



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 10, 2026

Contacts:

Rebekah Correia, Outreach and Communications Director, Freshwater Land Trust

rebekah.correia@freshwaterlandtrust.org, 205-417-2777 ext. 109

Savannah Thompson, Outreach and Communications Coordinator, Freshwater Land Trust

savannah.thompson@freshwaterlandtrust.org, 205-417-2777 ext. 102

Freshwater Land Trust Relocates Office to Rotary Trail, Returning to One of its Signature Projects

Birmingham, AL —Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) has relocated its headquarters to Birmingham's historic Hardwick Building on the Rotary Trail, placing the land conservation and trail-building nonprofit at the heart of one of the city's most recognizable public spaces. The move comes as FLT celebrates its 30th anniversary and the Rotary Trail celebrates its 10th.

The Hardwick Building was once a vacant warehouse situated on 1st Avenue South next to an abandoned railroad corridor. Today, it is a pillar of Birmingham's downtown renewal and is home to local retailers, restaurants, businesses, and now, FLT, whose work helped turn a derelict railroad trench, formerly known as "The Cut," into the Rotary Trail, a community hub and a cornerstone of the Red Rock Trail System®.

In 2021, FLT relocated from a 1st Avenue North downtown space to the M2 development, a move that coincided with the construction of the 1.5-mile Hugh Kaul Trail, which now welcomes over 250,000 people a year, and FLT's commission of the "I Love Birmingham" mural on that trail. During its five years in that space, FLT celebrated major milestones: it increased its full-time staff from six to ten, expanded its conservation footprint from 7,700 acres in nine counties to 12,500 acres across 14 Central Alabama counties, and launched the Red Rock Action Plan, a 15-year vision for completing a 36-mile trail loop around the greater Birmingham metropolitan area, connecting Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Railroad Park.

Now, as the Rotary Trail celebrates a decade and FLT celebrates its 30th, FLT has moved back to the trail that sparked downtown's revitalization. "The Rotary Trail is the gateway of the Red Rock Trail System's® Jones Valley Corridor, the central spine of the network that includes

popular trails like the Kiwanis Vulcan Trail, Clairmont Walking Trail, and the planned Civil Rights Trail, coming in 2029,” said Carolyn Buck, FLT’s Red Rock Trail System® Director. “Its success demonstrates the transformational power of well-designed greenspaces. Once a blighted railroad bed, the Rotary Trail is now one of the most iconic spaces in downtown Birmingham and has helped generate over \$75 million in economic development, connecting residents and visitors to downtown’s numerous amenities.”

As FLT prepares to celebrate 30 years of accomplishments at its [Freshwater Fête](#) event in November, it is also laying the groundwork for its next 30 years. The organization continues to advance critical conservation and trail projects that will shape the future landscape of Central Alabama, including streambank restorations of vital waterways, the Valley Creek Rail-to-Trail, and expanded community engagement through its programs and events. From its new headquarters on the Rotary Trail, FLT will continue working toward a healthier, more beautiful and connected region.

Freshwater Land Trust conserves, connects, and cares for land throughout Central Alabama. Since 1996, FLT has preserved land critical to the protection of Alabama waterways and created outdoor recreational opportunities for communities. In the last 30 years, FLT has protected over 12,500 acres of land in 14 counties and facilitated the development of 175 miles of the Red Rock Trail System® throughout Jefferson County.

See locations of FLT’s public access properties at <https://freshwaterlandtrust.org/get-involved/get-outside/>

Find a Trail in the Red Rock Trail System at <https://freshwaterlandtrust.org/find-a-trail/>

FLT is celebrating its 30th anniversary this fall with Freshwater Fête. See more at <https://freshwaterlandtrust.org/2026/05/freshwater-land-trust-celebrates-30th-founding-anniversary-with-momentous-event/>