

Greenway Trail

MARYVILLE TO ALCOA, TENNESSEE

Located in the scenic foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, the twin cities of Maryville and Alcoa are attracting an increasing number of visitors, new residents and employers with the picturesque Greenway Trail. The cities have received more than \$1 million in Transportation Enhancements (TE) funding for the construction of the popular trail system. The eight-mile Greenway Trail is a safe, viable method of travel between neighborhoods, schools, businesses and retail areas.

RELATIONSHIP TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

What began as a plan for a recreational trail between the cities of Maryville and Alcoa has evolved into an integral transportation system providing residents with a heart-healthy alternative for travel to work, school, recreation areas, shops and restaurants. The Greenway Trail, dotted with benches and historical markers, follows a route around frequent rock outcroppings and across wooden footbridges over Pistol Creek. Additional trail connections run adjacent to places of worship, a new library, the county courthouse and downtown senior housing developments.



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Greenway Trail has helped instill a strong sense of community pride. When visitors arrive, the trail is one of the places that residents make a point of showing while touring the area. In addition, property values have increased and are valued highest close to the trail.

The trail has encouraged major corporations to relocate to Maryville. After considering several cities, Ruby Tuesday, Inc. moved its Restaurant Support Center to a site adjacent to the trail. Chairman and CEO Samuel E. Beall, III, stated, "I was very impressed with the beauty of the park, which helps provide a sense of community to this area, as well as the many benefits it provides to our more than 300 employees."

In recognition of the many health, educational, and travel benefits the Greenway Trail offers, Blount Memorial Hospital, Alcoa, Inc., and other businesses have contributed more than \$300,000 worth of funds and easements to enhance the trail.

Mayor Steve West and his family, avid supporters of the trail system, donated \$300,000 towards the construction of an outdoor theater encircled by the trail system; many attendees use the trail for transportation to events. The theater hosts local school groups, dance studios and theater groups, as well as nationally known recording artists. The Theater in the Park and the Greenway Trail also host the Foothills Fall Festival. Approximately 140,000 people attend the annual event, enjoying activities, arts and crafts booths and food vendors that line the trail.

Support for the Greenway Trail system has remained strong. Citizens have requested more trails and increased connections to the main



branch of the Greenway. Both cities have submitted applications for additional TE trail funding, including connections to a low-income community in Alcoa. The community has expressed a clear interest in linking neighborhoods to the greenway and establishing safer routes to schools and recreation areas.

The trail has had many positive effects on the citizens of Maryville and Alcoa. It provides safe travel routes and opportunities for recreation and exercise. Dr. Mike Dalton, Director of Maryville City Schools, reports, "The schools all use this trail system as a part of their physical education programs, teaching walking and jogging skills that can provide lifelong health benefits." In addition, the trail has become a natural classroom for study units on nature and ecology. Dr. Dalton suggests, "This interaction with the natural environment provides a stronger learning environment and leads to the development of adults who will lead efforts to maintain a healthy environment for the future."

FUNDING

Total Project Cost: \$2,979,020
 Federal TE: \$1,681,000
 Non-federal Match: \$1,298,020

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