



Urban Greenways: Moving Nashville Forward

For 23 years, greenways have become central to Nashville's identity. The more than 87 miles of paved multi-use, off-street trails play an important role in the lives of many and have claimed space in our hearts. In short: we love our greenways, as pathways to personal health and wellness and to restorative encounters with nature and wildlife.

Plan To Play — which included feedback from approximately 9,000 citizens — holds a vision for Nashville's urban greenway system, which includes a combination of existing and proposed greenways, creating "loops" within and around the urban core. Segments include the existing Cumberland River Greenway, a future 440 Greenway, and a partially complete downtown loop.



But what if greenways became an even more essential part of the daily lives of Nashvillians: as a way to literally help us get from place to place — from work to home, home to school, neighborhood to neighborhood?

Where Do You Want to Go?

A recent survey found that 62% of Nashvillians would be more likely to cycle or walk to public transit if more greenways connected to transit stops. The urban greenway plan answers this call as it intersects with the city's proposed transit development.

The Plan.

As noted in the Metro Parks Department's countywide master plan, *Plan To Play*,

Simple and available to all, **the urban greenway system will create invaluable connections between the neighborhoods in which we live and work.** And, as more Nashvillians are able to build walking and biking into their daily lives — in accessible, functional, and safe ways — we expect to see a meaningful impact on the health and wellness of our population.

Stay tuned for updates, including developments on the various phases of the project and the rollout of a public campaign aimed at raising awareness and garnering financial support for this unprecedented urban greenway network. •

62%

of Nashvillians would likely cycle or walk to public transit if more greenways connected to transit stops

projected population growth, demographic shifts, densification of the urban core, and transportation issues present new challenges and opportunities for our city. *Plan To Play's* 10-year vision demonstrates a commitment to connectivity with the unveiling of an **urban greenway system**, comprising many new miles of bicycle and pedestrian trails that connect Nashville's many distinct urban neighborhoods and support a comprehensive solution for the city's mounting transit demands.

PHOTO OF STONES RIVER GREENWAY BY RICHARD BARROW



Message from the Chairman

Ann Tidwell, Chair of Metro Greenways and Open Space Commission

The statistics are amazing: 80-100 people move to the Nashville area every day, and over the next 20 years, the Nashville region is expected to grow by 1 million people. Every time I hear these numbers, I am grateful for the incredible green space that Nashville has preserved, and the greenway system that our great city has begun. But as increasing population growth generates more density and buildings cover more and more of our vacant land, **Nashville must increase our preservation of open spaces, save areas for parks, and secure walkable connections before they disappear.**

While we are proud to say that 90% of Nashville neighborhoods are within two miles of a green-



90% OF NASHVILLE'S NEIGHBORHOODS are within two miles of a greenway

way, we are at a time in our rapidly growing city where it is imperative to put a high priority on bringing that number to 100%, and aiming towards more greenways within one mile or less of our neighborhoods. Our vision is for every Nashvillian to be

“Our greenway system is a jewel! The greenway gives me a safe and peaceful place to run and avoid the busy city streets.”

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able to easily take a daily walk on a greenway, for residents to be able to grab their bikes and ride to the grocery store on a greenway, and for families to take their children exploring on a Saturday afternoon on the greenway near their home. Indeed, in a study done by Metro Nashville’s *Plan To Play*, Nashville citizens’ very first priority was to expand our greenway system.

We’re thrilled to see Nashville thrive as our city becomes larger and more diverse. **Let’s make sure that as our population grows, so does the land set aside for parks and greenways.** There has never been a more important time than now to make sure that Nashville grows in a green and healthy way!

Thanks!

Ann
Ann Tidwell

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- John Cooper
- Mark Deutschmann
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- Charles Sueing
- Tyler Yarbrow

STAFF:

- Cindy Harrison
Metro Parks Project Manager, Greenways and Open Space Division

New Resource for Conserving Open Space



In 2017, Metro established a new grant program to increase protection of more open space in Davidson County. Administered by the Greenways and Open Space Commission, the new Conservation Assistance Fund (CAF) grant program was funded by the Metro Council to help leverage private partnerships in conservation.

The CAF will assist with permanent conservation easements on private lands, as well as protect lands for use as future parks or other publicly-maintained natural areas with public access. The goals of the CAF include helping Metro Parks acquire over 4,000 additional public acres for parkland over the next ten years, and 2,500 additional private acres to be protected by 2021. •

Shelby Bottoms Greenway



Message from the President

Pete Wooten, Board President, Greenways for Nashville

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- Monique Odom,
Director Metro Parks and Recreation
- Cindy Harrison,
Metro Parks Project Manager, Greenways and Open Space Division

This January, I was honored to take the helm as the Board President for Greenways for Nashville. As I step into this role, I'd first like to thank Mark Deutschmann, whose leadership as Board President over the last six years was instrumental to the success of our organization. Thank you, Mark, for your vision and passion for expanding our greenways throughout Nashville!

On behalf of our board and staff, I also want to extend our deep gratitude to greenways team champions Shain Dennison, who has retired from a stellar career at Metro Parks, and Emmie Thomas, the former Executive Director of GfN. Thank you, Shain and Emmie, for your commitment to our greenways. And please join me in welcoming our new Executive Director, Amy Crownover, whose experience in conservation and development has allowed her to hit the ground running.

Now, as we enter a time where Nashville continues to experience dynamic growth and becomes more of an urban environment, the importance of our greenways has never been more vital to our quality of life. Greenways are increasingly becoming an important means of safe mobility for pedestrians and cyclists to connect to neighborhoods, schools, employment, and our current and future transit system. Greenways are dedicated corridors, away from traffic, that allow safe passage for Nashvillians and our visitors.

As members of the Transit Coalition, GfN is excited for the potential of better transit options to be coupled with Metro's *Plan To Play* vision of building 53 miles of new greenways in the next ten years.

America's Health Rankings annual report for 2017 unfortunately ranked Tennessee among the unhealthiest states, at number 45 of 50. **Our greenways are one of the most powerful tools we have to impact population health in Nashville now and in the coming decades.** Whether for recreation or the need to get somewhere, the greenways require us to move. A quick search of the "benefits of walking" reveals countless studies and articles on the tremendous benefits of walking on a regular basis, and it doesn't take much — plus, it's free to all of us! As our greenways system grows and becomes more heavily used, there is real opportunity to improve the population health of our city for generations to come.

Thanks!

Pete Wooten



Welcome to our new staff: Katie Alexander, Amy Crownover, Stephanie Schultz, and Lisa Robertson.

New Staff

We are thrilled to announce that because of generous donors like you, we were able to grow our team in 2017, allowing us to do even more to create, preserve, and promote greenways across our city. We're so glad to welcome aboard our new Executive Director, Amy Crownover; Program and Community Events Manager, Stephanie Schultz; Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Katie Alexander; and Business Accountant, Lisa Robertson. ▪

Maps, Maps, Everywhere!

Last fall, we unveiled the newest Nashville's Greenways Map: a map that shows all 87 miles of greenways across the county, as well as bike-friendly roads and hiking trails in Nashville's parks. The response from the community has been overwhelming. In the last few months, we've distributed over 6,000 maps, and the requests are still coming. **The map is a perfect way to discover your new favorite greenway, so get yours today!**

In 2017 we also launched NashGr, an accompanying Greenways Map App. This App is available for download from the Android or iTunes App Stores and puts the greenways in your pocket. NashGr also connects to the real-time schedules of the Nashville MTA bus system. Best of all, it's free!

Spring is coming, and it's time to get out on the greenways to enjoy Nashville's beauty — so download the App or grab a map, and explore! •

MAP SPONSORS:



Download the free NashGR App for your phone!



Where can I pick up a map?

They're all over Nashville! To get a map, go to:

- Nashville Library Branches
- Metro Parks' Community Centers
- Greenwaysfornashville.org/printed-maps for more locations, to download a map or request that one be mailed to you.

Supporting Partners

From matching gifts to hosting benefit events, our supporting partners have been instrumental to our success at Greenways for Nashville. Last year, Greenways for Nashville was honored to be a non-profit beneficiary of SuperCoolFunFest, the Junior Chamber's Ragin' Cajun Crawfish Boil, and 12 South Winter Warmup - and yes, they were all as fun as they sound! We're also grateful for our matching donors this year: Mark and Sherry Deutschmann gave a \$10,000 match in the closing days of 2017, and First Farmers Bank gave a \$5,000 match during #GivingTuesday. We couldn't do what we do without these amazing partners with us every step of the way: **thank you!** •



Jim Gardner and Berry Brooks from First Farmers with our Executive Director, Amy Crossover.



Nashville Junior Chamber's Ragin' Cajun Crawfish Boil in Cumberland Park benefitted Greenways for Nashville in 2017.



SuperCoolFunFest was a 1990s-themed event held at Cumberland Park that benefitted GfN — and it was, indeed, super cool. Save the date for this year's Fest on July 14th.

Dinner on the Bridge

Our 2017 Dinner on the Bridge, benefiting Greenways for Nashville, was held on September 28th in Cumberland Park. Relocated to a fabulous new venue, this past year's dinner was unique in many ways. Before being seated, guests listened to remarks from Mayor Megan Barry in Cumberland Park's intimate riverside amphitheater. The spotlight was then directed to Shain Dennison, honoring her recent retirement after 25 years of service leading Metro Parks' Greenways and Open Space Division. Dinner tables were stretched out along the park's esplanade with a fantastic view of the city's lights and the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge Greenway. Guests were served under Italian string lights while strolling musicians played in the background. Our party was even chosen as the Nfocus "Prettiest Alfresco Event" in 2017! Thank you to our sponsors, guests, and volunteers for a wonderful evening. •



1. Shain Dennison received a gift of appreciation from Board President Mark Deutschmann and Mayor Megan Barry.
2. Co-Chair Sandra Duncan and Board Member Ann Roberts
3. Co-Chairs Don Welch, Celeste Reed, Allen DeCuyper, and Steve Sirls.
4. Artist Heidi Schwartz entertained guests while creating a live painting of the evening, which was auctioned by Mac Hardcastle during dessert.

PHOTOS: TOMMY LAWSON AND BRENDA BATEY

Tremendous Thanks, Shain!



This past summer, Shain Dennison retired from Metro Parks after a highly productive and impactful 25 years of growing our system of greenways and natural areas. We appreciate Shain's devoted service, wisdom, integrity, leadership, and steadfast tenacity in being our city's original Greenways Director, and her critical role in the building of 87 miles of greenway trails and doubling the acres of Metro park land. Nashville has been changed significantly for the better through Shain's incredible work. Luckily, we will still benefit from Shain's strategic mind, as she has taken on a part-time role to help launch Metro's Conservation Assistance Fund grant program! •

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Metro Parks and Recreation
- BCycle

Nashville's Greenways Keep Growing!

As Nashville's population continues to grow, so does our greenway system! This year we will celebrate the opening of the first phase of Nashville's 440 Greenway, as well as vital extensions and connections across the county. We hope you explore the expansions, and find a new favorite greenway this year!



Last year, Mayor Megan Barry was joined by Councilman Nick Leonardo (now Judge), Honorable Brenda Gilmore, Parks Director Monique Odom, and other community members in cutting the ribbon for the White's Creek Greenway at Mullins Park.

Just Opened

Whites Creek Greenway at Mullins Park

In 2017, Joseph Brown Mullins Park and Whites Creek Greenway loop were opened by Mayor Megan Barry in a public ceremony. Construction was also completed on the Scalf Farm to extend the Whites Creek Greenway to connect Mullins Park, Hartman Park, and the Hartman Community Center. We can now enjoy 2.7 miles of greenway and 104 acres of open space along the scenic Whites Creek.

Special thanks to Vincent Scalf and Rose Garrett for their cooperation in selling to Metro the land that made the greenway connectivity possible, to Genieve Graham for a much needed trail easement, and the Northwest Civic Association, Pazetta Mallette, and Representative Brenda Gilmore for their long time advocacy for the entire project.

"The greenways are a fantastic asset for our community!"

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Opening Soon

440 Greenway

This summer, the first phase of the 440 Greenway will open: a 1.25 mile greenway that will take users from Centennial Park to Elmington Park on West End Avenue. The full 440 segment of the urban greenway system is envisioned to be a 7-mile corridor that will link 6 parks and 14 diverse neighborhoods with an urban bicycle and pedestrian trail.



As illustrated in this construction phase picture, urban greenways are very complex because they must be designed into already densely developed land. In addition to Metro capital funding, this first segment of the 440 Greenway is being made

possible through right of way easements generously provided by Tennessee Department of Transportation, and through public/private partnership support from Greenways for Nashville made possible through a substantial leadership gift from HCA Healthcare. Support from the private sector will potentially play an important role in urban greenway expansion, and Greenways for Nashville seeks to expand those partnerships in the coming years.

Mill Creek Greenway – Mill Creek Park to Orchard Bend Park

Opening this summer, this new 2.25 mile greenway will connect the existing trailhead at Mill Creek Park to a new trailhead at Orchard Bend Park, a park also opening this summer. This exciting extension means that the Mill Creek Greenway will now connect five neighborhoods, two parks, and two schools over the course of four miles along Mill Creek.

Whites Creek Greenway at Fontanel

This spring, another .75 miles will be added to the Whites Creek Greenway at Fontanel, creating a 2.25 mile loop that connects with an additional 2 miles of hiking trails.

Cumberland River Blueway Access

A much needed access point for canoeing and kayaking on the Cumberland River at the terminus of McGavock Pike has been made possible through a donation by RHP Corporate Properties. Thank you to Councilman Jeff Syracuse, who was instrumental in this project, as well as Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association’s access advocate and volunteer, Patty Shultz.

In Design

Southeast Regional Park

The master plan for development of this nearly 600-acre park land on Old Hickory Boulevard in the Antioch and Cane Ridge communities has been completed by Metro Parks. To be developed in phases, the new park will include an extensive network of greenway and hiking trails through rolling farmland, creeks and woodlands.

Stones River Regional Park

The master plan for a 600-acre park – which Greenways for Nashville helped acquire – and the adjacent 180-acre Ravenwood tract, both on Stones River, was also recently completed by Metro Parks. The plan calls for an additional 4 miles of greenway and 10 miles of hiking trails.

Cumberland River Greenway – Opry Mills Connector

Last year, Metro was awarded a grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to build a greenway along the Cumberland River to connect Shelby Bottoms and Stones River Greenways with Opry Mills. This greenway will connect Donelson/Hermitage, Downtown Nashville, and East Nashville to OpryLand and Opry Mills, and will allow tourists to get around without a car. You’ll probably be able to bike to the mall faster than you can drive!

Gulch Greenway – Capitol View

An extension of the Gulch Greenway in the heart of downtown will connect the existing greenway with a new park at Capitol View. We’re grateful to Boyle Nashville, LLC for partnering with Metro to make this connection happen.

“I think the greenways are one of Nashville’s best investments — I use my local one nearly every day.”

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“Parks and greenways are essential to the meaningful growth of Nashville as a viable community.”

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Community members walk along the future Southeast Regional Park.



The site of the future Stones River Regional Park.

To see the full vision for both tremendous new parks, visit nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation and click on “Planning and Development.” •

Champions of the Greenways

Here at Greenways for Nashville, we are so lucky to be able to work with amazing volunteers from every corner of the city. From volunteers at our events and in the office, to organizations that work towards improving our greenways like Richland Creek Watershed Alliance, Cumberland River Compact, and Friends of the Mill Creek Greenway, to volunteer school and office groups such as Montgomery Bell Academy, University School of Nashville, Caterpillar Financial, Deloitte,

and Schneider Electric, our Champions of the Greenways are incredible. Thank you to the many people in this city who hold greenways dear to their heart, and who come out and make a difference. ■



1. Weed Wrangle volunteers at Shelby Bottoms Greenway

2. Volunteers from Deloitte work with Greenways for Nashville every year for a major clean-up

3. Brant Miller from Friends of Mill Creek Greenway pulling up invasive species

4. Volunteers from Schneider Electric doing some serious cleanup at the Mill Creek Park Greenway

5. Maureen Turnbull, Office Volunteer

Nashville's Open Spaces Continue to Expand

According to a poll done for *Plan To Play*, 94% of Nashvillians support preserving more green space for new parks and greenways. We support it, too, and are excited about two new acquisitions!

Metro Parks is to receive 140 acres of the Binns Farm along the Cumberland River for greenway

and open space conservation. Located adjacent to the Lytle farm and Ravenwood, the land will help expand the Stones River Greenway toward The Hermitage. Thank you to the Binns family, Park Haven Communities, and Councilman Kevin Rhoten for the vision and cooperation in conserving this significant scenic bluff and farmland.

In addition, **10.56 acres on Mill Creek at the corner of Blue Hole Road and Bell Road was donated by Bell Road L.P.** Thank you to Mr. William H. Cammack, and the families of Sidney F. Keeble, Jr. and Kermit C. Stengel Jr. for this important contribution to Metro's open space and Mill Creek Greenway system. ■



Bikers on Shelby Bottoms Greenway



94% OF NASHVILLIANS support preserving more green space for new parks and greenways

Donations and Contributions

Thank you for your generous support of Greenways for Nashville — connecting Nashville the *green way*. This list includes gifts and donations from July 2016 through December 2017.

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Harpeth River Greenway by Trent Rosenbloom

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Presented by The Wilson Group, the 2018 Richland Creek Run will be held on Earth Day, **Saturday, April 21st**. Now in its 12th year, this event brings together runners, walkers, parents with strollers, and dogs alike.

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