



## Greenways, Land Conservation and Flood Prevention

Reducing flooding is another reason to support Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Funds for conservation! Now that the floodwaters are receding and we are bailing out and cleaning up... think long and hard about greenways and land conservation and the vital service these provide to reduce the impacts of flooding. Besides recreation, hunting and fishing, wildlife habitats, smart growth for urban areas, and increased tourism, jobs, real estate values, and other economic benefits, the values of conserved greenways and forested river corridors also include cleaner water, less soil erosion -- and reduced impact, or elimination of damage, from flooding.

Tennessee is 7th worse in the nation in the rate at which we convert open land to development with 80,000 acres lost to development including impervious surfaces which accelerate the effects of floodwaters! As Tennessee develops and real estate changes hands, a small fee is dedicated to funding greenways and land conservation – these help prevent flooding!

### Why is this?

1. For starters, greenways and forested land act like a “sponge” and reduce water runoff and help minimize flash floods and rapid rise in our rivers. The streets of suburbia and parking lots don't absorb much rainfall. Forests, farms, greenways and wetlands do. Conserved land can help control the rate at which water rises in a river during a storm event and protect communities from the disastrous effects of a flood.
2. Conserving "filters" along rivers can slow runoff before it gets to the river. Forests slow storm water to allow sediment to drop out before it enters the stream or river and absorb extra nutrients that can be harmful to our drinking water and river wildlife. These natural processes do not take place if storm water is collected in pipes and discharged directly into water bodies.
3. Conserved land and greenways helps maximize the quantity and quality of water that is allowed to seep into the ground to recharge aquifers. The more pavement and buildings there are to cover soil, the less water penetrates it during a storm event. When rain soaks into the ground, it becomes the groundwater we withdraw from our wells. If we continue to withdraw water from aquifers without letting it replenish, these underground reservoirs will become depleted.
4. By slowing storm water runoff, vegetated buffers also protect waterways from the scouring effect that can come from unimpeded storm waters - protecting soil surfaces and the sides of streams and rivers from erosion that can dump excess sediment into the water body.

Are the Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Funds the total answer to flooding?  
Of course not. But they are a major part of the answer.

There are plenty of reasons to support a Forever Green Tennessee besides flood control. But while we're trying to figure out how we're going to pay for recovery from our recent multi-million-dollar losses in Tennessee from flooded rivers, we must protect the dedicated Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Fee as a mighty small down payment toward reducing losses like this in the years to come.

Keep the Tennessee Real Estate Transfer Fees working for Flood Control. These Funds are part of the solution. Keep land conservation investments working to prevent a worsening “rising tide”!

The Wetlands Fund – Without the 200,000 plus acres of conserved wetlands, Memphis would have been further impacted.

The State Park Land Acquisition Fund – Vegetation along our scenic rivers slow down rising floodwaters. Thank God for the actions taken by Tennessee legislators 20 years ago that reduced flood waters by conserving forested river corridors.

The Local Parks and Recreation Fund – these fund greenways and other streamside park! Shelby Bottoms can soak up waters and help spare nearby neighborhoods and the loss of developments in areas meant to absorb floodwaters.

The Agricultural Resources Fund – Gives farmers incentives to provide “spongy” stream buffers.

**FOREVER GREEN TENNESSEE...**  
**for woods, water, wildlife and for our descendents.**

**HOW CAN YOU HELP THOSE IN NEED:**

Contact: Hands on Nashville to volunteer. 615-298-1108

Donate to the Flood Relief funds set up by the Community Foundation of Middle TN. 615-321-4939