



Citizens for Brentwood Green Space

News Release

Green Space group announces plans to raise \$300,000 towards land purchase at Ravenswood Farm

BRENTWOOD, TN – September 27, 2011 – The Citizens for Brentwood Green Space (CBGS), a volunteer citizens group dedicated to preserving open space in Brentwood, formally announced their goal to raise \$300,000 over the next five years towards the acquisition of the remaining 80 acres at Ravenswood Farm.

“I am very pleased to see the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space step up to the table and make this significant financial commitment toward the purchase of the additional 80 acres for Smith Park,” said Mike Walker, City Manager for the City of Brentwood. “The City of Brentwood has already made significant financial commitments toward the park - \$10 million for the purchase of 320 acres plus an additional \$10 million for park improvements over the next 6 years. We will not be able to incorporate this additional acreage into the new park for future generations to enjoy without direct financial assistance from citizens and others. Their commitment is an important first step in helping us meet our goal to obtain \$3 million by December 31, 2013 for the additional land purchase.”

Brentwood’s acquisition of 320 acres at Ravenswood to create the new Marcella Vivrette Smith Park in December 2010 was the largest land purchase ever in the City’s History. The City has an opportunity to purchase an additional 80 acres at Ravenswood Farm from The Conservation Fund – a non-profit organization that saves America’s favorite outdoor places and currently holds an Option for the property. This purchase is subject to raising \$3 million from outside sources such as grants from other governments, foundations, private sources and in-kind services.

“The dedication and determination of the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space to help the City preserve one of Brentwood’s last large open spaces should be commended,” said Rex Boner, Vice President at The Conservation Fund. “The City of Brentwood has made outdoor recreational opportunities for its residents a priority, recognizing the importance of Ravenswood Farm as a natural treasure. The fundraising efforts by the Citizens for Brentwood Green Space will help to bring about the permanent protection of this special place.”

President Gil Hutchinson remarked that “the City has indicated that it cannot commit all of the needed \$3 million funds for the additional 80 acres at this time without support from the

community and other sources. We can't lose this beautiful piece of property to development. All of us – the local sports clubs, civic organizations, scouting, hiking and biking clubs – need to come together to help save this land. The Citizens for Brentwood Green Space is willing to do its part and is announcing a commitment to lead a fund raising drive to raise \$300,000 towards the purchase price. We believe that this significant donation will assist the City, encourage other donors and show the City the level of community support for this wonderful opportunity."

The group has added several new prominent board members in 2011 to help with the fund raising effort. In addition, Kenneth L. Connelly, former Chief Financial Officer with the Boy Scouts of America, recently joined as a special advisor, and noted advertising agency J&A Integrated Thinking has been retained to help with marketing. The company boasts blue chip clients that include KFC, the Arizona Cardinals and San Francisco 49ers, Taco Bell franchisees, Famous Dave's, Cogent Healthcare, American Paper & Twine, Gaylord Hotels and Make-A-Wish Foundation, to name a few.

Hutchinson indicated that "opportunities will exist for the citizens of Brentwood to demonstrate their commitment to the preservation of accessible, open space in our beloved City. Volunteers will be needed for a series of fund raising events being considered, ranging from "walks in the park", patron's parties, presentations on green space preservation, and concert series, to help raise awareness and support for the project." The group's website, www.brentwoodgreenspace.org, has been recently updated and will provide up-to-date information as the project progresses.

"We can't be looking down the road because it won't happen if we wait," said Hutchinson. "We only have about twenty seven months, a little less. That's twenty seven months and counting, so the time to act is now. We are already well positioned for success due to an anonymous matching donor that has approached us. For anyone that has ever wanted to do something to help preserve green space in our community, this is their opportunity to make a difference before development takes over."

Contributions may be made on-line, and people interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Gil Hutchinson at (615) 300-0647 or gil@brentwoodgreenspace.org.

About Citizens for Brentwood Green Space

The Citizens for Brentwood Green Space, Inc. is a volunteer citizens group organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to preserve open space in the form of parks, trails, historic sites, and flood plains while being sensitive to the rights of landowners and developers. CBGS desires to assure that ongoing development of land resources is accomplished in a way that is beneficial to landowners, to existing citizens of the city, and to future generations of Brentwood residents. For more information please visit www.brentwoodgreenspace.org and our Facebook site "Brentwood Green Space".

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