



2025 Annual Report

Jefferson County Greenways preserves and cares for Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve as sanctuaries for our neighbors, native plants, and animals.



Growing Stronger Together

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

What a year! Looking back at 2025, one thing's clear – Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve are stronger together.

You saw where cooperation could lead. Alongside your neighbors, elected officials, corporate partners, and long-time supporters, you invested in a model for collaboration and conservation.

As one Jefferson County Greenways, we held our first combined retreat for the Boards of Directors and Commissioners to work together to leverage our community's greenspaces toward public health and economic development. We built programmatic partnerships with local non-profits and maintenance partnerships with municipalities to be better stewards of these great outdoor spaces. And our leadership team was selected to participate in Claremont Lincoln University's Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Vibrant Communities cohort, learning to foster regional collaboration through land stewardship and public access to Jefferson County's greenspaces.

As a Birmingham native, this work is personal.

Our greenspaces are connective tissue for our community. Your support has protected Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, bringing our community together in ways that were beyond my wildest imagination when I started spending time in these special places.

Of course none of this would have been possible without an incredibly talented and passionate staff. They work day-in and day-out to provide the safe trails and engaging programs that bring our neighbors together. I'm proud of their accomplishments in 2025. As you review the impacts of your investment, know that Jefferson



County Greenways is stronger because of you.

Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darryl Washington".

Darryl Washington
CEO

Jefferson County Greenways

Growing Places for People

2

SELF-RESCUE
AQUATIC STATIONS
INSTALLED

8

SECURITY
CAMERAS
MOUNTED

31

DEFERRED
MAINTENANCE
PROJECTS COMPLETED

100%

OF MAINTENANCE STAFF
EARNED LIFE-SAVING
CERTIFICATIONS

Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve are places where people get outside. Whether it's to hike, splash around, go biking, or birding, these vibrant and historic greenspaces bring people together. Coordinating operations across our three greenspaces has led to a safer and more welcoming visitor experience.

TOP PROJECTS



Rebuilt deck at Ruffner Mountain Nature Center, giving visitors a peek into the canopy where birds, squirrels, and other animals make their home.



Installed a 1,400 square foot bioswale at Turkey Creek Nature Preserve to control flooding and erosion from stormwater runoff.



Built accessible restrooms at Red Mountain Park, providing single-occupant stalls, two caregiver-assisted units, and bottle-filling water stations, enhancing visitor experience.

Growing Stewards Today & Tomorrow

It took everyday stewards in our community to protect Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve. Ervin Batain led hikes to the mines at Red Mountain. An upstart community group organized the Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition. And residents in Pinson formed S.T.A.R.T., rallying neighbors to preserve Turkey Creek.

Along the way, government and corporate leaders joined in, amplifying their vision. The preservation of these places reflects our community's longstanding culture of stewardship.



1,031

VOLUNTEERS GATHERED FOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY WORKDAYS

2,345

NEIGHBORS CONVENED TO LEARN ABOUT HISTORY, ECOLOGY, AND ART



1,701

STUDENTS FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO COLLEGE RECEIVED HANDS-ON STEM EDUCATION

4,689

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED THROUGH TABLING AND OTHER OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



1,982

RUNNERS, MINDFUL HIKERS AND MORE BROUGHT TOGETHER THROUGH ORGANIZED RECREATION

269,000+

PEOPLE VISITED RED MOUNTAIN PARK, RUFFNER MOUNTAIN, AND TURKEY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

2,167

MEMBERS PROVIDED SUPPORT FROM 215 UNIQUE ZIP CODES



Through visitation, field trips, volunteer opportunities, programmatic partnerships with community nonprofits, and public programs for recreation, environmental, and historical enthusiasts, Jefferson County Greenways builds a stairway of stewardship to protect access to greenspaces as a right for everyone.



Growing Forests that Protect Us

4

ACRES OF NATIVE
GRASSLAND RESTORED
AT RED MOUNTAIN PARK

80

BIRDS OF 20 SPECIES
MONITORED AT RUFFNER
MOUNTAIN THROUGH
MAPS BIRD BANDING

131

ACRES TREATED FOR IN-
VASIVE SPECIES AT RED
MOUNTAIN PARK, RUFFNER
MOUNTAIN, AND TURKEY
CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

5,043

NATIVE PLANTS SOLD TO
706 NEIGHBORS TO SUP-
PORT POLLINATORS AND
THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

When a southern shagbark hickory (*Carya carolinae-septentrionalis*) fell at Ruffner Mountain's 81st Street entrance, Jefferson County Greenways' teaching naturalists were devastated. Countless students had gathered around it during field trips to learn how a healthy ecosystem is a web that supports all kinds of species, like the bats that spend the day roosting in the shaggy bark.

Alabama is the fourth most biodiverse state in the country. While students are learning from our naturalists about Alabama's rich biodiversity and how all these species work together, other Jefferson County Greenways staff are out in greenhouses and in the field, working to protect and restore this valuable ecosystem.

The investment in conservation makes Jefferson County healthier.

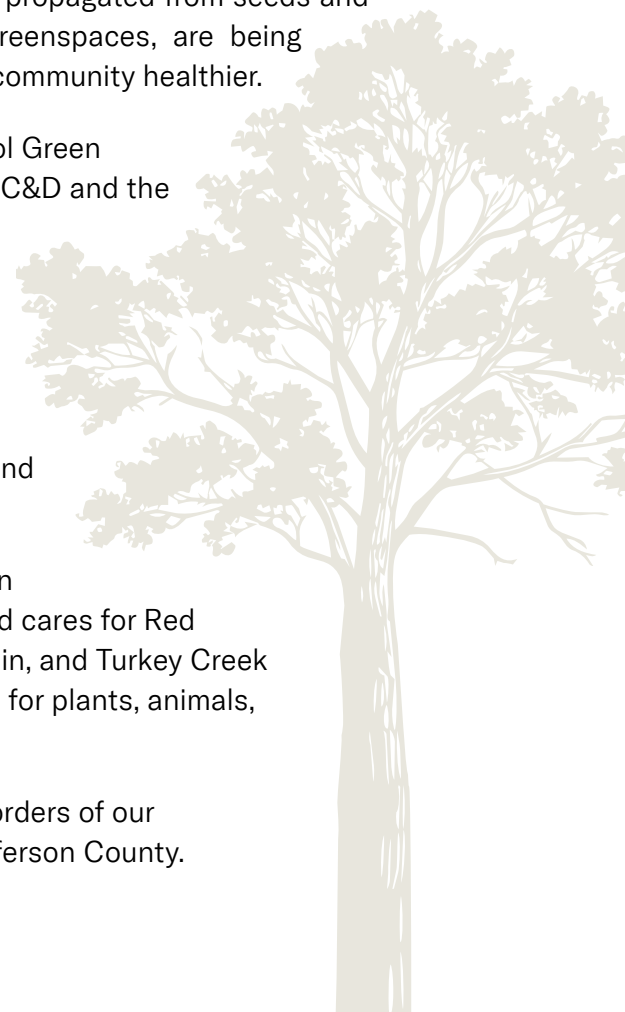
For the bats that make colonies in Ruffner Mountain's abandoned mines. For the monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) that find milkweed (*Asclepias*) at Red Mountain Park. For the vermilion darters (*Etheostoma chermocki*) that swim along the bottom of Turkey Creek. And for our neighbors.

This year, trees that have been propagated from seeds and cuttings gathered from our greenspaces, are being used in new ways to make our community healthier.

Through a partnership with Cool Green Trees, an initiative of Cawaco RC&D and the Jefferson County Department of Health, trees are growing in rights-of-way and public parks throughout our community. They improve life for Jefferson County residents by addressing air pollution, urban heat island effects, and stormwater runoff.

Through conservation, Jefferson County Greenways protects and cares for Red Mountain Park, Ruffner Mountain, and Turkey Creek Nature Preserve as sanctuaries for plants, animals, and neighbors.

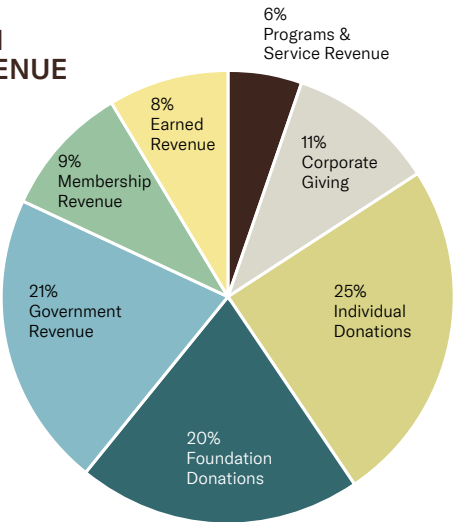
The impact goes beyond the borders of our greenspaces and all across Jefferson County.



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	Melva Tate
VICE PRESIDENT	Frederic Smith
SECRETARY	Amy Rauworth
TREASURER	Foster Hyde
MEMBERS	Chris Devine
	Kandace R. Hamilton
	Carmen Mays
	Becky Patterson
	Nathaniel Rutledge
	Jessica Findley Valentin
	Sharonda Fancher
	Hunter Walls

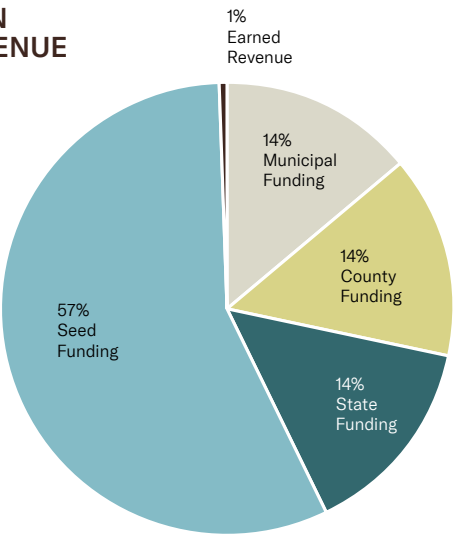
FOUNDATION
FY 2025 REVENUE



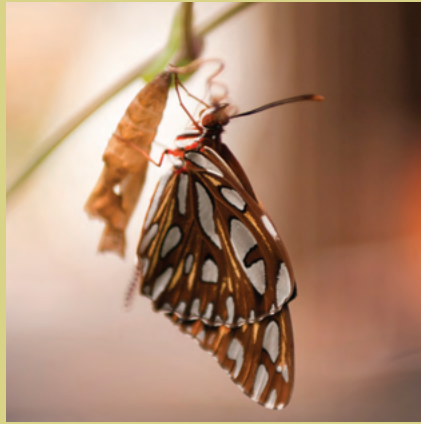
Board of Commissioners

CHAIRPERSON	Tom Spencer
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Kamonte Kelly
TREASURER	David Perry
SECRETARY	Evanne Batain Gibson
MEMBERS	Peter Allsopp
	Jennifer Andress
	J.W. Carpenter
	Ashley Curry
	Paul DeMarco
	Jennifer Reid Egbe
	Gary Richardson
	Robbie Roberts
	Crystal Smitherman
	James Stewart
	Jeff Traywick

COMMISSION
FY 2025 REVENUE



* The Jefferson County Greenways Foundation operates on a January–December fiscal year, and the Commission operates on an October–September fiscal year. To accurately represent revenue diversification amid multi-year grant cycles, these 2025 Revenue Categories have been presented on a cash basis.



**RED
MTN
PARK**



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