The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee Milestone:
450,000 acres conserved across the state since 1978.

Mississippi River Land Protection

Along the Mississippi River and its iconic tributary, the Hatchie River, large-scale land protection of floodplains has led to the expansion of public recreation areas and safeguarding wildlife corridors while reducing flood damage and improving water quality.

Jewels of Middle Tennessee

Wildflowers are delicate jewels that have been protected in this area since 1978 when TNC purchased the Taylor Hollow Preserve. Numerous cedar glades also have been acquired to safeguard rare and endangered plants, including the iconic Tennessee coneflower.

Northern Cumberland Plateau

Large-Scale Connectivity

In 2007, the Conservancy led the protection effort of 127,000 acres—the biggest single project in Tennessee since the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1934. Most recently, the Cumberland Forest project secured 253,000 acres in the coal fields region of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia.

An Oasis in Northeast Tennessee

Shady Valley, where the Conservancy began work in the 1970s, is a bountiful place for nature. From historic cranberry bogs to natural sandy artesian springs, Shady Valley preserves are accessible to the public and showcase public-private partnerships for conservation.

Conservation Platform

In 2018, Bridgestone Americas, Inc. donated nearly 5,800 acres which represents the crown jewel of over 65,000 acres of protected landscape on the Cumberland Plateau, making it a living laboratory and a site for natural climate solutions.

KEY: TNC Protection Projects

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

William B. Clark Conservation Area

This region of the Wolf River represents a diverse ecosystem that contains important wildlife habitat. The area is important to improve water quality, recycle nutrients and moderate flood peaks. The public can access the area via a board walk to see Bald Cypress and Black Gum trees.

Protecting A Vital Resource

The Duck River is considered to be the richest river in varieties of freshwater animals on the North American continent. Since 1999, The Nature Conservancy has been working on the Duck River with local communities, businesses, and government agencies to ensure the long-term protection of the river's water quality and ecological integrity.

Southern Cumberland Plateau

Recreation Playground

The public-accessible area known as the Walls of Jericho on the Tennessee state line links large, intact forestlands within the Southern Cumberlands for a total of more than 80,000 acres of protected lands.

Flourishing Partnerships

Along Tennessee's Southern Appalachian mountain range, the Conservancy has assisted with land protection in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. In addition, these partnerships have evolved to include removing in-stream barriers that impede fish passage and forest restoration through prescribed fire.

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The Nature Conservancy Protection Projects

1. Radnor Lake State Natural Area
2. Tapoco Lands
3. Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge
4. Pumplog Hollow and The Narrows
5. Reelfoot Lake
6. Clinch River and Kyles Ford
7. Barnetts Woods State Natural Area
8. Tennessee River Gorge, Aetna Mountain, Franklin State Forest
9. Washmorgan Hollow
10. Shady Valley
11. Kelly Creek Seeps
12. William B. Clark State Natural Area
13. Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area
14. Hatchie River National Wildlife Refuge
15. Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge
16. Bear Hollow Mountain Wildlife Management Area – North Unit
17. French Broad River
18. Walls of Jericho
19. Cedar Glades and Barrens
20. Clifty Creek Gorge
21. Doe Mountain
22. Tally Wilderness Area, Pogue Creek Canyon, Jim Creek
23. Frozen Head State Park
24. North Cumberlands Wildlife Management Area/Connecting the Cumberlands
25. Taylor Hollow State Natural Area
26. Langford Branch Seeps and Dry Branch Seeps
27. Savage Gulf/South Cumberland State Park
28. Fall Creek Falls State Park
29. Jarrell Switch Refuge
30. Cherokee National Forest – Unicoi County
31. Bendabout Farm (Conservation Easement)
32. Cherokee National Forest – Carter County
33. Longhunter State Park and Couchville Cedar Glades
34. Chickasaw State Park
35. Cherokee National Forest – Greene County
36. McCloud Mountain
37. Yanahli Wildlife Management Area
38. Cherokee National Forest – Cocke County
39. Powell River State Natural Area
40. Obed Wild & Scenic River
41. Duck River
42. Tennessee Coneflower Sites
43. Skinner Mountain
44. Hubbards Cave
45. Cumberland Forest Project/Ataya/Tackett Creek
46. Bear Hollow Mountain WMA – South Unit
47. Middle Fork Forked Deer River/Jackson Wetlands
48. Land Between the Lakes
49. Buffalo Mountain Camp
50. Conasauga River
51. Shafer-Tuuk Tree Farm (Conservation Easement)
52. The Bridgestone Nature Reserve at Chestnut Mountain
53. Piney River Gorge
54. Mt. Roosevelt Wildlife Management Area
55. North Cumberlands Wildlife Management Area – Highcliff
56. Cherokee National Forest – Tri-Corner
57. Wolf River- Clark Restoration Site
58. Duck River-Allen Dairy (Conservation Easement)
59. Duck River-Kennedy (Conservation Easement)
60. Alexander Cave Preserve
61. Neely Preserve (Conservation Easement)
62. Plantation Pond (Conservation Easement)
63. Sunnybell Cedar Glade State Natural Area
64. Clinch-Torbett (Conservation Easement)
65. Pearson Cave
66. Watauga River Bluffs State Natural Area
67. Colditz Cove State Natural Area
68. Duck River-Anderson Tract
69. Bellamy Cave
70. Cummins Falls State Park
71. Sunk Lake State Natural Area
72. Hawkins Cove State Natural Area
73. White Oak Swamp
74. Beech Creek Bluffs State Natural Area
75. Shaws Creek Bottoms
76. Little Hickory Creek
77. Wolf River Cave
78. John Tully WMA and State Forest
79. Walker Branch Dragonfly & Damselfly Preserve State Natural Area
80. Neill Forest
81. Piper Cave
82. Cherokee National Forest – McMinn County
83. Cherokee National Forest – Sullivan County
84. Cherokee National Forest – Johnson County

LEFT TO RIGHT The Cumberland Forest Project protects 253,000 acres of Appalachian forest in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia and is one of TNC's largest-ever conservation efforts in the eastern United States. © Steven David Johnson; Protecting Vital Resources Duck River @ Byron Jorjorian; Eastern Newt © Terry Cook