

About the Park

Marked as the termination point of long-abandoned rail lines, Main Terrain was a 1.72-acre vacant, dilapidated tract of land before its transformation into a distinctive urban art fitness park – the first of its kind anywhere.

Park Rules

Open dawn to dusk every day.

For your safe and enjoyable use of this park, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Alcoholic beverages and other intoxicants
- Firearms or weapons of any type
- Camping or open fires
- Unleashed pets
- Vending, solicitation, loitering
- Property or vegetation destruction
- Motorized vehicles, except for use by the mobility impaired
- Skateboarding or rollerblading
- Littering
- Climbing on park sculptures

The park irrigation system is part of the stormwater recycling program. The water is non-potable and is not safe for ingestion or play. Please wash hands following contact.

Please help keep the park clean by picking up after your pet.

Sponsors

Main Terrain was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous locally-based businesses and nonprofits, including ArtsBuild, PlayCore, Lyndhurst Foundation, Public Art Chattanooga, Ross/Fowler Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the City of Chattanooga.

For questions, please call 3-1-1 or Chattanooga Parks and Recreation at (423) 643-6081.

Fitness

The three large sculptures in the center are ever-changing through play and fitness. Park-goers are encouraged to physically rotate the bridge forms by turning the wheel located in the center of the pylons. The park contains five fitness areas designed by PlayCore, a Game-Time company, a leading provider of educational play and recreation solutions. Fitness equipment is provided for adult use only. Children 17 and under are prohibited from use. A park more suitable for children's play is located at Ross' Landing Park in the waterfront district.

Meet the Artist

From a national juried competition, artist Thomas Sayre, was chosen to design art work for the park. Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, Sayre is an internationally-recognized artist with work in numerous public and private collections.



"What underlines the entire Main Terrain project is the act of bridging: bridging the physical space across a former polluted rail site; bridging community, the downtown and the burgeoning renovated Main Street; and bridging the activities of urban design, art and exercise. The art is designed to make a physical connection of north to south but also to connect Chattanooga's rich industrial past and its modern cultural/historic/exercise-based tourist economy. Additionally, it is the goal of the art to encourage people to move through the space of the park, to use the running/walking track, to engage the exercise stations and physically interact with the sculpture via turning its actuating wheel."

-Thomas Sayre

The large-scale public art, reminiscent of Chattanooga's iconic Walnut Street Bridge, spans the entire park and is comprised of nine sculptural elements, the tallest measuring more than 25 feet in height and 9,000 pounds in weight.

In addition to being an active park, the environmentally-friendly space also functions as a stormwater management site, where, each week, up to 40,000 gallons of accumulated stormwater is reused to supplement irrigation. Additionally, each year, 1.5 million gallons of water are saved from entering the city's sewer system by the on-site detention ponds.



THE main terrain

Haikus

The oval track that encircles Main Terrain is divided into 50-meter segments that are marked by terrazzo inlay with text that creates four Haiku poems. Written by ancient and modern haiku masters, the poems refer to the four seasons and are meant to inspire reflection among park visitors.

Winter

by Bashō
Everyone comes out
To appreciate the bridge
A frosty road

Autumn

by Helen K. Davie
On the path
Only one of us touched
by a falling leaf

Spring

by Jane Reichhold
A spring day
In the young girls feet
Skipping

Summer

by Chiyo-ni
Coolness
deep in the night on a bridge
We are strangers

