

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



CHATTANOOGA: *Creating Greenways*

In the early 1980s, downtown Chattanooga faced the same challenges as many other riverfront industrial and manufacturing communities. Storefronts were closed, and the signature waterway was a blight rather than an asset. The city, however, had a vision for a more livable future: with a renewed focus on utilizing the Tennessee River and improving Moccasin Bend, it drafted plans for the Tennessee Riverwalk and other greenways. The Trust for Public Land saw an opportunity to move from the drawing board to action.

TPL's role

In 1994, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) signed an agreement with the City of Chattanooga to implement the city's Greenways Master Plan. The plan called for nearly 100 miles of trails and winding walkways along the edge of the Tennessee River and the ridges that

surround the community. TPL's responsibilities under the agreement included public outreach, fostering greenway advocacy groups, assisting with fundraising, and negotiating land acquisitions and easements to be conveyed to the city for parks and greenway development.

Project highlights

Tennessee Riverwalk: Drawing on experience building greenways nationwide, TPL successfully negotiated the majority of the real estate acquisitions needed to construct this standout, 10-mile linear park. TPL secured ten donations of land within two years in order to make the Riverwalk possible.

Riverwalk Extension: TPL is helping the Chattanooga government and civic leaders in an effort to extend the Riverwalk by five miles. The alignment of this section

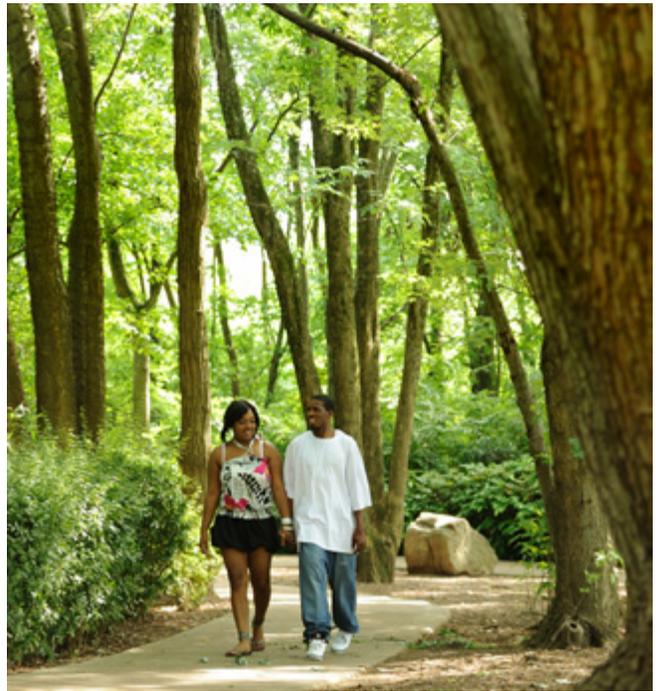
will weave through redeveloping industrial land to impact and encourage future investments—an exciting intersection of conservation and economic revival.

South Chickamauga Creek Greenway: This proposed 14-mile greenway will connect approximately 30,000 neighbors to a linear park that will ultimately join the Tennessee Riverpark. TPL successfully negotiated with 25 landowners along this creek to gain land protection and permission to construct a trail.

Results

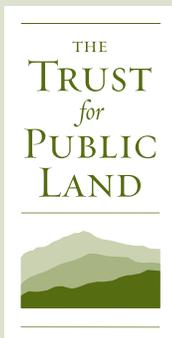
TPL is the City of Chattanooga’s primary partner in the development of its nationally recognized greenway system. In the past decade, TPL has secured almost 600 acres of land for more than 45 miles of trails that connect neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and parks with the Tennessee River waterfront and its tributaries.

TPL stretched limited city funding by acquiring 80 percent of this property through land donations—a savings of \$4.2 million to the city—and securing \$9 million for capital improvement, acquisitions, and planning from private, state, and federal sources. TPL also served as construction manager for three projects, including two trails. Today, tens of thousands of people enjoy more active, healthy lifestyles thanks to their proximity to bike and walking trails, parks, and blueways for canoeists and kayakers.



“The staff at The Trust For Public Land have been indispensable to our [conservation] efforts to build the Tennessee Riverpark and extend the riverwalk system with greenways into the surrounding neighborhoods. The Chattanooga community has made remarkable progress building this wonderful asset. It would have taken years, perhaps even decades longer without TPL’s knowledge and professional support.”

—Jim Bowen, vice president,
RiverCity Company



The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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