



freshwater
LAND TRUST

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Freshwater Land Trust Community,

I hope you and your families are safe and well after a challenging and unusual year. Despite the difficulties brought on by COVID-19, our team continues to work hard to fulfill our mission to conserve, connect, and care for land and water for healthier and happier communities throughout Central Alabama.

I am excited to share Freshwater Land Trust's progress and accomplishments in our 2020 Annual Report. Last year, we conserved more land, engaged more volunteers, laid the groundwork for more exciting trail projects, and removed a tremendous amount of litter from local waterways.

Since the pandemic, we believe that FLT's mission to provide high quality, outdoor greenspace and trails to our area residents is more important now than ever. Please consider supporting Freshwater Land Trust financially as we strive to create cleaner, greener communities for everyone to access and enjoy.

Rusha Smith

Rusha Smith
Executive Director



2020 Highlights

Celebrated groundbreaking of Tarrant's \$9.5 million flood mitigation project made possible by FLT's 522-acre property donation

February

Planted 800 trees along Turkey Creek to reintroduce native species and reduce erosion

June

Partnered with BhamStrong to complete trail and property improvement projects

June

Received a national SHIFT Award in Land Management Innovation for Red Rock Trail System

July

Received accreditation renewal from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

August

Completed rendering for Continental Gin Connector trail which will connect JVTE to Continental Gin

September

Finalized Turkey Creek land swap with City of Pinson for 34-acre high value conversation property

October

2020 IMPACT

Conserving land and building trails

2

New trail projects

Jones Valley Trail Extension and Continental Gin Connector Trail

649

Volunteer hours served

Through corporate workdays, adopted trails, and student groups

784

New acres conserved

More than three times what we conserved in 2017

7,713

Acres monitored and managed

Improving land, waterways, and forests

FRESHWATER LAND TRUST PROPERTY SNAPSHOT

Total New Acres Conserved in 2020 784 Acres
Acres Monitored and Managed 7,713 Acres

FLT Fee Property 3,991.87 (~52%)
FLT Conservation Easement 3,721.22 (~48%)

Acres in Black Warrior River Basin 4,175.04 (~54%)
Acres in Alabama River Basin 2,236.57 (~29%)
Acres in Tallapoosa River Basin 1,301.48 (~17%)



PROJECT LITTER GITTER

Highlights from our latest conservation initiative

2,584.19

Litter Gitters help...

pounds of litter from local waterways from
December 2019 - December 2020

- + Remove trash in or about to enter waterways
- + Reduce future litter
- + Educate the community about the importance of trash abatement and clean water

Project Litter Gitter Grows

In 2020, Freshwater Land Trust received a \$500,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to fund six litter gitters over three years and support the existing Litter Quitters program. Thanks to our partners, we installed ten litter gitters in 2020 throughout Jefferson County. Partners continue to plan for the future of litter gitters with a continued focus on underserved neighborhoods.

Key Partners

- + Black Warrior Riverkeeper
- + Cahaba Riverkeeper
- + Osprey Initiative
- + The cities of Bessemer, Birmingham, Brighton, Homewood, Trussville, and Vestavia Hills
- + Jefferson County Conservation District
- + Jefferson County Department of Health
- + Village Creek Society
- + River Network
- + EPA
- + Coca-Cola Foundation
- + Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company



INVEST IN YOUR LAND TRUST

Here are a few ways you can support Freshwater Land Trust in 2021



CONTINENTAL GIN CONNECTOR TRAIL

The Continental Gin Connector will be the final eastern push of the Jones Valley Trail Corridor before branching off towards east Birmingham neighborhoods. Ultimately, its development will establish a critical tie-in for planned, large-scale projects aimed at creating safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists between downtown Birmingham and Woodlawn, Crestwood, and Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve.

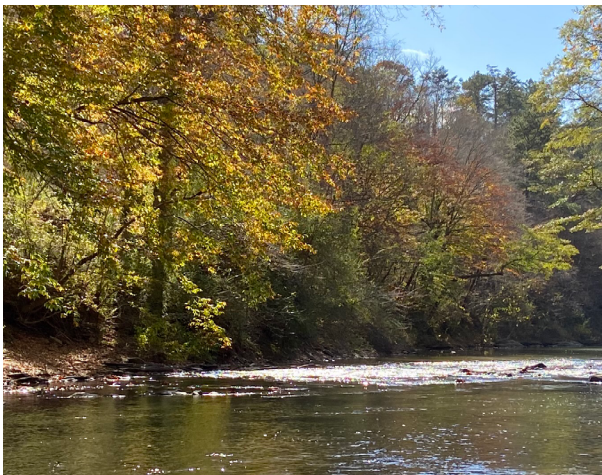
freshwaterlandtrust.org/what-we-do/about-red-rock-trail-system/featured-trail-projects



BECOME AN OFFICIAL FRESHWATER FAN

If you value beautiful forests, clean water, and accessible trails, you are already a fan of what we do. Why not make it official? As a Freshwater Fan, you will provide critical support for conservation and outdoor recreation in Central Alabama. Giving levels begin at \$100 and include fun, annual benefits.

Become a Freshwater Fan today!
freshwaterlandtrust.org/donate



EVENTS: STAY TUNED

We are committed to our community's health and safety and will take every precaution before moving forward with public events. Follow us on social media and visit our website for the latest updates.

freshwaterlandtrust.org/get-involved/events

May 22 – 23: Blue Springs Bioblitz

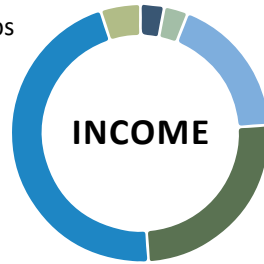
August 8: Land Aid featuring Umphrey's McGee (tentative)

TBD: Conservation Easement Seminars

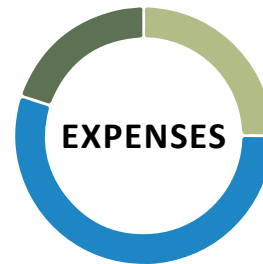
TBD: Guided Weekend Hikes

2020 FINANCES

- 46% Government & Agency Partnerships
- 25% Foundations & Trusts
- 18% Corporate
- 5% Programs & Investments
- 3% Board Gifts
- 3% Individuals



Total Income:
\$1,315,157



Total Expenses:
\$1,019,935

- 55% Conservation & Stewardship
- 25% Administrative & Fundraising
- 20% Red Rock Trail System

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity and inclusion are foundational values of Freshwater Land Trust and primary drivers of our work in the community and our workplace culture. A central tenet of our mission is to provide outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities to everyone in our geographical footprint, regardless of their location, income level, neighborhood demographics, or physical ability. As a result, our work helps grow the collective consciousness for protecting and enjoying the natural environment and strengthen social bonds between diverse populations. We intentionally seek work in marginalized communities in order to help build a more inclusive community in the Greater Birmingham and Central Alabama area. As an organization, Freshwater Land Trust believes that each of our employees brings unique and special skills, perspectives, and experiences to the table, and we strive to maintain a culture that allows each of them to thrive, succeed, and contribute to Freshwater Land Trust's mission to his or her fullest potential.

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