



An Oasis at Risk

HOW YOU CAN PROTECT HISTORIC LOCKELAND SPRINGS PARK

THE
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LAND



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

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A new story of restoration and growth is unfolding at Lockeland Springs Park in Nashville. A story of resilience. New beginnings. Hope. We need your help to make this story a reality.

Before a devastating tornado ripped through the city in March 2020, Lockeland Springs Park was a small forested oasis sheltering a gentle spring-fed stream. Locals lovingly refer to it as the “Fairy Forest” because of the dozens of tiny fairy houses tucked into nooks among the trees and the stone ruins of its historic springhouse. School children frequented outdoor nature classrooms to learn about ecology, history, and biology. The park—located in a dense residential district just three miles east of downtown—is home to the natural springs that give the neighborhood its name. Historic stone ruins still remain from the early 20th century spring-water bottling operation, providing a rare window into the East Nashville of long ago. Unfortunately, the tornado carved a direct path through the park and leveled neighboring homes. What was once a lush urban escape was gone. Only a handful of spindly broken trees remained.

Days after the tornado hit, the COVID-19 pandemic became a global emergency. The city locked down. People turned to their parks like never before—for fresh air, exercise, meditation, solace, and a much-needed break from the stresses of a quickly changing world. With their park closed indefinitely, Lockeland Springs’s residents began to venture onto a privately owned five-acre lot adjacent to the park.

This land quickly became the secret garden and a place of respite that Lockeland Springs Park provided before the tornado. It was a sanctuary for neighbors seeking socially distant time in nature. A new footpath was carved along the stream by residents trekking through the dense forest to experience nature’s physical and mental health benefits.

As the city reopened, the community embarked upon a massive volunteer effort to restore Lockeland Springs Park. Together, they worked tirelessly to clean up the land, plant 350 new large trees, and plant new wildflower meadows on the now sunny slopes. But as neighbors organized to rebuild their park, they faced a new challenge: the adjacent private land—which had become a natural extension of the park—was up for sale for development. The loss of this property to development would not only strip the community of their enjoyment of the land. It would also destroy a core piece of the sheltered cove forest—changing the enchanting nature of Lockeland Springs Park forever.



When the property sold in May, it seemed all hope was lost. Luckily, the new buyers are interested in conserving a vast majority of the wooded land and streambeds for the community to enjoy permanently.

The potential loss of this de facto open space catalyzed the entire community. As a result, residents of East Nashville contacted The Trust for Public Land, asking for our support to quickly purchase the property to triple the size of Lockeland Springs Park and create an extended network of parklands and streams.

The community, neighbors, and children in East Nashville are rallying around the bright future this new potential park brings. But without your investment, we can't turn the page for the next chapter in this story of hope. We need your help to build a bold new future for Lockeland Springs Park.

Will you join us?



The Cost

Thanks to willing landowners, The Trust for Public Land has four acres currently under option for purchase.

We need your help! We must raise \$1.6 million to acquire the property and a conservation easement to ensure perpetual conservation and community ownership in partnership with the Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation Department. TennGreen Land Conservancy will hold the conservation easement, protecting the streams and forests here forever.

Why now?

We only have until December 8, 2021 to meet our goal. After that, the opportunity to protect this potential parkland will be at serious risk. Our city is growing rapidly, and we're losing the places where we can engage with nature and our history, places like Lockeland Springs Park. We must act quickly to show the current owners that the Nashville community will step up to the plate.

The Trust for Public Land has a successful record of leveraging public and private funds to support our projects; every \$1 donated to The Trust for Public Land is leveraged to save \$8 worth of land. Your early support will chart the course for the public-private partnership to expand Lockeland Springs Park.

In partnership with neighbors, fellow nonprofits, and philanthropists, you can advance this community-led vision. Together, we can rewrite this neighborhood park's narrative and spark a new chapter for neighborhood park investment across Nashville.



About The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land is committed to advancing equity, health, and climate resilience through nature in every community we serve. Since 1972, we have created more than 5,000 parks and green spaces, safeguarded more than 3.7 million acres, put a park within a 10-minute walk of home for more than 9 million people, and generated more than \$85 billion in public funding for parks, trails, and open spaces.

We know that great parks and green spaces can transform communities from the ground up: they improve public health, advance economic opportunities and learning outcomes, and connect people to nature and to each other. We see first-hand how well-designed parks are more than a place to play; they change people's lives.

About TennGreen Land Conservancy

TennGreen Land Conservancy (formerly the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit and the oldest accredited statewide land conservancy in Tennessee. Through sound science and partnerships, TennGreen identifies and conserves land across Tennessee for wildlife corridors, critical habitat, and public benefit. TennGreen protects, cares for, and connects people with Tennessee's natural world by providing meaningful outdoor experiences, establishing conservation easements, supporting restoration efforts, and acquiring (or assisting in the acquisition of) privately-held land. To learn more, visit tenngreen.org.



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