

# TENNESSEAN COM

## Green space group says there's still work to do



Written by

**Bonnie Burch**

BRENTWOOD — When the city purchased 320 acres of prime wooded Ravenswood Farm land on Wilson Pike in December, the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space cheered the addition to the extensive Brentwood parks system.

But now that the property is officially in the city's holdings, the preservation group isn't going to rest.

There is still plenty to be done to increase land preservation, create more ball fields and expand open space in the near future, said president Gil Hutchinson.

"We just held our annual meeting. And we realized there is a lot on the plate right now," he said. "The biggest thing we're looking at is how we can help the city acquire the other piece."

Brentwood is spending \$10 million on the initial purchase, which includes the 1825-built Ravenswood home. But the city also has a three-year option to raise \$3 million to buy an additional 77 acres in the tract's

northwest corner between Avalon and Carriage Hills subdivisions.

The city has indicated that it will work with The Conservation Fund, a national conservation-planning nonprofit organization, to figure out ways to make this transaction happen. Hutchinson said the local Green Space group would like to help facilitate this effort.

Before development of the park starts, the group is also advocating for some input into the park's master plan in which the city will detail exactly how the newly acquired land will be used and what kind of amenities could go there.

### Group: More ball fields needed

A nonprofit corporation made up of volunteers, Citizens for Brentwood Green Space has lobbied since 2003 to spur the city's leadership into a more aggressive approach for identifying and setting aside tracts of Brentwood's hillsides and scenic



Purchase Image  
Citizens for Brentwood Green Space members say the city has a huge need for more ball parks such as Crockett Park. /  
John Partipilo / file / The Tennessean

# TENNESSEAN COM

vistas for parks, trails and flood plains.

The group has its roots in a 2004 citywide referendum that asked voters whether the city should issue as much as \$50 million in bonds to acquire and preserve open space. That measure was defeated at the polls but the group is still active in many of the city's recent green space issues including promoting the acceptance of two small parks on what is known as "flagpole property" and encouraging more preservation of land as was detailed in the Brentwood 2020 plan, a blueprint for the city's growth.

In the future, Hutchinson said the city is in great need of more ball fields with the huge demand from lacrosse, soccer, football and baseball clubs and leagues.

"But we should only acquire land where it makes sense within the framework," he said. "If it's not a good use of the land, it's not a good use for the community."

## Group has new officers

In another nod, former Brentwood City Commissioner Alex Noble was recently appointed to the group's board of directors during the annual meeting. He replaces John Logan, who has moved out of the area.

Hutchinson said he got to know Noble when both were on the city's Environmental Quality Coordinating Committee. Noble was instrumental in getting this started when he was a commissioner in 2009.

"As a Brentwood native, Alex has a unique perspective on the city as well as a special awareness of our natural beauty," Hutchinson said. "He knows the people and the community and has been very well respected for many years."

Noble's grandfather, Dr. Albert Noble, moved to the area in 1917 and built a drugstore on the corner of Franklin Road and Old Hickory Boulevard in 1929. This area became known as Noble's Corner.

In addition to five years as a city commissioner, Noble, a retired highway engineer, also spent six years on the Brentwood Planning Commission and is now serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

"My family had been involved in many civic things over the years," Noble said. "I think all the open spaces we can afford the better it makes our community. I've never been to New York City, but I can't even picture it without Central Park."

Other Green Space officers elected during the meeting include George Malo as vice president, Bert Bosse as treasurer and David Kumatz as secretary.