

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



RED
MTN
PARK



MISSION : TO PRESERVE AND
CARE FOR RED MOUNTAIN PARK,
RUFFNER MOUNTAIN, AND
TURKEY CREEK NATURE
PRESERVE AS SANCTUARIES FOR
OUR NEIGHBORS, NATIVE PLANTS,
AND ANIMALS.





STRONGER TOGETHER: A NEW ERA OF STEWARDSHIP

Following the successful creation of the Jefferson County Greenways Commission in 2023, the Jefferson County Greenways Foundation officially formed in April 2024 after board members from the Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition and Red Mountain Park Foundation unanimously voted to merge the two nonprofit organizations.

This new public-private partnership brings local governments, agencies, and nonprofits into alignment to better protect, manage, and celebrate three of Jefferson County's cherished greenspaces. By operating under a single structure, JCG maximizes shared resources, ensuring that each greenspace continues to thrive. Through these greenspaces, JCG is deepening the community's connection to nature and contributing to the health, well-being, and quality of life for everyone who calls this region home.

3K+

Acres preserved

37+

Miles of trails maintained

7500

Feet of creekbank maintained

12

Imperiled and endangered
species protected

300K+

Visitors explored our greenspaces

18

Native wildlife ambassadors
cared for

1900+

Members supported from
183 unique ZIP codes

880

Donors committed to
preservation

CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

Well-maintained greenspaces protect native plants and wildlife and offer a sense of safety and connection to visitors.

From trail maintenance to infrastructure upgrades and repairs, our work helps ensure our greenspaces remain healthy, safe, and welcoming to our guests.



In May of 2024, we welcomed La Fran Marks as the first-ever Jefferson County Greenways Superintendent, joined by Amy Conyers as Deputy Superintendent. Together, they centralize and coordinate the daily operations of our maintenance team across all three greenspaces.

48

Acres treated for invasive plant species

140

Native plant species propagated

18

Bird species banded during MAPS program



13

Deferred maintenance projects completed:

- Lifesaving AEDs installed at all three greenspaces
- New gate and security cameras at **Red Mountain Park**, Venice Rd. entrance
- Project Safe Flight window treatments at **Ruffner Mountain**
- Greenhouse renovation at **Turkey Creek Nature Preserve**

PROGRAMS

ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY



10K+

Program participants

111%

Thanks to the generosity of donors and community partners, our programs aim to provide equitable access to nature, deliver high-quality environmental education, and promote the health of community members as well as native habitats. We seek to inspire a deeper connection to our natural surroundings, cultivating future environmental stewards.

2,931

Individuals engaged in
35 community outreach events

498

People participated in
27 guided hikes & public programs

857

K-12 students attended
33 field trips

8

Students from four schools
provided with internships

1,719

People participated in
33 group hikes & trail runs

417

Volunteers served over
68 workdays

MEMBERSHIP

Members of JCG play a vital role in providing sustainable funding and responsible stewardship of the greenspaces. Through JCG's membership program, 1900+ individuals from more than 180 unique zip codes directly supported the care and maintenance of our shared greenspaces in 2024.

"I love enjoying the outdoors, meeting and working with people with the same appreciation, and really love giving back to my community!"

-JCG Volunteer

"I love visiting the parks with my family for hikes to explore different trails and taking our dog to the dog park."

-JCG Member

"Our students got to appreciate the beauty that exists in their city. They learned about wildlife, how to nature journal, and found a new appreciation for their natural environment."

-Teacher, The Flourish Alabama

"The park holds a dear spot in my family's past. I hiked it often when I lived in Birmingham. And my daughter participated in three Summer camps there when she was young."

-JCG Donor

GO TELL IT ON RED MOUNTAIN

TELLING THE STORY OF RED MOUNTAIN'S PAST



In collaboration with UAB's College of Arts and Sciences and through the generous support of the Alabama Humanities Alliance, Jefferson County Greenways produced *Go Tell It on Red Mountain*, a series of oral history videos that explore Birmingham's rich mining history and the lives of those who lived and worked on Red Mountain. This effort is a continued initiative to document the history of this critical place in our community.

FINANCIAL & OPERATIONS

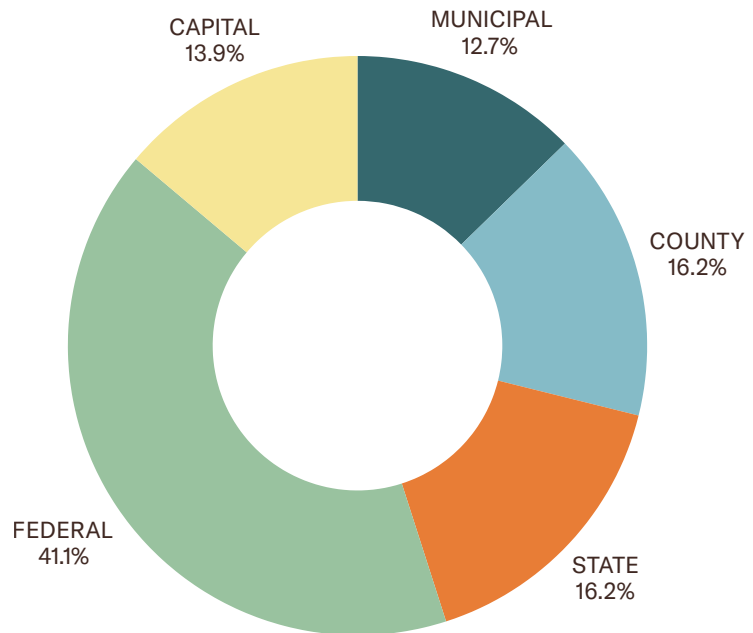
JEFFERSON COUNTY GREENWAYS 2024

COMMISSION

2024 COMMISSIONERS

Tom Spencer, Chairperson
 Kamonte Kelly, Vice Chairperson
 David Perry, Treasurer
 Evanne Batain Gibson, Secretary
 Peter Allsopp
 Jennifer Andress
 J.W. Carpenter
 Ashley Curry
 Paul DeMarco
 Jennifer Reid Egbe
 Gary Richardson
 Robbie Roberts
 Crystal Smitherman
 James Stewart
 Jeff Traywick

REVENUE CATEGORIES

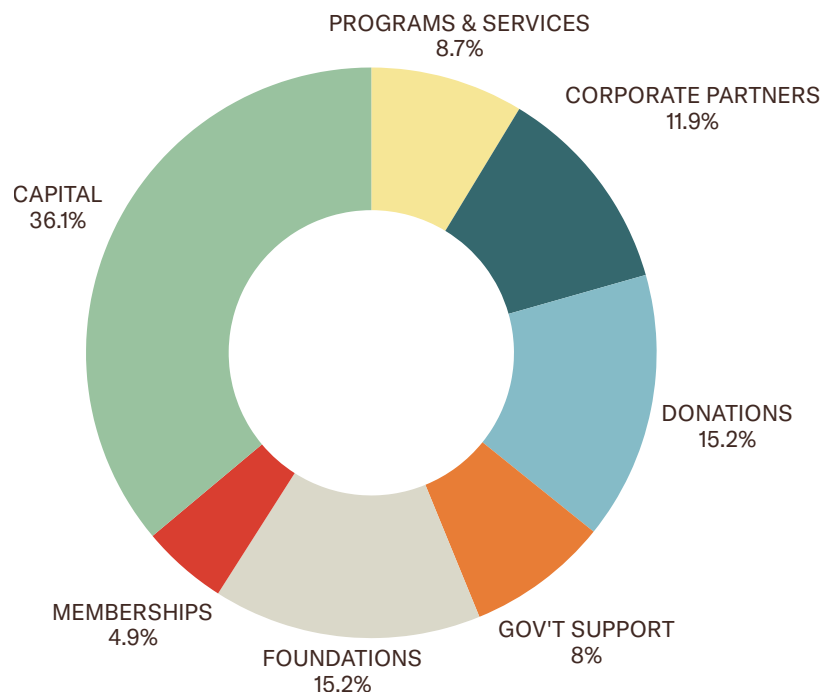


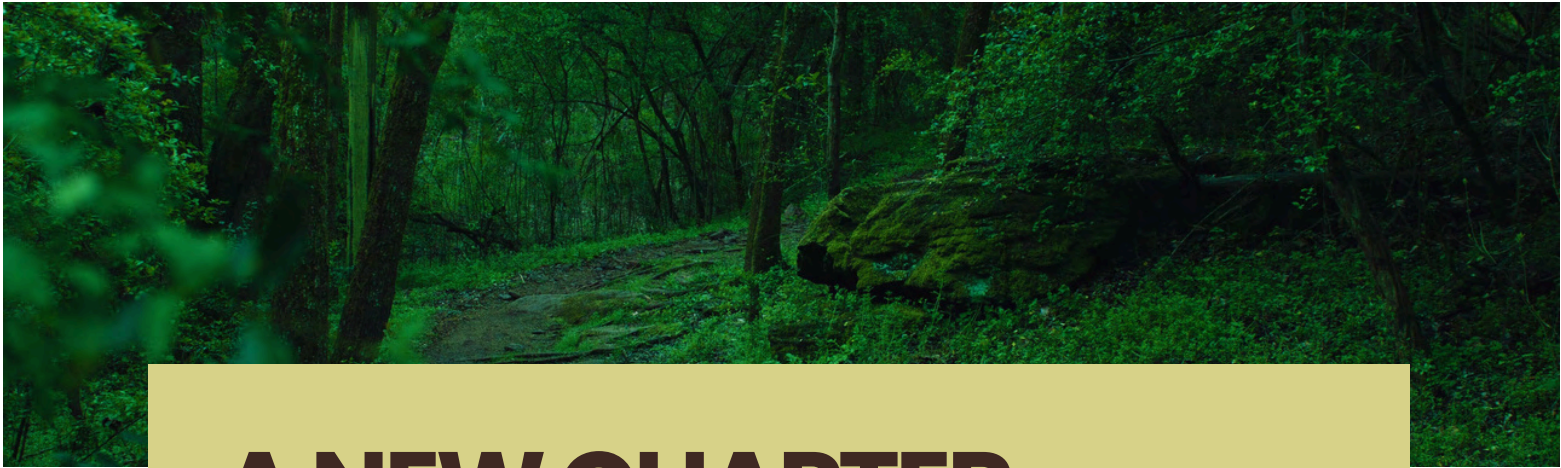
FOUNDATION

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melva Tate, Chairperson
 Foster Hyde, Vice Chairperson
 Sharonda Childs-Fancher, Secretary
 Hunter Walls, Treasurer
 Chris Devine
 Amy Dowdey
 Kandace R. Hamilton, JD
 Christy Hollingsworth
 Carmen Mays
 Kaylon Mikula
 Becky Patterson
 Jay Pigford
 Amy Rauworth
 Nathaniel Rutledge
 Frederic Smith
 Jessica Findley Valentin
 Claire Vaughn

REVENUE CATEGORIES





A NEW CHAPTER

INTRODUCING OUR INAUGURAL CEO



In 2025, Jefferson County Greenways welcomed Darryl Washington as our first-ever CEO. Darryl was selected after a national search and brings a wealth of experience in economic and community development, along with a strong commitment to equitable access to the outdoors.

A Birmingham native and longtime advocate for greenspaces, Washington previously served as the founding director of the City of Montgomery's Department of Economic & Community Development. He also held leadership positions at Urban Impact Inc. and was instrumental in planning, recruitment, and retention efforts for the City of Irondale. His career reflects a focus on community revitalization, public-private partnerships, and inclusive growth.

Washington served as former board chair of Ruffner Mountain and played a key role in envisioning a unified greenspace system for Jefferson County. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he brings both professional and personal passion to the position.

His appointment marks a pivotal moment for Jefferson County Greenways as a public-private partnership committed to preserving and enhancing the region's greenspaces. With a proven track record in nonprofit leadership and development, Washington is well-equipped to guide the organization into its next chapter of growth and impact.



205-833-8264

Info@JeffCoGreenways.org

JeffCoGreenways.org