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Organization: Alliance to Conserve Nashville's Highland Rim Forest

Title: president

Comments: Southern hardwood forests may prove to be one of our most useful sources of climate resiliency.

Within its city limits, Nashville, TN, has what may be the largest urban forest within any global city exceeding 500K in population. It contains 90,000 acres of wooded slopes, mostly privately owned, plus - 4 dedicated parks totalling 7500 acres in natural habitat. Warner Park has 500 acres recognized as "Old Growth" that needs registering in your database. In keeping with NASA's findings that global forests that carry names, even without protection status, gain increased local respect and fare better against fragmentation - we recently applied the name "Nashville Highland Rim Forest" in reference to these woodlands being a part of the larger geologic crescent of forested limestone uplands forming Nashville's basin. Elevating this feature with logos & formal recognition is encouraging owners to place conservation easements with nonprofit leaseholders. Please approve this Land Management Plan so that the 40-60 old tree growth in forest such as I am describing in Nashville can have protection to become the "old growth forests" for carbon sequestration, wildlife habitats, and heat-island offsets - especially when adjacent to growing cities. Without such efforts, all of the decades of growth literally go under the ax to continuing sprawl rather than reinvestment where there is already supportive, urban infrastructure. Thank you for your help and support on this urgent matter.

ATTACHMENT: Metro Parks Board April 2024 (1) (1).pptx - Powerpoint titled "Conserve Nashville's Highland Rim Forest - Nashville Parks & Recreation Board Meeting April 2, 2024"