

3. **How can Red Bank afford to develop the park?**

It's not as hard as it seems to raise money for such a purpose, but in Red Bank's case the steps must be taken in order.

First, the people's land at the old middle school site must be taken off the Board of Commissioners' chopping block. Once the threat of selloff for private development is removed, all the energy and brainpower currently focused on saving Red Bank Central Park can be redirected to securing funding to create the 1st-class public commons of our dreams.

Second, Red Bank must resolve the unfulfilled 2011 land swap (see #4 below). Until that situation is resolved our city will remain on the National Park Service's and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's black list. Consequently, Red Bank will be ineligible (or uncompetitive) for numerous federal, state, and nongovernment grants that otherwise could be pursued to pay much of the cost of developing Red Bank Central Park. Red Bank's noncompliance situation cannot be resolved without devoting at least a large part of the old middle school site to a permanent public park. Devoting the *entire 12-acre* site to a permanent public park will enable the maximum long-term benefits to our city.

Third, all interested officials and citizens (including supporters of this website) could redirect our attention to soliciting and securing park development funding from myriad government and private sources. The City will have to invest some money to fulfill its land swap obligations, but the long-term Red Bank Central Park funding burden can be shared widely, and over a period of years, if necessary.