

FSC Land Conservation Committee Report:  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Feb-1-2025 Board Meeting  
FRIENDS OF THE PARKS – **BOARD CONFIDENTIAL**

Committee Focus: to support land preservation priorities of our Park Managers in partnership with private landowners, TN TDEC Lands officials, and land trusts such as Open Space Institute (OSI), TennGreen, The Nature Conservancy, and The Conservation Fund (TCF). Priorities include strategically important parcels which protect watersheds, viewsheds, recreation, visitor safety, and ecologically sensitive areas in proximity to The Parks.

**South Cumberland State Park –Land Preservation Priorities**

CURRENT PRIORITIES:

**Fiery Gizzard Trail (FGT)** –A TDEC land survey was recently completed by surveyor Mike Barry. Next step is for TDEC/Park Management negotiate land use agreements with landowners for park visitors and staff access.

**Woodland Preserve** – This is a proposed housing development adjacent to Foster Falls. Work continues to mitigate, reduce and minimize potential negative impact to SCSP. In December, Bruce Blohm, Alyse Getty, and Bran Potter met with Tony Perry, the developer to walk the land and discuss status/plans, potential impacts, and mitigation strategies. Next Steps: Put forth a discrete proposal for the scope of a predevelopment Environmental Impact Assessment establish a baseline/pre-development view of the Woodland Preserve 124 acres site. Provide educational material and instruction for protecting the extensive Hemlock grove from the HWA infestation.

**OSI Visit – Dec-11<sup>th</sup>** – Visit to Denny Cove – Open Space Institute CEO Erik Kulleseid, Tally Blumberg, and Melanie Griffin toured Denny Cove and surrounding area with Park Manager George Shinn and Lands Committee Chair Bruce Blohm (picture below)

**Savage Gulf State Park - Land Preservation Priorities**

CURRENT PRIORITIES -

**Sequatchie LLC Tract** – Land Trust partners TNC, TCF and TennGreen, in partnership with TDEC and SGSP mgt, secured a contract for a 600+ parcel adjacent to the Savage Gulf State Park. The property is expected transfer to SGSP in 2025.

**Stockwell Tract** – TDEC officials are still researching considerations for potential inclusion into SCSP.

**Northcutt Tract(s)** – Discussions with TDEC regarding the merits of public or private conservation easement

**Walker Tract** – Mr. Walker declined a land swap and has indicated his desire to sell the property instead. Mr. Walker is suggesting a price above appraisal value which is unacceptable to the state.

**Head of the Crow State Park (HOCSP) – Land Preservation Priorities**

CURRENT PRIORITIES – To support Park Mgt by continuing to work with landowners, TDEC, and land trust partners to protect and preserve lands with proximity, connectivity, and strategic importance to HOCSP.

Denny Cove – South Cumberland State Park  
December 11, 2024



Park Mgr. – George Shinn    OSI Team – Melanie, Erik, Joel, Tally