



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435**

DAVID W. SALYERS, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of the State of Tennessee

The Honorable Randy McNally
Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the Senate

The Honorable Cameron Sexton
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Southerland
Chairman of the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Chris Todd
Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Kerry Roberts
Chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee

The Honorable John Ragan
Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee

The Honorable Jason E. Mumpower
Comptroller of the State of Tennessee

FROM: David W. Salyers, P.E.
Commissioner

DATE: July 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board Fund Board Annual Report

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Salyers", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

Tennessee Code Annotated section 11-7-104(h) requires that the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board (Board) prepare an annual report regarding the operation and financial status of the trust fund and any non-profit entity created pursuant to § 11-7-103(f). The report is to be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker of the Senate, Comptroller of the Treasury, Chair of the Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate, Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources of the House of

Representatives, Chair of the Government Operations Committee of the Senate, and Chair of the Government Operations Committee of the House of Representatives. The Department of Environment and Conservation is submitting the report on behalf of the Board because the Board is administratively attached to the department.

Attached is your copy of this year's report. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board if you have any questions.

Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, Board of Trustees 2024 Report

The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board of Trustees (the “Board”) seeks to protect significant natural areas in Tennessee by strategically partnering with landowners, government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, and others. In 2012, the General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 986, transferring the duties of the Conservation Commission to the Board.

The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (the “Fund”) was established in 2005 to assist the State in permanently conserving and preserving tracts of land to promote tourism and recreation, including outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, equestrian activities, and hiking; protect, conserve, and restore Tennessee’s physical, cultural, archeological, historical, and environmental resources; and preserve working landscapes.

The Board is administratively attached to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The Board has no staff but is administered by the Bureau of Parks & Conservation’s Real Property Manager, who assists the Board with matters regarding grant management, board meeting correspondence, and reports.

The 11-member board, made up of a diverse group from across Tennessee, has met as needed between 2006 and 2024 to review grant proposals and award grants to other governmental agencies, land trust groups, and other conservation organizations. Grants from the Fund are often matched with additional funding from the grantee to acquire land of high conservation or natural resources significance or, in some cases, to provide for conservation easements. In FY24 The Board met four times reviewing and approving twenty-one projects, awarding more than \$12 million, and protecting 7,656.22 acres.

Grants made by the Board pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 11-7-105(2), and the projects funded by these grants, were all awarded through the grant process developed by the Board. All projects funded by the Board are to be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions or covenants, whether by fee simple purchase, conservation easements, or other similar means.

The projects approved for grants must meet certain criteria before the funds are provided, including property surveys and appraisals, environmental assessments, and enactment of mechanisms like conservation easements to guarantee the permanent protection of the properties.

The Board has a proven record of protecting important and valuable properties and leveraging the funds entrusted to it, with the Fund’s balance currently at \$31,018,744.04*.

Attachment 1 shows the FY 24 fund balance.

Attachment 2 shows recent projects that have been funded by the Board.

*The current balance of this fund is based on the best available numbers as of June 30, 2024. As of the submission of this report, year-end closed entries have not been signed and finalized.

Attachment 1

Pursuant to TCA 11-7-103, the Tennessee Conservation Trust Fund was created to assist the State in permanently conserving and preserving tracts of land within the State. The expenditures and revenues are recorded in Department ID 3275001000.

The reserve balance as of May 31, 2024, is calculated as follows:

Beginning Balance 7/1/2023	\$ 1,503,265.27
State Appropriation FY 24	\$ 30,000,000.00
Interest for FY 24	\$ 69,258.37
Expenditures for FY 24	\$ 553,779.60
Ending Balance Reserve 5/31/2024	\$ 31,018,744.04
Obligations to Reserve not Expensed Yet 6/30/2024	\$ 12,298,650
Total Unobligated Balance	\$ 18,720,094.04

Attachment 2

Recent Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Approved Projects As of June 30, 2024

Clear Creek - Brewer TennGreen/NPS
County: Morgan
Current Owner: Brewer
Acres: 160
Proposed Management: NPS
Amount Awarded: \$476,500
Applicant Organization: TennGreen Land Conservancy
Contact Name: Christie Henderson
Payment Status:

White Oak WMA - Blankenship
County: Hardin
Current Owner: Blankenship
Acres: 351.91
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Awarded: \$300,000
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status: project cancelled by Tim Churchill

CF Ataya LLC Tract Otey Mills Easement Acquisition – North Cumberland WMA
County: Claiborne
Current Owner: CF Ataya LLC
Acres: 2613
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Awarded: \$693,000
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status:

McCowan – Wolf River WMA
County: Fayette
Current Owner: Cynthia McCowan and Jason McCowan
Acres: 2,613
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Awarded: \$71,510
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status

Cowan – Wolf River WMA
County: Fayette
Current Owner: Courtney Cowan Gray
Acres: 139.641
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Awarded: \$170,000
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status

Vinson
County: Hamilton
Current Owner: The Estate of Garynell Vinson
Acres: 1.45
Proposed Management: City of Chattanooga, Department of Parks and Outdoors
Amount Awarded: \$158,000
Applicant Organization: Trust for Public Land
Contact Name: Noel Durant
Payment Status: PAID

TWRA – Harris
County: Anderson
Current Owner: Harris Family
Acres: 709
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Requested: \$459,500 of expected \$306,000 total cost
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status:

Coalmont Conservation - OHV Park
County: Grundy/Marion
Current Owner: United Stone
Acres: 418.65
Proposed Management: 0
Amount Awarded: \$550,000
Applicant Organization: City of Coalmont
Contact Name: Thomas Meeks
Payment Status: PAID

Radnor Lake SNA & SP - 16.8 acres
County: Davidson
Current Owner: Richards and FORL
Acres: 16.8
Proposed Management: Radnor SNP and SNA
Amount Awarded: \$1,825,000
Applicant Organization: Friends of Radnor Lake
Contact Name: Steve Ward
Payment Status:

Wolf River - Pleasants Farm
County: Fayette
Current Owner: TennGreen and Wolf River Conservancy
Acres: 118.438
Proposed Management: TWRA
Amount Awarded: \$146,500
Applicant Organization: TennGreen Land Conservancy
Contact Name: Christie Henderson
Payment Status: PAID

N Cumberland WMA - Goliath TN BRC LLC (Little Tracts)
County: Campbell
Current Owner: Goliath TN BRC LLC
Acres: 1343.7
Proposed Management: N Cumberland WMA
Amount Awarded: \$409,200
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status:

N Cumberland WMA - Layne Tract
County: Campbell
Current Owner: Layne
Acres: 434.81
Proposed Management: N Cumberland WMA
Amount Awarded: \$168,300
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status:

Lick Creek WMA - Wetland
County: Greene
Current Owner: Rice
Acres: 273.73
Proposed Management: Lick Creek WMA
Amount Awarded: \$574,200
Applicant Organization: TWRA
Contact Name: Tim Churchill
Payment Status:

Sparta Riverfront Park - Sparta Riverfront Park
County: White
Current Owner: City of Sparta
Acres: 119.65
Proposed Management: City of Sparta
Amount Awarded: \$650,000
Applicant Organization: City of Sparta
Contact Name: Tanya Tindle
Payment Status:

Gordon Farm - Gordon Farm Conservation Easement
County: Rutherford
Current Owner: Gordon
Acres: 162
Proposed Management: Land Trust for TN
Amount Awarded: \$75,000
Applicant Organization: LTT
Contact Name: Jackson
Payment Status:

Flyway - The Flyway
County: Shelby
Current Owner: City of Memphis
Acres: 5.435
Proposed Management: MRPP
Amount Awarded: \$4,350,000
Applicant Organization: City of Memphis
Contact Name: Andrew K
Payment Status:

Newsoms Mill - Expansion
County: Davidson
Current Owner: Old Mill Partnership
Acres: 131.06
Proposed Management: TDEC
Amount Awarded: \$1,000,000
Applicant Organization: TSP
Contact Name: Jackson
Payment Status:

Cumberland Trail - Upper Duskin Creek Property
County: Rhea
Current Owner: Walden Ridge LLC c/o Timber Investment Resources LLC
Acres: 260
Proposed Management: TDEC
Amount Awarded: \$279,950
Applicant Organization: Access Fund
Contact Name: Daniel Dunn
Payment Status:

Big Hill Pond - Cypress Creek Tract
County: McNairy
Current Owner: Bartz Acquisitions LLC
Acres: 366
Proposed Management: TDEC
Amount Awarded: \$310,000
Applicant Organization: Wolf River Conservancy
Contact Name: Ryan Hall
Payment Status:

Cedars of Lebanon - Addition to Protect Leafy Prairie Clover
County: Wilson
Current Owner: B&L Farm Partnership
Acres: 175.5
Proposed Management: TDEC
Amount Awarded: \$525,000
Applicant Organization: TDEC - SNA
Contact Name: Sam King
Payment Status:

Calfkiller - Calfkiller
County: White
Current Owner: Cunningham
Acres: 6074.43
Proposed Management: TDEC
Amount Awarded: \$10,000,000
Applicant Organization: TSP
Contact Name: Mike Robertson
Payment Status: CANCELLED