



THE TENNESSEE PEACE PROJECT

Club Project Menu: Prioritized by Need and Positive-Peace Impact

Every project below is scaled for a single club to complete within one year on a budget of about \$5,000 and roughly ten hours of member service, and to scale up if many of Tennessee's clubs take on the same work. Each entry gives its Rotary area of focus, the problem and Tennessee's ranking, up to three project options at that scale, the Positive Peace pillars it advances, a way to measure success, how often to repeat it, and the Tennessee and national organizations that can help.

How this menu is prioritized: the order weighs three things together: leverage on the upstream Positive Peace pillars that most drive lasting peace (human capital, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighbours, and a well-functioning government), the severity of Tennessee's need, and how sustainably a single club can move the needle. Where raw severity and upstream leverage pull apart, the list leans toward upstream, prevention-first work, since Positive Peace is about the conditions that keep problems from arising. This is a recommendation; a district is welcome to reweigh it.

New in this version: this menu folds in three research inputs. Four projects marked "from TBI interview" come from a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation interview with Special Agent Drew Nash (youth vaping and drug-courier recruitment, human trafficking, overdose-loss support, and financial scams); TBI's crime-statistics portal, crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov, is a useful measurement source for several. The pre-K to second-grade literacy work has been rebuilt from the Early Literacy Plus brief into one six-theme initiative (reading taught through environment, peace and kindness, health, safety, and careers, with caregiver-facing HPV cancer-prevention and domestic-violence layers). The environment work, previously a single project, is now three (streamside buffers, tree equity, and pollinators and prairie) following the Environment brief; those four are marked "from priority-area brief." Tennessee's third-grade reading figure is now 44.9% (2025-26 TCAP, the highest in nearly a decade); placements that move year to year are each stated with their measure.

1. Future Building PreK-K Libraries

Rotary area of focus: *Basic Education & Literacy (also Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention)*

The problem: Children absorb attitudes about other people very early, often mirroring the biases of the adults around them. Pre-K and kindergarten are the highest-leverage window to plant respect, non-violence, and a realistic, hopeful picture of life. That attitude-level work is Positive Peace at its most upstream, which is why it ranks this high.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Build curated Future Building classroom libraries in several pre-K and kindergarten rooms (about \$5,000 total), stocked with vetted books on respect for all people, non-violence and kindness, and reality-based lives and careers (grounded stories rather than fairy-tale fantasy), plus bilingual (English and Spanish) picture dictionaries, with a short read-aloud guide for teachers.

- Give teachers a short guide and theme-based discussion prompts (respect, kindness, safety, real-world careers) so the classroom's own adults use the library with children daily, and host a family event where caregivers read with their own children.
- Add a small refresh budget and rotate in new titles each semester so the collection grows with the classroom.

Positive Peace pillars: Acceptance of the Rights of Others; High Levels of Human Capital; Good Relations with Neighbours; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Count classrooms stocked and children reached; with teachers, run a simple pre and post check of prosocial behavior (a short kindness or inclusion observation) and, for the bilingual dictionaries, picture-vocabulary growth; note how the teacher is using the collection.

Keep it going: Build once per classroom; refresh titles each semester.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Education (Office of Early Learning); Governor's Early Literacy Foundation; TQEE; local public libraries and the Tennessee State Library and Archives; Head Start programs; the Tennessee Language Center (bilingual resources).

National: First Book (affordable, diverse curated books for classrooms); Learning for Justice (anti-bias early-education resources); Colorín Colorado (bilingual and English-learner early literacy); Sesame Workshop; Zero to Three.

2. Early Literacy Plus: Storybook Trails & the Six Themes *(from priority-area brief)*

Rotary area of focus: *Basic Education & Literacy (touches all seven areas of focus)*

The problem: The pre-K to second-grade years are where the reading foundation forms, and the active ingredient is adult-child interaction, an adult and a child reading and talking together. Clubs cannot reliably supply the volunteers to be those readers, so this project puts Rotary where it is strong, funding, building, and supplying the tools that get the adults already with the children, their teachers and caregivers, reading and talking with them, all taught through six positive themes (reading, caring for the environment, peace and kindness, staying healthy, safety and caring relationships, and careers).

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Build a storybook trail: display a children's book page by page on child-height panels along a short park path, a reading prompt on each panel, partnering with the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation, which has run Tennessee's Storybook Trail program since 2018. (Use the name "storybook trail"; "StoryWalk" is a registered service mark.)
- Fund and stock daycares and K-2 classrooms with themed, decodable books and teacher guides built around the six themes, each with "ask your child" and "do together" prompts, so the teachers and caregivers already in the room do the reading and talking; clubs supply the materials, not the readers.
- Place caregiver-facing posters and take-home cards in daycare lobbies and pediatric offices carrying vetted health and safety messages, including the HPV cancer-prevention reminder (the vaccine at ages 9 to 12 prevents six cancers, and Tennessee ranks among the lowest states for teen HPV vaccination) and the domestic-violence hotline, with the medical and safety content authored by health and prevention partners, not by clubs.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Acceptance of the Rights of Others; Good Relations with Neighbours; Free Flow of Information (and, through the six themes, most of the other pillars).

Measure success by: Define one shared literacy outcome up front, such as a partner district's early-grade reading screener, and report against it rather than counting books or trails; also track trails installed, classrooms and daycares equipped, and caregiver materials distributed.

Keep it going: Trails are one-time installs refreshed seasonally; classroom material sets are refreshed each school year; the reading itself happens daily through the teachers and caregivers the project equips.

Who can help in Tennessee: Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (Storybook Trails, SELECT); Tennessee Department of Education (early literacy; TN ALL Corps); Tennessee Education Research Alliance at Vanderbilt (independent evaluation); Tennessee State Parks Conservancy (trail sites); United Way, Book'em, and Raising Readers Nashville; for the caregiver layers: St. Jude HPV Cancer Prevention Program, Tennessee Department of Health, and the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.

National: American Cancer Society (Mission: HPV Cancer Free) and the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable; Reading Partners; Save the Children; Junior Achievement (careers theme); Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Action Group.

3. Peace Begins at Home

Rotary area of focus: *Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention*

The problem: Tennessee carries one of the highest violent-crime rates in the country (among the top handful of states), and domestic violence is a leading driver; advocates documented dozens of domestic-violence-related deaths in 2025 alone.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Sponsor and assemble shelter welcome-and-exit kits (household basics for survivors starting over) for a local domestic-violence program.
- Bring a respectful-relationships education workshop (for example, a One Love program) to a partner high school.
- Fund a shelter's concrete safety need, such as security lighting or a children's room refresh, and volunteer a workday to install it.

Positive Peace pillars: Acceptance of the Rights of Others; Good Relations with Neighbours; Well-Functioning Government.

Measure success by: Report kits delivered and students reached, and ask the partner shelter for one outcome it already tracks (for example, families served or crisis calls answered) before and after.

Keep it going: Kit drives quarterly; the school workshop once each school year.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs (Finance and Administration); local shelters and family-justice centers.

National: National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV); National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV); One Love Foundation; loveisrespect; RAINN; Futures Without Violence.

4. Not Worth It: Youth Vaping & Drug-Courier Awareness *(from TBI interview)*

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment (also Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention)*

The problem: TBI identifies youth vaping as a growing gateway into other substance use, and warns that young people are increasingly recruited to carry drug packages for quick cash without grasping the criminal consequences. Drug activity is the thread the agency ties to cash, firearms, and violent crime, so heading it off early is high-leverage prevention.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Bring an evidence-based youth vaping-prevention program (for example, CATCH My Breath or Truth Initiative materials) to a middle or high school, paired with a parent-education night.
- Run a short know-the-setup awareness campaign, co-developed with your local TBI or sheriff's office, warning teens about drug-courier ("drug mule") recruitment and its consequences, delivered through schools and youth groups.
- Host a safe-medication event (secure disposal and lock boxes, in the spirit of Count It, Lock It, Drop It) to cut the household supply that fuels early use.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Well-Functioning Government; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Count students and parents reached and pledges or pre and post knowledge-quiz gains; track lock boxes distributed and medications collected.

Keep it going: School programming each academic year (align with Red Ribbon Week in October); awareness pushes each semester.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Prevention Network; Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (prevention); Tennessee Department of Health (tobacco and vaping prevention); Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (crime data and drug awareness, crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov); local anti-drug coalitions and school districts.

National: Truth Initiative; CATCH My Breath; Partnership to End Addiction; DEA Operation Prevention and Red Ribbon; National Institute on Drug Abuse (parent conversation starters).

5. Know the Signs: Human Trafficking Awareness *(from TBI interview)*

Rotary area of focus: *Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention*

The problem: TBI stressed that trafficking in Tennessee is not only commercial sexual exploitation but also labor trafficking, and that wider public recognition of the warning signs, plus knowing the reporting hotlines, would help communities across the state.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Host a know-the-signs training for club members and a frontline audience (hotel, trucking, healthcare, or school staff) using End Slavery Tennessee or TBI materials, covering both sex and labor trafficking.
- Run a public-awareness push (for example, a Red Sand Project installation with cards carrying the Tennessee and national hotline numbers) at a community event or welcome center.
- Fund and distribute hotline-number signage and wallet cards to high-traffic partners such as truck stops, salons, and clinics.

Positive Peace pillars: Acceptance of the Rights of Others; Good Relations with Neighbours; Well-Functioning Government.

Measure success by: Count people trained and materials placed; track requests for follow-up training and, with partners, any rise in informed tips (more reporting is the goal here).

Keep it going: Trainings two or three times a year; the awareness push tied to Human Trafficking Awareness Month (January).

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Human Trafficking Unit and the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline (1-855-558-6484); the state's It Has To Stop campaign; End Slavery Tennessee;

regional groups such as the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (Knoxville) and Restore Corps (Memphis); Tennessee Department of Health (Red Sand Project).

National: National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888; text BeFree to 233733) and Polaris Project; DHS Blue Campaign; Truckers Against Trafficking; Shared Hope International.

6. Calm and Connected Backpacks

Rotary area of focus: *Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention (also disability inclusion and community health)*

The problem: When first responders encounter someone with autism or another sensory or communication difference, the person may misread the situation and become confused or agitated, so an encounter meant to help can escalate into harm. Simple sensory tools de-escalate these moments, protect a vulnerable group, and build trust between the community and public safety, all at about \$50 a kit.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Assemble and donate roughly 100 Calm and Connected backpacks (about \$50 each) to local police, sheriff, EMS, and fire units; each holds a weighted lap blanket, noise-cancelling headphones, fidgets, sunglasses, and picture communication cards, with a one-page use guide.
- Split the batch between first-responder vehicles and school settings (school resource officer offices and special-education classrooms) so the same calming tools are on hand during incidents and drills.
- Fund a smaller batch of kits plus a short sensory-inclusion and de-escalation training co-led by an autism organization or the UT Law Enforcement Innovation Center.

Positive Peace pillars: Acceptance of the Rights of Others; Good Relations with Neighbours; Well-Functioning Government.

Measure success by: Count kits placed and agencies and schools equipped; collect a short first-responder feedback survey on whether a kit helped de-escalate, and, where a department tracks it, watch for fewer force or restraint incidents in sensory-related calls.

Keep it going: Restock annually and add a new agency or school district each year.

Who can help in Tennessee: Local police, sheriff, fire, and EMS (and their Crisis Intervention Team programs); University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center (first-responder autism response training); Vanderbilt Kennedy Center TRIAD; Autism Tennessee; Chattanooga Autism Center (SNAP); Tennessee Disability Coalition; Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities.

National: KultureCity (sensory bags and first-responder sensory-inclusion training); National Autism Association (Big Red Safety Box); Autism Society of America; The Arc; Hussman Institute for Autism (free first-responder kit materials).

7. Get Out the Volunteer Vote

Rotary area of focus: *Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention*

The problem: Tennessee ranks 47th in the nation for voter turnout, trailing most states in both registration and participation. Rebuilding participation strengthens a well-functioning, trusted government, a core Positive Peace pillar.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Complete the state's supplemental voter-registration-drive training, then run nonpartisan registration tables at graduations, naturalization ceremonies, and campuses.

- Co-host a nonpartisan candidate forum with the League of Women Voters and publicize sample ballots through GoVoteTN.
- Organize nonpartisan rides to the polls during the early-voting period.

Positive Peace pillars: Well-Functioning Government; Free Flow of Information; Acceptance of the Rights of Others.

Measure success by: Count new or updated registrations submitted, forum attendance, and rides provided; compare precinct turnout year over year where available.

Keep it going: Registration drives each election cycle; forums and rides at every major election.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Secretary of State, Division of Elections (GoVoteTN); League of Women Voters of Tennessee; ThinkTennessee; county election commissions.

National: Nonprofit VOTE; When We All Vote; Vote.org; Rock the Vote; VOTE411 (League of Women Voters Education Fund).

8. Carry the Cure

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment (also Community & Economic Development)*

The problem: Tennessee has long carried one of the nation's heaviest burdens of opioid misuse and overdose; the state's regional overdose-prevention specialists have documented well over 100,000 lives saved by naloxone since 2017.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Host a free naloxone training with your Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist and distribute kits, along with fentanyl test strips, to attendees.
- Fund recovery welcome support and pair member mentors with a local recovery community organization.
- Sponsor and install a public naloxone box in a club-supported building, with a plan to restock it.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Equitable Distribution of Resources; Acceptance of the Rights of Others (reducing stigma).

Measure success by: Count people trained, kits and test strips distributed, and, with the partner organization, documented reversals or mentoring matches still active at three months.

Keep it going: Training sessions two to four times a year; mentoring is ongoing.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists; TN REDLINE 800-889-9789); Tennessee Department of Health; Tennessee Recovery Navigators; regional coalitions such as Metro Drug Coalition (Knoxville) and STARS (Nashville).

National: SAMHSA; End Overdose; NEXT Distro; Faces and Voices of Recovery; Shatterproof.

9. After the Loss: Standing with Overdose-Bereaved Families (from TBI interview)

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment (also community support)*

The problem: The TBI interview named this one of the greatest unmet needs in the state: while Tennessee has built out addiction treatment and recovery resources, families who lose someone to overdose often have almost nowhere to turn for grief support, and the stigma of a substance-related death deepens their isolation.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Sponsor and host a local GRASP (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing) meeting: cover the space, materials, and refreshments, and help a trained facilitator get it started.
- Fund a small stock of grief and children's bereavement resources (for example, Eluna Network materials) for a hospice or recovery partner to distribute, and underwrite a community remembrance on International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31).
- Work with a local funeral home and recovery organization to create a simple, stigma-reducing referral card that points bereaved families to grief support.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Acceptance of the Rights of Others (reducing stigma); Good Relations with Neighbours.

Measure success by: Count families reached, meetings or events held and their attendance, and referral cards placed; ask the facilitator whether attendance holds over several months.

Keep it going: A launched meeting runs monthly; the remembrance event is annual (August 31).

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TN REDLINE 800-889-9789); Tennessee Prevention Network; local hospice bereavement programs (for example, Alive Hospice's GriefLine in Middle Tennessee); regional recovery community organizations.

National: GRASP and Broken No More; Eluna Network (children and families); Partnership to End Addiction; SAMHSA; Shatterproof.

10. Every Baby's First Birthday

Rotary area of focus: *Maternal & Child Health*

The problem: Tennessee's infant mortality rate (about 6.6 per 1,000 births) runs roughly 16 to 18% above the national average, and sleep-related causes account for about 1 in 4 infant deaths, most of them preventable.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Fund portable cribs (Cribs for Kids) and safe-sleep education (the ABCs: Alone, on the Back, in a Crib) delivered through a health department or home-visiting partner.
- Host a car-seat check event with certified child-passenger-safety technicians.
- Promote the Count the Kicks stillbirth-prevention campaign with a health-department table at community events.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Equitable Distribution of Resources; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Count cribs and car seats distributed and correctly installed, and families completing safe-sleep education; partner with the local health department to watch sleep-related death counts over time.

Keep it going: Crib and car-seat events quarterly; education is ongoing.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Health (Safe Sleep and SUID program, BEST for Babies, Count the Kicks, Child Fatality Review); county health departments; regional hospitals' safe-sleep programs.

National: Cribs for Kids; Count the Kicks; Safe Kids Worldwide (car-seat checks); American Academy of Pediatrics (Safe Sleep); March of Dimes.

11. Know Your Numbers Tennessee

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment*

The problem: Nearly 40% of Tennessee adults have high blood pressure, and diabetes prevalence is high, yet many cases go undetected in underserved and rural communities.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Host free blood-pressure and A1C or glucose screening days with a local free clinic and American Heart Association volunteers, with warm referrals for anyone flagged.
- Set up a blood-pressure cuff loaner program (AHA Target: BP) at a library, church, or community center.
- Sponsor a faith-based community-health-worker screening series in a high-need congregation.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Equitable Distribution of Resources; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Count people screened, the share newly flagged, and the share who confirm a follow-up appointment; track cuff-loaner check-outs.

Keep it going: Screening events quarterly; the loaner program runs year-round.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Health (Heart Disease and Stroke, and Diabetes programs); county health departments; Tennessee Charitable Care Network (free and charitable clinics); Church Health (Memphis).

National: American Heart Association (Target: BP); American Diabetes Association; CDC Million Hearts; CDC National Diabetes Prevention Program; YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program.

12. Don't Take the Bait: Scam & Fraud Awareness (from TBI interview)

Rotary area of focus: *Community & Economic Development (also Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention)*

The problem: TBI reported a rising tide of financial scams, and that many victims never report out of embarrassment, which hides the true scale and lets the problem grow. Older and isolated residents are targeted most.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Host spot-the-scam workshops at senior centers, libraries, and churches using AARP Fraud Watch Network and Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs materials, stressing that reporting is nothing to be ashamed of.
- Set up a reporting-help table at community events where volunteers walk victims through filing with the FTC (ReportFraud.ftc.gov) and the FBI's IC3.
- Print and distribute a plain-language current-scams one-pager (grandparent, gift-card, romance, and imposter scams) to congregate meal sites and Meals on Wheels routes.

Positive Peace pillars: Sound Business Environment; Well-Functioning Government; Equitable Distribution of Resources.

Measure success by: Count attendees and materials distributed and, where possible, reports filed with help from the table; survey attendees on their confidence in spotting and reporting scams before and after.

Keep it going: Workshops quarterly; refresh the current-scams flyer as new schemes emerge.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Attorney General's Division of Consumer Affairs; Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance (securities fraud); Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; local Area Agencies on Aging and Disability; AARP Tennessee.

National: AARP Fraud Watch Network; Federal Trade Commission (ReportFraud.ftc.gov); FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3); National Council on Aging; Better Business Bureau; U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

13. Breathe Easy Tennessee

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment*

The problem: Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer overall and the first among nonsmokers; roughly 70% of Tennesseans live in high- or moderate-risk radon areas, and about 1 in 4 homes tested through the state program come back above the action level.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Run a January Radon Action Month test-kit drive, handing out free TDEC kits and helping neighbors read and return them.
- Fund radon mitigation for one or two low-income households that test high (a typical system runs about \$1,000 to \$1,500).
- Host an awareness session with the Tennessee Radon Program for realtors, landlords, home inspectors, and school facilities staff.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Track kits distributed and returned, the share testing above 4 pCi/L, and mitigations completed.

Keep it going: Annual campaign built around January (Radon Action Month), with mitigations handled as results come in.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Tennessee Radon Program; hotline 1-800-232-1139); Tennessee Department of Health (Healthy Homes); Tennessee Cancer Coalition.

National: American Lung Association; U.S. EPA Radon Program; National Radon Program Services (Kansas State University); American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST).

14. Buckle Up, Put It Down

Rotary area of focus: *Disease Prevention & Treatment (injury prevention)*

The problem: Tennessee ranks among the worst states for drivers (No. 8 in a 2026 ConsumerAffairs analysis) and has recorded the nation's highest distracted-driving fatality rate; teen drivers are a high-risk group.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Run a high-school seatbelt and no-texting campaign using Tennessee Highway Safety Office materials, a pledge wall, and a student-led social-media push.
- Sponsor a teen Arrive Alive simulator or an impaired- and distracted-driving demonstration event, partnering with a SADD chapter.
- Host a child car-seat check with certified child-passenger-safety technicians.

Positive Peace pillars: High Levels of Human Capital; Well-Functioning Government (rule of law on the roads); Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Count pledges signed and students reached; where possible, compare seatbelt-use observations before and after at the partner school, and watch crash counts through THSO county data.

Keep it going: Campaign each school year (tie it to Teen Driver Safety Week in October); car-seat checks quarterly.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Highway Safety Office (tntrafficsafety.org); Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security (TITAN crash data); Tennessee Highway Patrol; TDOT.

National: National Safety Council; NHTSA; SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions); AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety; Governors Highway Safety Association.

15. Streamside Buffers & Clean Water *(from priority-area brief)*

Rotary area of focus: *Supporting the Environment (also Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)*

The problem: Tennessee is the most biologically diverse inland state and ranks first in freshwater fish diversity, yet nearly a third of its roughly 60,000 miles of streams are officially impaired, mostly by sediment and runoff washing off unbuffered land. A streamside buffer, native plants along the water's edge, is the single most efficient fix, filtering sediment and nutrients, holding the bank, cooling the water, and adding habitat all at once.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Adopt a stretch of an impaired creek at a park, school, or willing landowner's property; remove invasives and plant natives using live staking (dormant willow and dogwood cuttings) plus bare-root seedlings, with members supplying the multi-year watering. Plant material is often free or \$1 to \$2 a seedling, so \$5,000 covers a meaningful length plus tools, mulch, matting, and signage. Best window: October through March.
- Install a rain garden or bioswale at a school, library, or park to capture and filter parking-lot and rooftop stormwater with deep-rooted natives, a small, visible demonstration piece well within budget.
- Adopt a local stream for volunteer water-quality monitoring through Tennessee Water Watch, generating the E. coli and sediment data that gets a waterway attention, an almost pure member-hours project.

Positive Peace pillars: Equitable Distribution of Resources; High Levels of Human Capital; Free Flow of Information; Good Relations with Neighbours.

Measure success by: Report stream-feet buffered, native plants installed, square footage treated, and monitoring readings submitted to the state; revisit annually for plant survival and, over time, watch for a change in the stream's impairment status (as at DeMoss Creek, delisted after critical-area plantings).

Keep it going: Plant in the October to March window; water and maintain across the first two summers; monitoring is ongoing.

Who can help in Tennessee: Harpeth Conservancy (River Restoration Corps, live staking); Cumberland River Compact; the Community Riparian Restoration Program (UT Institute of Agriculture with the Division of Forestry); Tennessee Water Watch and MTSU WaterWorks; Tennessee Clean Water Network; Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Division of Water Resources); Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (stream clean-up grants up to \$1,000).

National: The Nature Conservancy; Izaak Walton League (Save Our Streams); Arbor Day Foundation; U.S. EPA (Clean Water Act impaired-waters framework).

16. Tree Equity: Cooling Tennessee's Hottest Neighborhoods *(from priority-area brief)*

Rotary area of focus: *Supporting the Environment (also Community & Economic Development)*

The problem: Tennessee's cities have strong tree canopy overall, but it is shrinking and unevenly shared: lower-income neighborhoods have the least canopy and bear the most heat, the deadliest form of extreme weather. Well-placed street trees cut pedestrian-level temperatures substantially, and Nashville estimates about \$3 of benefit for every \$1 invested, which makes this the most explicitly positive-peace environment project, tying green space to health and equity.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Working through Root Nashville or a local equivalent, adopt a measurable low-canopy target area and plant native shade trees where heat and health burdens are highest, then commit members to watering through the first two summers so the canopy actually survives.
- Sponsor Tennessee Tree Day (the largest community tree-planting event in America, with a pickup site in all 95 counties) as an agency, targeting a specific heat-vulnerable site rather than scattering seedlings, and field a stewardship crew for follow-up.
- Plant and steward trees at a school or public site as a shaded outdoor classroom, pairing the canopy with interpretive signage.

Positive Peace pillars: Equitable Distribution of Resources; High Levels of Human Capital; Good Relations with Neighbours; Sound Business Environment.

Measure success by: Track trees planted and their two-year survival rate (survival, not just planting, is the real metric), canopy added in the target area, and, where a city tool exists, change in tree-equity or heat scores.

Keep it going: Plant in fall or late winter; water and monitor through two summers; repeat annually in new target areas.

Who can help in Tennessee: Tennessee Environmental Council (Tennessee Tree Day); Cumberland River Compact and Root Nashville (goal of 500,000 trees in Davidson County by 2050); Nashville Tree Conservation Corps; local Keep-County-Beautiful affiliates and UT Extension (Tree Day hubs).

National: Arbor Day Foundation; American Forests (Tree Equity Score); The Nature Conservancy.

17. Pollinators & Prairie: Bringing Native Tennessee Back (from priority-area brief)

Rotary area of focus: *Supporting the Environment*

The problem: More than 99% of Tennessee's native open habitat, its prairies, glades, and grasslands, has vanished, which is exactly what starves native bees, butterflies, and grassland birds; monarchs, which depend entirely on milkweed, are the flagship loss. Because the state has so little of this habitat left, small restorations yield an outsized return.

Try one of these (one year, about \$5,000, roughly 10 service hours):

- Create a certified Monarch Waystation or native pollinator garden at a school (Monarch Watch certification needs only about 100 square feet in six or more hours of sun); free milkweed and seed from the state's Project Milkweed keeps costs low, and naming a steward up front keeps it alive.
- Restore a native grassland or prairie pocket on park or wildlife-management land in partnership with the Southeastern Grasslands Institute or a state park that can manage it long-term (grasslands need periodic management, sometimes prescribed burning); the budget buys native seed, tools, and signage while members supply the labor days.
- Adopt a pollinator framework such as ESRAG's Operation Pollination and sign a pollinator resolution, which can support a school pollinator program for as little as \$250 and gives clubs a common banner and shared impact reporting.

Positive Peace pillars: Equitable Distribution of Resources; High Levels of Human Capital; Good Relations with Neighbours; Free Flow of Information.

Measure success by: Track square footage or acres restored, native plants and milkweed established, waystations certified, and pollinator or bird sightings logged over time; revisit annually for survival and management.

Keep it going: Plant in spring or fall; grasslands need ongoing (sometimes annual) management with the land partner.

Who can help in Tennessee: Honeybee Tennessee (pre-K to 12 education); TDOT Tennessee Pollinators Program and Project Milkweed (free milkweed and seed); Southeastern Grasslands Institute (Austin Peay, Clarksville); Tennessee State Parks pollinator program; Tennessee Native Plant Society; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; USDA NRCS with Quail Forever.

National: Xerces Society (Pollinator Pledge); Monarch Watch; Homegrown National Park; Wild Ones; The Nature Conservancy; ESRAG Operation Pollination, Rotarians for Bees, and the Monarch Sister Schools Project.

All seven Rotary areas of focus now have at least one dedicated project across these seventeen (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene through the streamside buffers and monitoring; Community & Economic Development through tree equity and scam awareness). The Early Literacy Plus and Environment priority-area briefs are now integrated here. Prepared for the Tennessee Peace Project (Rotary and the Promote Peace Foundation, US-PPF.org).