Located in Knox County, five miles from the center of downtown Knoxville, Lakeshore Park is situated between the Tennessee River to the West, Fourth Creek to the South, along Northshore Drive and Lyons View Pike. This land was surveyed by Native American groups for over 12,000 years and was part of Cherokee tribal lands. The Cherokee called the Knoxville area kuwanda’talun’yí or Mulberry Place.

Around 1540, Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto passed through modern day East Tennessee on his exploration of North America. British colonists arrived in Virginia in 1587. Virginia was the starting point of explorers and settlers who moved into Cherokee territory of the Appalachian Mountains. The Timberlake Expedition in 1761 was explicitly organized to establish a better relationship between the Cherokee and European colonizers after the Anglo-Cherokee War. Different conceptions of land ownership led to treaties that Europeans believed gave them full rights to Cherokee land. The federal Indian Removal Act of 1838 forced the majority of indigenous people out of East Tennessee.

The end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783 led to increased settler expansion into Appalachia. In 1786 James White and James Connor built White’s Fort and four years later White’s son-in-law, Charles McClung surveyed the land between First and Second Creek to establish a town at the confluence of the Holston and French Broad Rivers, where settlement of white Europeans had led to earlier disputes with the Cherokee. In 1809 William Lyon acquired 500 acres of land along the Tennessee River, including the current site of Lakeshore Park. Lyon’s daughters, who inherited the land gave 300 acres to the state of Tennessee, who established the East Tennessee Asylum for the Insane, later renamed the Eastern State Psychiatric Hospital, and then the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. In 1996 Lakeshore Park, Inc. was founded and the land began its transition from mental health institute to public park.
OVERVIEW
Context and Existing Conditions

Regional Context of Lakeshore Park in Knox County, East Tennessee

Existing Conditions - 2018 Aerial Image