Townsend is a small community known to many as “the peaceful side of the Smokies.” As a town largely dependent on tourism for its economic stability, Townsend sometimes finds that things are a little too peaceful. With this demonstration project, students and faculty from the University of Tennessee worked with a group of Townsend’s leaders and residents to imagine changes that would enhance the town’s appeal and expand opportunities for local while still retaining Townsend’s small-town, foothills charm.

Imagine East Tennessee in 30 years. What will be the condition of our roads, housing, and environment? Will our economy be healthy? About PlanET

The students proposed a linear park and greenway along the Little River through Townsend. This is a long term vision, as most of the land along the river is privately owned. One of the goals of the park would be to diversify access to the river. Use of the river today is dominated by tubers, which is controversial among Townsend residents. Most of the land along the river is privately owned. One of the goals of the park would be to diversify access to the river. The students proposed a linear park and greenway along the Little River through Townsend. This is a long term vision, as most of the land along the river is privately owned. One of the goals of the park would be to diversify access to the river.

The students proposed a linear park and greenway along the Little River through Townsend. This is a long term vision, as most of the land along the river is privately owned. One of the goals of the park would be to diversify access to the river.