Preserving Place: Parks and History
Legacy Parks Foundation

- Formed late 2005
- Raised $6 million over past three years
- Added over 500 acres of park land
- Protected nearly 1,000 acres in East Tennessee
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

1,000 acres of Urban Wilderness in the heart of the city.
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

- 50-mile Urban Trail System
- 10 Parks
- 4 Civil War Sites
- Ijams Nature Center
- Neighborhoods
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
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Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

Economic Potential of Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

- Local Amenity: $14,700,689
- Regional Amenity: $25,768,321
- National Amenity: $51,200,529
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
KNOXVILLE’S URBAN WILDERNESS AND HISTORIC CORRIDOR
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

A Corridor with three Civil War forts, historic relics and settlement sites, diverse ecological features and recreational amenities.

A Corridor connected by a system of greenways and natural trails integrally linked to the South Waterfront Development.

A Corridor that allows the land to tell our story.
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

Communities throughout the country are saving their special places in a new way. They are identifying the character-defining assets of the land—historic, cultural, environmental and recreational—and preserving those assets through a unified effort.

We have a unique moment in time for such an effort in Knoxville. For us, it is the opportunity to create a 1,000 acre urban wilderness and historic corridor in the midst of our city.
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness
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Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

The Corridor allows us to protect the scenic viewsheds that define Knoxville. The properties are visible from most areas of the city but particularly important to the viewshed from downtown Knoxville. Development of these properties would change the character of the city.
Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness

Fort Stanley Ridge
A 22-acre wooded parcel off Chapman Highway containing the Civil War fort where Union troops from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio joined the 8th Tennessee and 16th Kentucky regiments to protect the southern approaches to Knoxville. This land also provides a key green backdrop that frames the cityside view of the south waterfront.

Fort Higley
Adjacent to Log Haven, a seven-acre parcel containing a critical portion of Fort Higley. During the 17-day Siege of Knoxville and the Battle of Fort Sanders, Fort Higley served as the western anchor of the Federal line, protecting the city from Confederate troops stationed on Cherokee Heights.
Saving a ‘crown jewel’

Land will be preserved thanks to donors, nonprofit

By Brett Lubin

The land looks a lot the same today as it did when soldiers fought over it during the Civil War.

The land will be almost entirely preserved thanks to the efforts of the Knoxville News Sentinel Foundation, a nonprofit that oversees the publishing of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

In the coming years, a new park will be developed on the site, and it will be known as The Civil War Battlefield.

The battlefield was the site of many significant battles during the Civil War.

The park will feature exhibits, interpretive signs, and other educational resources that will help visitors learn about the history of the battlefield.

The Civil War Battlefield is expected to open in 2023.
McBee Ferry Landing
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