

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



THE
LAND TRUST
FOR
TENNESSEE

Cannon County by Sam Grant

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the last year, we're grateful to everyone who makes The Land Trust for Tennessee's statewide conservation work possible. We've now protected more than 137,000 acres across Tennessee—from productive farmland and vital wildlife habitats to public parks and historic landscapes.

Each acre protected and tended to this year represents a commitment to our mission: conserving Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for generations to come. This work is more critical than ever as our state continues to attract people and businesses from all over, but with your partnership, we are making progress to ensure that growth is balanced with common sense conservation.

Within this report, you'll see the outcomes of a productive and inspiring year: from impactful conservation projects to collaborations that strengthen Tennesseans' connection to the land. Together, we're working to shape a future where Tennessee's most important places are forever protected.

Thank you for being an essential part of this work. We look forward to achieving even more together in the coming year.

Gratefully,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz McLaurin".

Liz McLaurin
President & CEO
The Land Trust for Tennessee

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OUR MISSION

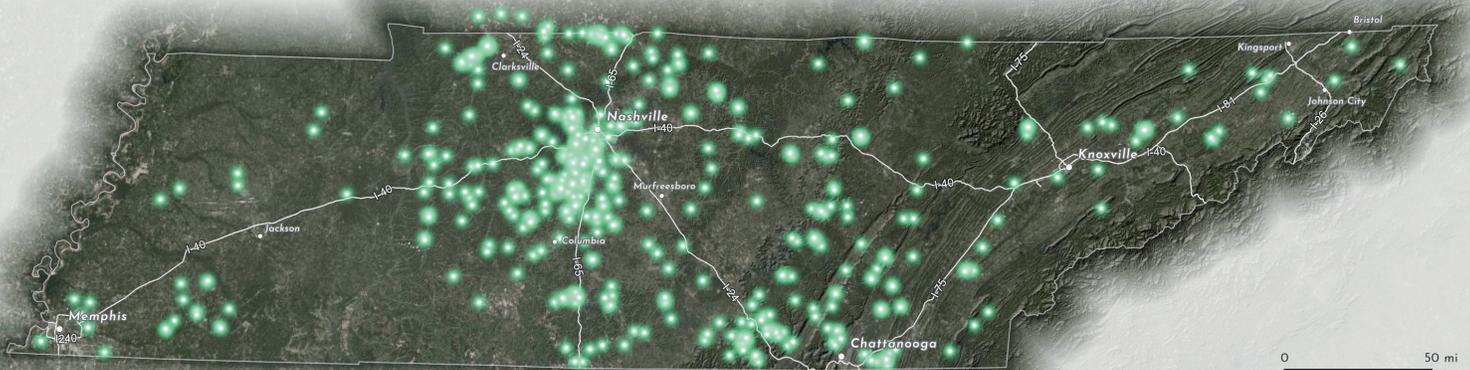
Our mission is to conserve the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations.



THE
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FOR
TENNESSEE

WORKING TO ENSURE TENNESSEE'S
IRREPLACEABLE LANDSCAPES ARE
PROTECTED FOREVER

To date, The Land Trust for Tennessee has completed 461 diverse conservation projects comprising 137,000+ protected acres in 76 counties.



● LTTN Conservation Projects

Land protected in

76

counties.

461

diverse conservation
projects since 1999.

137,010

total acres protected by
The Land Trust for Tennessee.

About

For 25 years, The Land Trust for Tennessee has worked in partnership with landowners and communities across the state to protect land important to the people of Tennessee. From family farms and historic landscapes to public parks and forests spanning thousands of acres, the work of The Land Trust has a lasting impact on people and places.



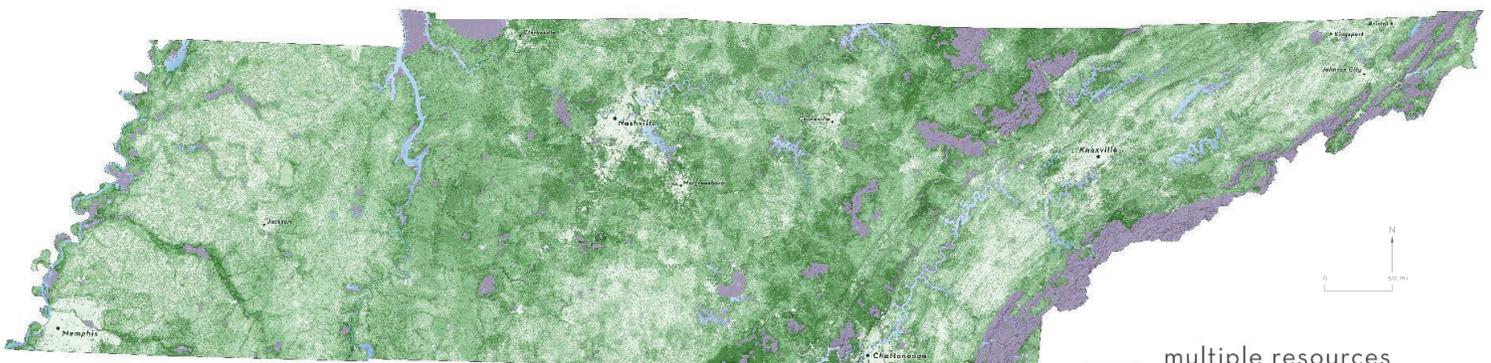
THE
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LOOKING AHEAD: A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Five years ago, The Land Trust for Tennessee released a first-of-its-kind strategic conservation plan to accelerate and guide our work across the state and highlight the importance of land conservation in Tennessee.

The plan, titled ***Forever Tennessee***, outlined a focused vision for The Land Trust to conserve farms, forests, historic sites, recreation areas, wildlife habitat, and scenic landscapes in 10 Conservation Opportunity Regions (CORs) throughout the state.

CONSERVATION RESOURCE ANALYSIS MAP



The aim was to strategically and proactively conserve land, both public and private, to support local economies, public health, historic preservation, biodiversity, sense of place, and more. Our commitment is to increase the quality, pace, and impact of land conservation across Tennessee.

To complete *Forever Tennessee*, we compiled over 25 different datasets from a variety of authoritative sources, including state and federal government entities, scientific research organizations, and other conservation groups.



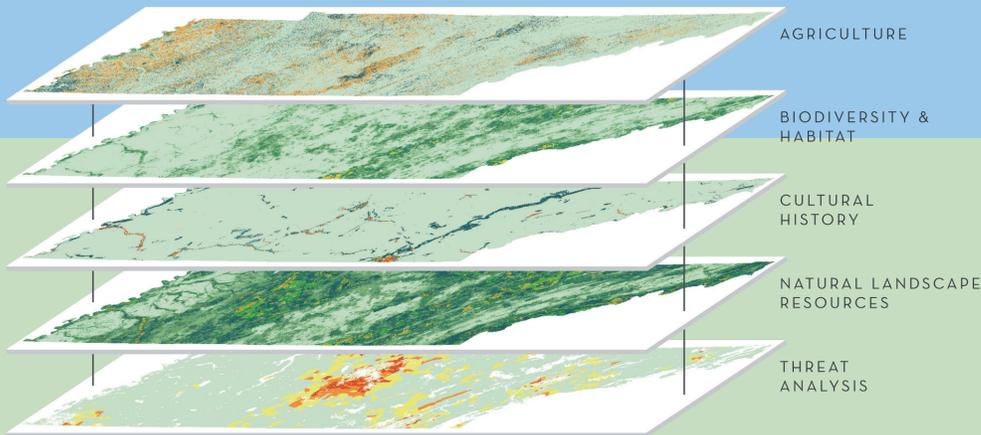
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LOOKING AHEAD: A STRATEGIC APPROACH

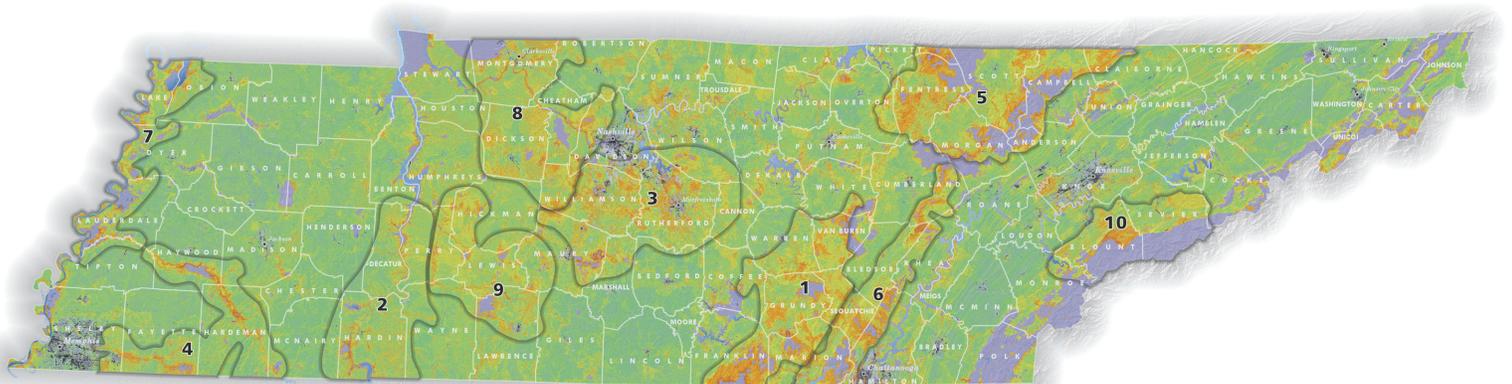
This allowed us to map conservation resources across Tennessee—such as fertile soils for farming, diverse wildlife habitat, and historic landscapes—and identify areas with the highest concentration of these resources. We then analyzed census data and population growth projections to prioritize places in most immediate need of our work.



We layered over 25 datasets to create a comprehensive map of Conservation Opportunity Regions (CORs).

Other land trusts across the country have created strategic plans that guide their conservation work. However, The Land Trust for Tennessee’s *Forever Tennessee* is the first statewide strategic conservation plan, a significant accomplishment for a state as big and diverse as Tennessee. Defining our CORs was necessary for our team to know where to focus our efforts to best serve the needs of Tennesseans.

Conservation Opportunity Regions





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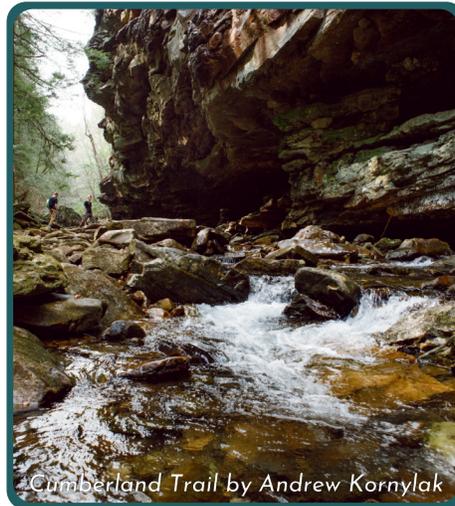
LOOKING AHEAD: A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Since releasing *Forever Tennessee*, we have protected thousands of acres of farmland, forestland, wildlife habitat, scenic views, public parks, and historic landscapes. These include:

Family farms that have defined the rural character of Tennessee over generations.



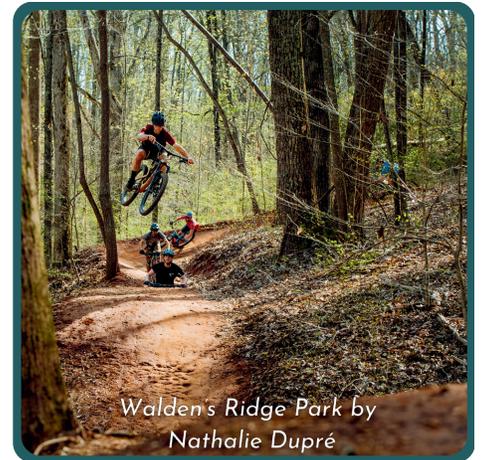
McGill-Becton-Cates Farm in Rutherford County



Cumberland Trail by Andrew Kornylak

Scenic viewsheds from the Cumberland Trail, protecting forests for carbon storage and habitat.

Public parks like Walden's Ridge Park in Chattanooga, a 200-mile downhill mountain biking, hiking, and bouldering park.



Walden's Ridge Park by Nathalie Dupré

And so much more to protect Tennessee's irreplaceable landscapes.

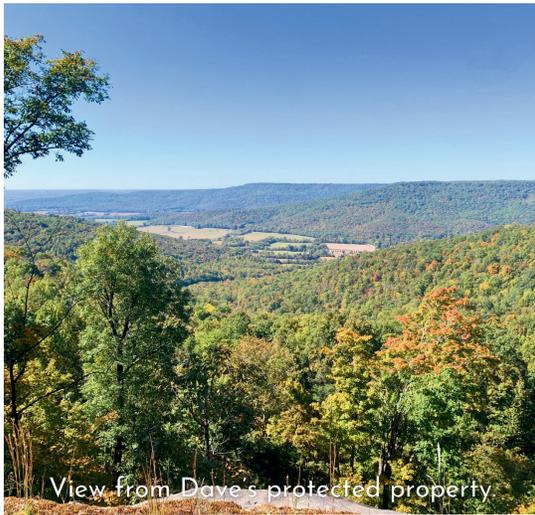
OUR COMMITMENT TO "FOREVER."

For The Land Trust for Tennessee's first 25 years, our focus was on building a portfolio of land protection projects, cementing our brand as a trusted statewide and national conservation voice, and assembling a strong team to carry out our mission. While we'll always continue doing these things, we know that to keep our promise of perpetual land stewardship, we need to be more strategic about the projects we take on. In the coming years, The Land Trust will continue to grow at a sustainable rate while shifting more of our efforts to stewardship, ensuring family farms, stunning vistas, wildlife habitat, and historic landmarks are protected forever.

2024

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The heart of our work is partnering with landowners across Tennessee to conserve land that is important to Tennesseans. That includes farmland, forests, historic properties, scenic views, public parks, and vital wildlife habitat. This year, **60%** of the acreage we helped protect was **priority wildlife habitat**, and all of the new conservation easements we closed are part of or adjacent to a larger core habitat area. We also protected historic farmland, scenic views, and community landmarks.



View from Dave's protected property.

242 Acres Protected in Grundy County

"I had a front row seat for that process of healing this land after it had been clearcut for years before I acquired it. It has become a beautiful/thriving forest that provides habitat for numerous species of wildlife."

– Dave, landowner



The Bell twins at their protected property.

211 Acres Protected in Overton County

In working with The Land Trust to hammer out an easement, we gained an even deeper appreciation of just how special this property is."

– Joe Anderson, landowner



Joe Anderson and Binney Stumpf at their protected property.

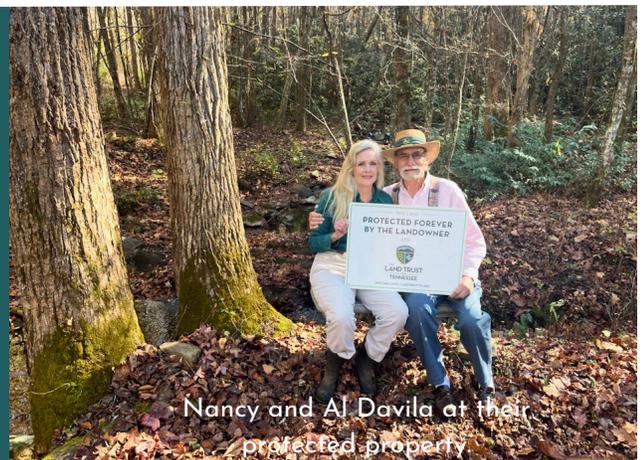
192 Acres Protected in Sumner County

The Bell sisters were born and raised on this property. When they became the owners of the property, they rebuilt the family home where they are living out their retirement together.

81 Acres Protected in Monroe County

"We can't take it with us, but we can protect it. It feels so right to do this. The Land Trust for Tennessee is our instrument to accomplish this protection forever." – Nancy Davila

Nancy and Al Davila protected their land in Monroe County in November 2024.



Nancy and Al Davila at their protected property.

2024

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

60 Acres Protected in Marshall County

"I've been working with The Land Trust for Tennessee for many years now, and it's been a great experience.

They're professional, they know what they're doing, and they've helped me achieve my vision for this land, which is to protect it forever."

– Matt Mulliniks, farmer



Allison and Matt Mulliniks' property in Marshall County.



Marianne and Susan Fowler at their protected property.

36 Acres Protected in Anderson County

After protecting 56 acres of historic farmland in 2010 with The Land Trust, the Fowler sisters conserved adjacent acreage.

"We promised our aunt that we would do an easement on this property so that we could have as much of the farm protected as we could. That way, it could remain in its original state and beauty. This is a beautiful valley and some of it needs to be maintained the way it was to begin with."

– Susan Fowler, landowner

Stewardship is a perpetual process.

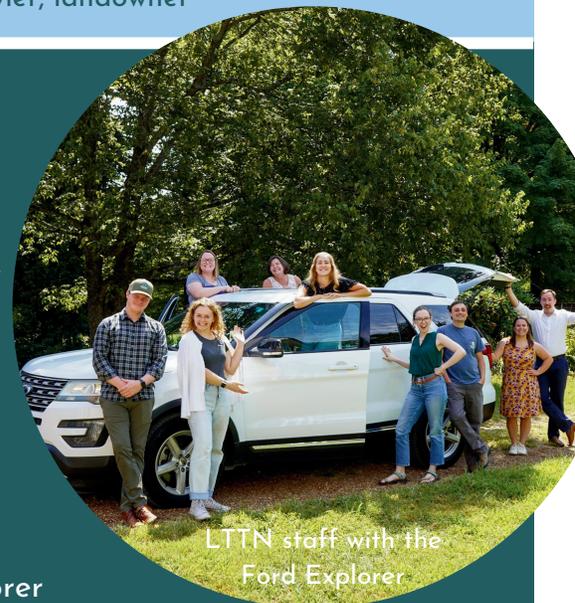
We take our promise to protect Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes seriously. Our Stewardship Team works closely with landowners to answer questions about their conservation easements and to make sure the land remains protected year after year. Our goal is to be a resource—not to tell people how to use or manage their land, but to support them in upholding the terms of their conservation agreement.

In 2024, The Land Trust for Tennessee was fortunate to receive a generous donation in the form of a new (used) Ford Explorer from Colonial Pipeline's fleet. Now,

Stewardship Team members will be able to use this vehicle instead of their own, ensuring they are safe and secure when traversing often difficult terrain. We're thankful for this new tool!

17,077
miles driven
in 2024

across
440+
projects.



LTTN staff with the Ford Explorer

2024

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERING, AND EVENTS

At this year's Once in a Blue Moon fundraiser, we honored our founder, Governor Philip Bredesen. He delivered remarks about the benefits of spending time outdoors and the importance of supporting The Land Trust to ensure future generations get to experience the natural world like he did as a child. We also premiered a new short film narrated by Governor Bill Haslam called *Be a Part of the Story*.



Governor Philip Bredesen delivers remarks at Once in a Blue Moon.



Community Day with High Garden Tea. Founders Leah and Joel Larabell led a medicinal plant tour.

In 2024, we doubled the attendance at our monthly Community Days at The Land Trust for Tennessee's Glen Leven Farm. Community members spent a Saturday morning each month with us learning about honey production, alternative plant uses, history, and more with our partners.

This year, volunteers and staff removed 100 yards of invasive Amur honeysuckle, making way for 40 native serviceberry trees planted in partnership with Root Nashville. We also introduced new volunteer opportunities like our Nature Trail Crew and partnered with Patagonia Nashville for monthly Brown's Creek Cleanup events.



Volunteers plant serviceberry trees at The Land Trust for Tennessee's Glen Leven Farm.

'Give the land a voice!' Farmer preserves 300 acres of land forever from development

The state is on track to lose 2 million acres of farmland by 2027, according to data from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.



It's been a successful year for raising awareness about the importance of land conservation. We secured over 15 media placements, including a feature in *The Tennessean* and a segment on News Channel 5. Across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, our content reached more than 1.4 million views, and one viral Facebook post even led directly to a new conservation easement in Monroe County.



25TH ANNIVERSARY

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615.244.5263 | info@LandTrustTN.org
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