helping business optimism. Inflation may have an upward bias but most inflation data remains benign. The equity market's breadth and leadership has deteriorated which is a concern, but this is typical behavior during market corrections. Near-term the market needs better clarity on trade policy which productive trade negotiations with China could provide. That together with continued strong economic and earnings trends should put the market in a favorable position, as this correction has removed some excess and froth and has adjusted valuations materially lower.

In terms of positioning, the strategy is overweight the following sectors: consumer discretionary, technology and telecom.

Technology, health care, consumer discretionary, and industrials are the four largest absolute weightings. The strategy is underweight health care, real estate, financials, and industrials.

We look forward to the upcoming earnings season to assess the fundamental progress and outlooks of our portfolio companies. We continue to hold and discover an exciting mix of inefficiently priced and less discovered companies that are early in their growth expansions. We are confident that these differentiated companies will continue to gain market share and become larger companies over time.

The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund will charge a redemption fee of 2.00% on shares held less than 60 days. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change, while cumulative total return reflects aggregate change. Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (800) 560-6111 or visit www.driehaus.com for more current performance information.

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset, Reuters and MSCI Indices

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Performance Disclosure

TICKER: DVSMX-DNSMX MARCH 2018

PERFORMANCE as of 3/31/18					Annualized Total	Return	
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Investor Class: DVSMX <sup>1</sup>	6.11%	6.11%	30.15%	12.88%	16.97%	10.77%	11.12%
Institutional Class: DNSMX <sup>1</sup>	6.19%	6.19%	30.36%	12.94%	17.01%	10.79%	11.13%
Russell 2000® Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	2.30%	2.30%	18.63%	8.77%	12.90%	10.95%	9.00%

#### ANNUAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES<sup>3</sup>

	Management Fee	Other Expenses <sup>4</sup>	Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	Expense Reimbursement	Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement⁵
Investor Class: DVSMX	0.60%	0.89%	1.49%	(0.29%)	1.20%
Institutional Class: DNSMX	0.60%	0.64%	1.24%	(0.29%)	0.95%

# SECTOR PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION 1st Quarter — 12/31/17 to 3/31/18

	Driehaus Small Cap Growth Fund (DVSMX) <sup>1</sup> (Port) (%)		Russell 2000® (Bench		Attribution Analysis (%)			
GICS Sector	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg.Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect	Selection + Interaction	Total Effect	
Consumer Discretionary	19.58	-0.08	13.54	-0.40	-0.34	0.54	0.20	
Consumer Staples	0.09	-0.06	2.47	-0.11	0.16	-0.06	0.10	
Energy	2.51	-0.76	1.27	-0.20	-0.34	-0.24	-0.57	
Financials	5.91	0.21	6.17	0.15	0.00	0.04	0.04	
Health Care	21.96	2.94	24.72	1.45	-0.13	1.67	1.55	
Industrials	16.56	-0.78	18.22	-0.57	0.06	-0.20	-0.14	
Information Technology	27.10	5.33	24.48	2.30	0.18	2.76	2.94	
Materials	4.30	-0.45	4.49	-0.03	0.02	-0.45	-0.43	
Real Estate	0.25	0.00	3.08	-0.25	0.34	-0.00	0.33	
Telecom. Services	0.93	0.02	0.91	-0.02	-0.01	0.06	0.05	
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.65	-0.08	0.10	0.00	0.10	
Cash	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.03	0.00	-0.03	
Other	0.00	-0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.15	0.00	-0.15	
Total	100.00	6.22	100.00	2.24	-0.13	4.11	3.98	

Data as of 3/31/18 Sources: Russell Investments, eVestment Alliance, LLC, SS&C Inc., Russell Investments and Standard & Poor's Global Industry Classification Standard and Driehaus Capital Management LLC. The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data guoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Fund will charge a redemption fee of 2.00% on shares held less than 60 days. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost), during the given month, on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change. Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (80) 560-6111 or visit www.driehaus.com for more current performance information. Please consider the investment obligatives in the prospectus and summary prospectus, growing the prospectus and summary prospectus, prospectus, and the promortant information about the Fund. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and/or summary prospectus, please call us at (800) 560-6111 or visit www.driehaus.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. The average annual total returns and attribution of the Driehaus Small Cap Growth Fund include the performance of one of the Fund's predecessor and the promortant information about the Fund. To obtain a cap of the Driehaus Small Cap (Prodecessor Partnership)", Driehaus Small Cap Investors, L.P., Driehaus Institutional Small Cap, L.P. (the "Predecessor Partnership") priehaus Small Cap Investors, L.P., Driehaus Institutional Small Cap Recovery Fund, L.P. and Driehaus Small Cap Recovery Fund, L.P., and Driehaus Small Cap Recover

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ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS CATEGORIES ARE DEFINED AS: Allocation Effect - Measures the impact of the decision to allocate assets differently than those in the benchmark. Security Selection Effect - Measures the effect of choosing securities, which may or may not outperform those of the benchmark. Interaction Effect - Jointly measures the effect of allocation and selection decisions. Total Effect - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector.

TICKER: DVSMX-DNSMX MARCH 2018

#### **SECTOR WEIGHTS**

#### Month-End Absolute Weights

DVOMV	Consumer Discretionary	Consumer Staples	Energy	Financials	Health Care	Industrials	Information Technology	Materials	Real Estate	Telecomm. Services	Utilities	Cash
DVSMX	19.9	0.0	1.3	4.5	23.1	15.9	28.1	3.5	0.9	1.2	0.0	1.5
Benchmark	13.1	2.5	1.2	6.2	25.3	17.9	25.2	4.3	3.1	0.7	0.6	0.0
Active Weights	6.8	-2.5	0.2	-1.7	-2.2	-2.0	3.0	-0.8	-2.2	0.5	-0.6	1.5

Benchmark n/a 0.87 n/a 1.00 14.43 0.00

# PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

# TOP 5 HOLDINGS<sup>2</sup> (as of 2/28/18)

	DVSMX	Benchmark	5-year period <sup>1</sup>	DV
Number of Holdings	113	1,188	Annualized Alpha	3
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (M)	\$3,218	\$2,970	Sharpe Ratio	1
Median Market Cap (M)	\$2,378	\$1,039	Information Ratio	(
Active Share	85.21	n/a	Beta	1
Market Cap Breakout (%)			Standard Deviation	16
< \$2.5 billion	47.0	48.2	Tracking Error	6
\$2.5 - \$15 billion	53.0	50.4	R-squared	(
> \$15 billion	0.0	1.4		

Company	% of Fund
XPO Logistics, Inc.	2.5
Loxo Oncology Inc	2.4
RingCentral, Inc. Class A	2.2
Nutanix, Inc. Class A	2.0
Insulet Corporation	1.9

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance Data as of 3/31/18. Benchmark: Russell 2000® Growth Index

<sup>1</sup>The 5-year period characteristics of the Driehaus Small Cap Growth Fund include the performance of one of the Fund's predecessor limited partnerships, which is calculated from January 1, 2007, before it commenced operations as a series of the Driehaus Mutual Funds on August 21, 2017 and succeeded to the assets of the Driehaus Institutional Small Cap, L.P., (the "Predecessor Partnership"), Driehaus Small Cap Investors, L.P., Driehaus Institutional Small Cap Recovery Fund, L.P. and Driehaus Small Cap Recovery Fund, L.P., (together, the "Limited Partnerships"). The Limited Partnerships were managed by the same investment team with substantially the same investment objective, policies and philosophies as the Fund. The investment portfolios of the Limited Partnerships were identical and therefore had similar performance. The performance of the Predecessor Partnership is shown here because it has been in operation the longest. The Predecessor Partnership was not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act"), and thus was not subject to certain investment and operational restrictions that are imposed by the 1940 Act. If the Predecessor Partnership had been registered under the 1940 Act, its performance may have been adversely affected. Accordingly, future Fund performance may be different than the Predecessor Partnership's past performance. After-tax performance returns are not included for the Predecessor Partnership. The Predecessor Partnership was not a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and therefore did not distribute current or accumulated earnings and profits and was not subject to the diversification and source of income requirements applicable to regulated investment companies. <sup>2</sup>Data is calculated monthly.

At times, a significant portion of a Fund's return may be attributable to investments in initial public offerings (IPOs) or concentrations in certain strong performing sectors, such as technology. Returns from IPOs or sector concentrations may not be repeated or consistently achieved in the future. In addition, participating in IPOs and other investments during favorable market conditions may enhance the performance of a Fund with a smaller asset base, and this Fund may not experience similar performance results as its assets grow. The securities of small and micro-cap companies may be more volatile in price, have wider spreads between their bid and ask prices, and have significantly lower trading volumes than the securities of larger capitalization companies. As a result, the purchase and sale of more than a limited number of shares of the securities of a smaller company may affect its market price. Growth stocks may involve special risks and their prices may be more volatile than the overall market. It is anticipated that the Fund will experience high rates of portfolio turnover, which may result in payment by the Fund of above-average transaction costs. These and other risk considerations are discussed in the Fund's prospectus. Please consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses of the Fund carefully prior to investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other important information about the Fund. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and/or summary prospectus, please call us at (800) 560-6111 or visit www.driehaus.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.

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TERMS: Active share represents the share of portfolio holdings that differ from the benchmark index holdings. Average drawdown is the arithmetic average of declines in value during a given period of time. Downside risk is a measure of the average deviations of a negative return series. A large downside risk implies that there have been large swings or volatility in the manager's return series. Beta is a measure of a portfolio's volatility. A beta of 1.00 implies perfect historical correlation of movement with the market. A higher beta manager will rise and fall more rapidly than the market, whereas a lower beta manager will rise and fall slower. Standard deviation is a measure of the average deviations of a return series from its mean; often used as a measure of portfolio volatility. A large standard deviation implies that there have been large swings or volatility in the manager's return series. Tracking error measures of the amount of active risk that is being taken by a manager. Tracking error accounts for the deviation away from the benchmark and does not indicate in which direction it occurred, either positive or negative. Source: eVestment Alliance. Alpha is the measure of performance on a risk-adjusted basis. Alpha takes the volatility (price risk) of a mutual fund and compares its risk-adjusted performance to a benchmark index. The excess return of the fund relative to the return of the benchmark index is a fund's alpha. Sharpe ratio is calculated by finding the portfolio's excess return and then dividing by the portfolio's standard deviation. Information Ratio (IR) measures a portfolio manager's ability to generate excess returns relative to a benchmark, but also attempts to identify the consistency of the investor. This ratio will identify if a manager has beaten the benchmark by a lot in a few months or a little every month. The higher the IR the more consistent a manager is and consistency is an ideal trait. R-squared is a statistical measure that represents the percentage of a fund or security's mo