At The Trust for Public Land, we don’t just save land—we save land for people to enjoy. We’re proud to say that we’ve been connecting communities to the outdoors—and to each other—since 1972.

Today, millions of Americans live within a 10-minute walk of a park or natural area we’ve helped conserve or revitalize, and countless more visit every year. With your support, we’ll protect the places we all love—and bring even more people closer to nature and the outdoors.

Our impact in South Chattanooga

In Chattanooga, The Trust for Public Land is linking communities to nature and each other through innovative greenways, paths, and parks. But despite Chattanooga’s renaissance, the city’s historically underserved neighborhoods—which are often low-income and communities of color—remain challenged.

That’s why we’re partnering with the South Chattanooga neighborhoods to learn their needs and find out how parks and trails can help. The Trust for Public Land is developing trail connections from the South Chattanooga neighborhoods of Alton Park, Clifton Hills, and East Lake to the city’s 23-mile greenway system, partnering with local residents to create strong community ownership of these spaces.
From the base of Lookout Mountain to Missionary Ridge, we are providing critical access to nature and outdoor experiences for everyone.

**Connecting people to nature and each other**

Spending time in nature has a proven positive impact on the health, well-being, and prosperity of all communities. According to the Chattanooga Health Department’s 2019 community health assessment report, Hamilton County residents are more likely to report fair or poor health and experience more unhealthy physical and mental health days compared to the U.S. overall. Serious health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension, as well as depression and anxiety, can be significantly improved through physical exercise and time spent outdoors.

That’s why The Trust for Public Land is working to provide residents of South Chattanooga with better access to nature. Our goal is to improve communities’ quality of life through improved health benefits, and also through safe transportation to jobs and resources and strengthened community bonds.

To ensure everyone can prosper through nature’s benefits, we’re working to breakdown both physical and cultural barriers to nature in South Chattanooga. We actively engage leadership within our partner neighborhoods through participatory design—a cooperative community-based process to create a park, trail, or greenway that reflects local identity and culture—ensuring residents have a space outdoors they can truly call their own.

**Looking forward**

Our current and upcoming projects include:

- Publishing a history of land use and community development in Alton Park written by community member, Maria Noel.
- Leading a multi-phase planning and design program to connect the neighborhoods of Alton Park, Clifton Hills and East Lake into the City’s greenway system.
- Installing a new youth-informed, neighborhood playspace at Southside Community Park.
- Completing the design of the 1.3-mile Alton Park Connector Greenway
- Providing environmental and outdoor education to students in South Chattanooga.
- Partnering with and increasing the capacity of community-based organizations like Net Resource Foundation in Alton Park to lead outdoor experience programs, which can help overcome social and cultural barriers to accessing the outdoors.
- Collaborating with ELLA Chattanooga to reinforce community connections to East Lake Park through asphalt art that reflects the cultural fabric of the East Lake neighborhood.

**Join us**

The inspiring work we’ve accomplished so far in Tennessee would not have been possible without our generous friends and supporters like you. We need your help so that everyone in Chattanooga has a safe, quality space to enjoy the outdoors and gather as a community.

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**The Trust for Public Land**

creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

[tpl.org](http://tpl.org)

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