



TENNESSEE  
VALLEY  
AUTHORITY



# Stewardship

2023

# To Our Valley Neighbors

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We are happy to share with you our look forward at TVA's major stewardship projects planned for Fiscal Year 2023 across the TVA region. In alignment with the Natural Resource Plan, these projects are divided into the 10 focus areas we use to talk about our work.

Perhaps you return to the same lake year after year because you know the fishing is good. Or perhaps you're ready to explore a new biking trail. We invite you to leaf through this publication and look for your favorite spots, and get some ideas for new places to visit. Tell your friends!

It's all part of our mission to protect, preserve and improve the public lands and waters of the Tennessee River system, and to provide educational outreach about our natural resources even beyond the watershed, all the way out to the far reaches of our service region. Our goal is to keep the Tennessee Valley a beautiful place to live, work and play. Over the years we've seen that work contribute more and more to attracting new businesses and jobs to the Valley. And our world-class recreation opportunities draw people to the Valley from all over the world! We're pretty proud of that.

Our stewardship strategy is implemented through the Natural Resources organization. In this book you'll see references to our Natural Resource Plan and its objectives. This is one of the ways we are accountable to you for the work we have promised to do.

We are fortunate to work with so many great partners across the region. Your joining our efforts means that we can accomplish so much more than when we work alone. Our commitment to stewardship continues to be a vital factor in the growth and the success of the entire region, and we're glad to work with you on that mission. We look forward to another exciting year!

**Rebecca Hayden**  
Director, TVA Natural Resources



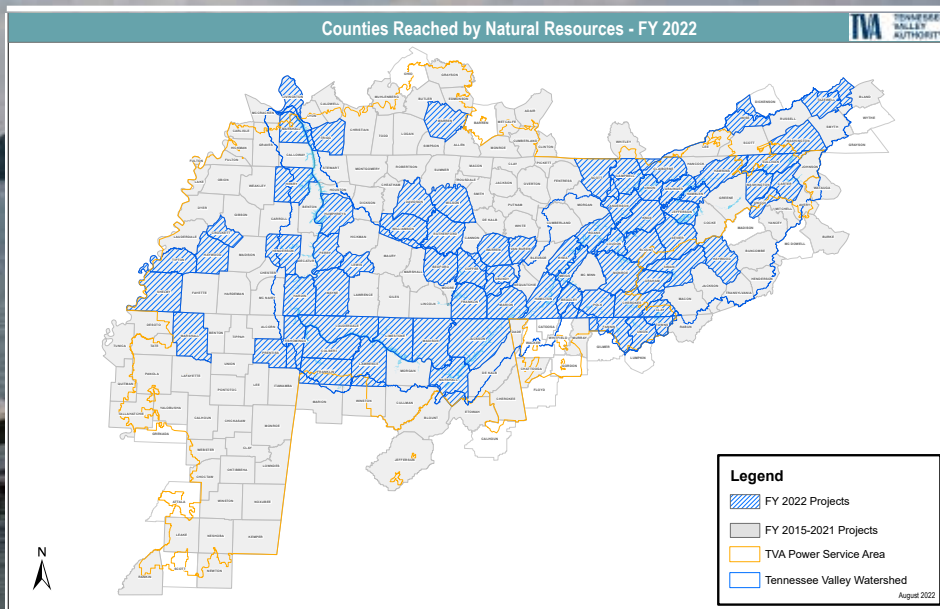


**293,000**  
Acres of  
Public Land



**650,000**  
Acres of  
Reservoir  
Surface Water

## Counties We've Served Through Stewardship Projects



**11,000**  
Miles of  
Public  
Shoreline



**\$12 Billion**  
Economic  
Benefit From  
Recreational  
Opportunities

# Reservoir Lands Planning

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TVA's reservoir land management plans help guide TVA land management and administration decisions on a reservoir-by reservoir basis. TVA assigns land-use allocation categories – or “zones” – to parcels of TVA public land, reflecting their most suitable use and communicating to the public what types of activities are appropriate on the parcels.

The reservoir lands planning process provides a systematic method of identifying and evaluating suitable land uses, to optimize public benefit, balance competing demands, and support TVA's broad regional resource development mission. The reservoir lands planning process also provides a mechanism for public involvement that allows for anyone to participate in the lands planning process.





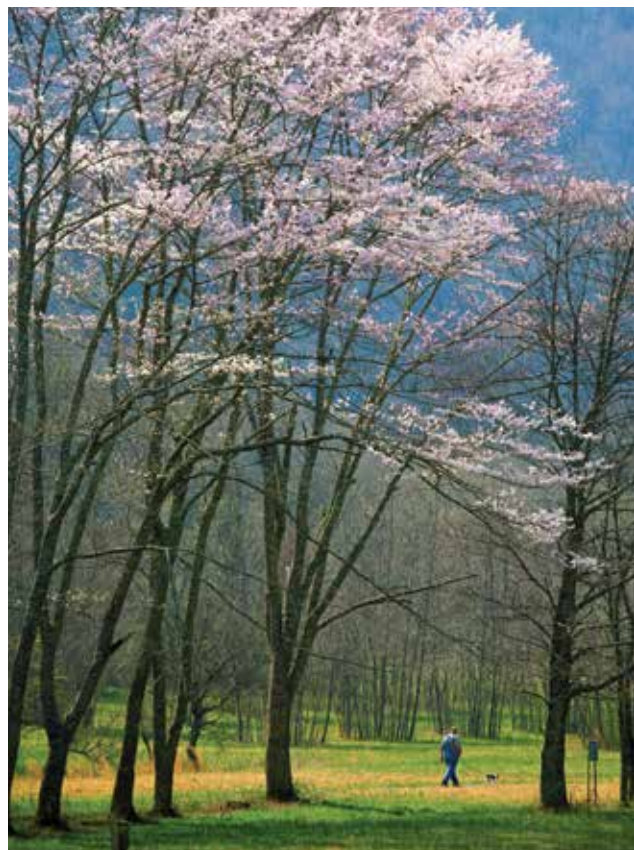


The project listed below supports the following Reservoir Lands Planning objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Provide a consistent approach to balancing shoreline development, recreation, natural and cultural resource management, and other demands by applying a systematic methodology to identify the most suitable land uses.

**Objective:** Ensure input opportunities for the public and local, state, and federal entities on TVA land management decisions.




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**Project:** Updates to Reservoir Land Management Plans

**Description:** TVA will initiate reviews and revisions to the Reservoir Land Management Plans of various reservoirs, including Tims Ford.

**Project Lead:** Lesley Webb

# Section 26a Permitting and Land Use Agreements

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The lands and shorelines along the rivers and reservoirs within the Tennessee River watershed are special places. Section 26a of the TVA Act and TVA's land-use processes help us keep them that way. Our goal is to protect these resources while supporting access to the public lands and waters we all enjoy. We are here to help you with the necessary approvals for your waterfront project.







The projects listed below support the following Section 26a Permitting and Land Use Agreements objective from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Manage permission to use the shoreline and public land in a fashion that is consistent with the TVA Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Shoreline Management Policy (SMP) and the TVA Land Policy.

**Objective:** Seek to develop clear rules and policies, engage in public education and communication, and issue permits and agreements consistent with standing policies.

**Objective:** Support unified development of the Tennessee River system and flood control objectives.

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**Project:** Section 26a and Land Use Continuous Improvement

**Description:** As has been the case for many other industries and processes, the COVID-19 pandemic and housing market pressures have helped contribute to a big increase in requests. With several projects, we're focusing on reducing the time it takes to review and process Section 26a permit applications.

The Tennessee River system hosts some of the most beautiful lakefront property in the Valley. This year, as in every year, TVA is engaging with the public, real estate agents, municipalities and commercial developers to talk about working with TVA and contacting us before beginning any shoreline construction activities. Our goal is to increase understanding of shoreline permitting requirements, why the process exists, why it is important to follow the process, and how we can help.

**Project Lead:** Tyler Ferguson

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**Project:** Section 26a Technology Improvements

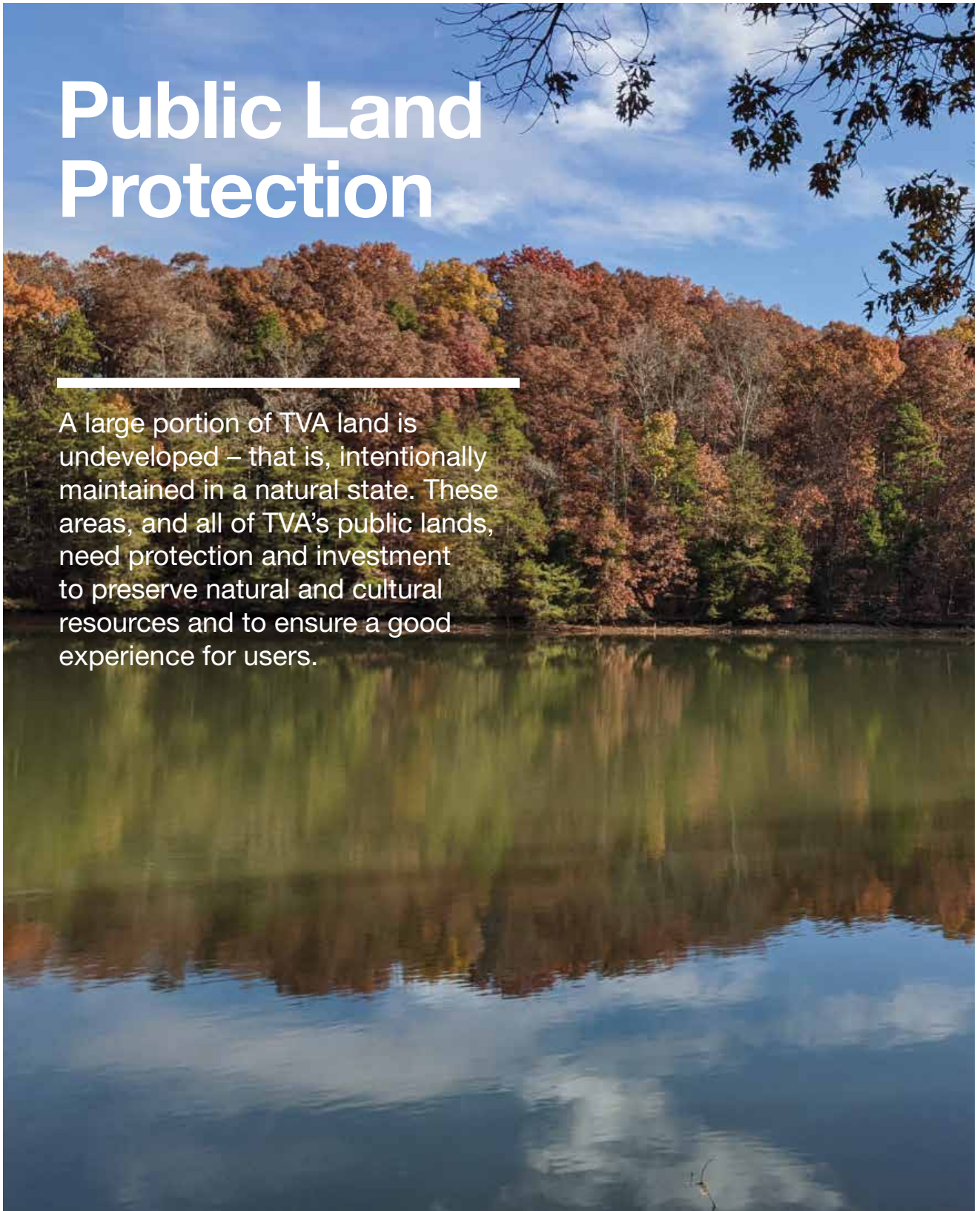
**Description:** We continue to explore technology improvements and enhancements to make the data used for processing Section 26a requests more comprehensive, easier to locate, and more user-friendly.

**Project Lead:** Tyler Ferguson

# Public Land Protection

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A large portion of TVA land is undeveloped – that is, intentionally maintained in a natural state. These areas, and all of TVA's public lands, need protection and investment to preserve natural and cultural resources and to ensure a good experience for users.





The projects listed below support the following Public Land Protection objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

**Objective:** Protect the public land and land rights in TVA's custody and control to preserve them for future generations while balancing competing demands through proactive and reactive management efforts.

**Objective:** Inform and engage the public to provide clear expectations for sustainable use of TVA public land. Apply consistent enforcement of TVA's rules, regulations, policies and applicable local, state and federal laws.

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**Project:** Boundary Marking

**Description:** TVA will continue its work to re-establish boundaries along its public lands. We know the public enjoys visiting them, and by clearly identifying our property, we can help users enjoy it more safely.

**Project Leads:** Damien Simbeck / Garry Chappelle




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**Project:** Zone 7 Surveying

**Description:** TVA will again survey Zone 7 boundary lines to prevent encroachments on TVA property by landowners who share a property boundary with TVA. The goal is to create a visible boundary between public and private lands.

**Project Lead:** Kenley Austin

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**Project:** Reservoir and Community Cleanups

**Description:** This initiative funds volunteer cleanups, recycling and litter prevention activities involving partners across the Tennessee River Watershed and Power Service Area. We will continue to provide bags and gloves for cleanups hosted by our partners on TVA-managed lands.

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson

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**Project:** Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful

**Description:** TVA will continue its support of the Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful group. The goal is to make it a regional voice and advocate for the protection and improvement of the entire Tennessee River system, focusing first on litter while addressing other, related water quality issues.

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson

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**Project:** Public Land Protection Efforts

**Description:** TVA will implement efforts to identify and reduce violations and encroachments on TVA shorelines and other public lands. This includes asset inventory process improvements, public land encroachment surveying, shoreline inspections, and leading education workshops and conferences for those who have interest in developing land or constructing structures on TVA reservoirs throughout the Valley.

**Project Lead:** Samantha Hartsell

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**Project:** Miller Road Access Control

**Description:** To help prevent misuse of public land, TVA will install access control measures at a popular dispersed recreation site on Tellico Reservoir.

**Project Lead:** Tristan Trew

# Land and Habitat Stewardship

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Caring for the plants and wildlife on TVA lands requires research and expertise on the part of TVA and our partners to be successful. Through these efforts, we can help ensure the region's beautiful natural resources are protected for future generations.





The projects listed below support the following Land and Habitat Stewardship objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Enhance biological diversity and wildlife habitat.

**Objective:** Improve protection and monitoring of sensitive resources on TVA land.

**Objective:** Improve forest health and associated ecological benefits.

**Objective:** Improve interagency relationships and partnership efforts toward mutual stewardship goals

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**Project:** Tennessee Aquarium Sturgeon Program

**Description:** This is a partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group. Funds go to purchase food for sturgeon (increasing the number that can be reared and stocked), rearing and monitoring equipment, research, public outreach, and education.

**Project Lead:** Mark Odom

## THE BIRDS

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**Project:** Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

**Description:** This is a partnership established for the restoration of a self-sustaining migratory population of whooping cranes in eastern North America.

**Project Lead:** Damien Simbeck




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**Project:** MOTUS Wildlife Tracking System

**Description:** MOTUS is a collaborative wildlife research initiative aimed at better understanding highly mobile wildlife such as birds, bats and insects. It utilizes radio frequency technology to track wildlife over large landscapes by providing a connected network of projects. In Tennessee, MOTUS receiver stations will be attached to existing fire towers to help us better understand how these species migrate and use our lands. This will provide better information to inform future development and conservation needs. We'll also conduct bird surveys at different reservoirs targeting at-risk bird species to collect information to make informed decisions for habitat enhancement and provide occurrence data to other agencies to support their efforts.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

## ... THE BEES

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**Project:** Pollinator Habitat Enhancement

**Description:** This is a multi-phased project to identify opportunities for areas that would be suitable for establishing new pollinator habitats, restoring natural vegetation and maintaining existing pollinator habitats, using methods that minimize disturbance and that promote pollinator richness and diversity on TVA lands and transmission line rights of way (ROW). Pollinators support healthy ecosystems that improve air quality, stabilize soils and support other wildlife. Managing TVA ROWs and lands for pollinator habitat provides benefits to important wildlife and can also reduce management costs over time. Local, site-specific actions add up to significant change.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart



### ... AND THE BATS

**Project:** Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Annual Meeting

**Description:** TVA will join other agencies and organizations in sponsoring and participating in the annual bat diversity meeting. TVA and other participants will focus on developing bat preservation partnership opportunities.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

**Project:** Bat Surveys

**Description:** TVA will partner with academia to conduct surveys for imperiled forest-dwelling bats, utilizing mist nets and Anabat acoustic detection, attaching transmitters, and tracking bats with various methods. The bats that are of interest (Indiana bat, Northern Long-eared bat, Little Brown bat and Tricolored bat) are either federally listed, considered “at-risk species” and/or on the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan for species of greatest conservation concern. The surveys will provide meaningful data and help TVA make informed decisions regarding land management and habitat enhancement for bats.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

**Project:** Artificial Bat Roost Installation Monitoring

**Description:** TVA will conduct monitoring of additional artificial bat roosts installed in recent years on TVA public lands adjacent to Chatuge, Douglas, Elk River, Kentucky, Guntersville and Norris Reservoirs. This will help us learn which species are using the roosts and to check the presence of maternity colonies.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

**Project:** Cave and Bat Protection

**Description:** TVA will identify caves that are on TVA lands that need protection, and implement protection measures such as cave gate repairs, access controls, cameras and/or signage.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

**Project:** Bat Strategy Implementation

**Description:** TVA will complete environmental and cultural reviews associated with inaugural selection in FY22 of projects to fund with TVA's Bat Conservation Fund. Subject to timing and completion of environmental and cultural reviews, initiate monitoring and reporting components associated with receipt of funding. These actions will involve input from staff in Biological Compliance, Cultural Compliance, Financial Services, Natural Resources and potentially other organizations.

**Project Lead:** Holly Hoyle

### PLANTS AND HABITAT

**Project:** Native Plant Communities Research

**Description:** Research with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville will continue with an evaluation of plant communities and habitat quality following tall fescue eradication. The project will measure plant response from the seedbank and resulting habitat quality for various wildlife species after eradication of tall fescue in fields across Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, and compare that with plant response and habitat quality after planting of native grasses and forbs. This ongoing project will help provide insight on pollinator possibilities associated with native plant communities.

**Project Lead:** R.J. Moore

**Project:** Glade and Barrens Restoration

**Description:** In new locations on Norris and Chickamauga Reservoirs, this will take a restoration and habitat enhancement approach through classifying and describing glades and barrens (a rare habitat type). We will assess current conditions, identify threats and stressors to glade-affiliated species of conservation concern, and implement an active management and protection program. The goal is to restore and maintain glades and barrens communities identified on TVA lands.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart



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**Project:** Grass and Agricultural Land Management – Wildlife Openings

**Description:** TVA will maintain existing wildlife openings (necessary for the safe movement of wildlife), reduce exotic plant regrowth and improve the overall forest health.

**Project Lead:** R.J. Moore

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**Project:** Cherokee Reservoir Public Lands Management

**Description:** On several sites along Cherokee Reservoir, including several islands, TVA will continue its project to enhance dispersed recreation, wildlife habitat and control of invasive plant species with prescribed burns and native grass and forb seed plantings.

**Project Leads:** John Reuschel, R.J. Moore

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**Project:** Watts Bar Reservoir Public Lands Management

**Description:** TVA and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will continue their collaboration to enhance wildlife habitat and forest health on Duck, Thief Neck, Iron Hill, Huffine and Long islands. The project will include mowing, spraying, controlled burns and planting of several acres on various islands.

**Project Lead:** Scott Ledford

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**Project:** Botany Surveys

**Description:** TVA will conduct plant surveys on selected reservoirs within natural areas and Zone 3 and 4 lands (lands set aside for conservation purposes) targeting at-risk species and species of greatest conservation concern. TVA will collect meaningful data to help make informed decisions regarding land management for habitat enhancement and also provide information to other external state and federal agencies to support their conservation efforts as well.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

## FOREST ENHANCEMENT

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**Project:** Norris Dam Seed Orchards

**Description:** This is a partnership effort with the University of Tennessee Tree Improvement Program in the re-establishment of Norris-area seed orchards to produce locally adapted tree seedlings for planting and reforestation efforts in the East region of the Tennessee Valley. This will be a phased project with Phase IV consisting of planting previously prepared sites for tree improvement studies around the Norris Dam Reservation. We hope to add additional sites at Walnut Orchard.

**Project Lead:** Randy Short

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**Project:** Shortleaf Pine Restoration

**Description:** This project involves some or all aspects (as needed) of shortleaf pine restoration, including planning, site preparation, planting and maintenance required for the propagation of shortleaf pine on TVA lands. Shortleaf pine has experienced a severe decline and is an important component of forest stands throughout the Tennessee Valley.

**Project Lead:** Randy Short

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**Project:** Native American Plant Partnership

**Description:** TVA is working with federally recognized American Indian tribes to develop a partnership to propagate and harvest native plants as well as educate the public about them. TVA proposes to plant/restore native rivercane and enhance other existing native species on TVA land adjacent to Tellico Reservoir. In addition, TVA is working with tribes to plant native plants and develop educational signs at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, near Blythe Ferry, Tennessee. This project will utilize Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) and tribal expertise.

**Project Leads:** Josh Burnette, Marianne Shuler

# Nuisance and Invasive Species Management

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Invasive species of all kinds represent one of the most significant threats to the Tennessee Valley's natural resources. Some species of plants or animals are acceptable in some circumstances, but undesirable in others. Often, a non-native species will take advantage of the new climate and will flourish too much, crowding out the native species. This can be seen with plants in the water (Eurasian water milfoil, hydrilla, southern naiad), plants on the land (kudzu, privet) and even with certain animals.

Nature needs a careful balance. This is why aggressive removal can be just as undesirable as doing nothing. TVA works closely with its partner agencies, state and local governments, homeowners associations, and the public to monitor and control invasive species with a number of tried-and-true methods.





The projects listed below support the following Nuisance and Invasive Species Management objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Implement internal and external outreach efforts creating enhanced public awareness and action regarding the impacts of invasive and nuisance plants and animals.

**Objective:** Sustain and expand efforts to address the threats of invasive and nuisance species in order to best protect the Valley's natural resources.

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**Project:** Aquatic Plant Management

**Description:** TVA will continue to manage aquatic plants near developed, public shorelines Valley-wide on an as-needed basis. Additionally, TVA will increase efforts to address new introductions of aquatic plants on Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Loudon and other reservoirs.

**Project Lead:** Stephen Turner




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**Project:** Beech River Grass Carp Phase V

**Description:** TVA plans to continue to stock and monitor a population of triploid (sterile) grass carp in the Beech Reservoir as a measure to control a recently introduced invasive/exotic plant, *Hydrilla verticillata*. This non-reproductive species of fish can be a natural form of invasive/exotic plant control.

**Project Lead:** Stephen Turner




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**Project:** East Lakeshore Vegetation Improvements

**Description:** TVA will implement a phased approach for invasive vegetation control at the Coytee / National Campground Rd. trailhead and planting of trees in conjunction with Public Lands Day. There are plans to continue this work into future years.

**Project Lead:** Tristan Trew

# Cultural Resource Management

Many of TVA's public lands include much more than the beauty of nature. They include the history of those who came before us. From the Native American tribes that settled here to Civil War skirmish sites and everything in between, the history and heritage of the Tennessee Valley is an important part of who we are. Unfortunately, much of our history has disappeared following years of development, erosion and even looting, making TVA's efforts to protect what we have left a critical part of its mission.





## The projects listed below support the following Cultural Resource Management objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Comply with all federal laws related to cultural resources management on federal lands or on lands affected by TVA actions.

**Objective:** Partner with stakeholders, such as federally recognized American Indian tribes, whose ancestral lands fall within the Tennessee Valley.

**Objective:** Protect and preserve significant archaeological and historic resources through improved and enhanced management practices such as monitoring, shoreline stabilization archaeological curation, and enforcement of federal law.

**Objective:** Within TVA communities, provide educational and outreach opportunities related to the need to protect cultural resources and to share the unique history of the Tennessee Valley.

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### **Project:** Archaeological Site Stabilization

**Description:** We will implement stabilization projects along TVA reservoirs by selecting priority sites and conducting environmental reviews and applying for any necessary permits.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

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### **Project:** University of Alabama Curation Project

**Description:** We are in year eight of a multi-year curation rehabilitation project to improve TVA collections obtained from Works Project Administration Survey.

**Project Lead:** Meg Cook

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### **Project:** Support of Repatriation

**Description:** Along with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville's McClung Museum, TVA will undertake preparation of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) cultural items for repatriation and reburial.

**Project Lead:** Meg Cook

### **Project:** Tribal Reburial Assistance

**Description:** TVA will continue assisting Native American Tribes in the reburial of NAGPRA ancestral remains and cultural items.

**Project Leads:** Erin Dunsmore, Marianne Shuler

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### **Project:** Tribal Consultation

**Description:** TVA will continue its annual face-to-face meeting with Native American tribes that have a religious and cultural interest in the Tennessee Valley regarding important topics in cultural resource management. This provides opportunities for cultural interaction between federally recognized tribes and TVA staff.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler

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### **Project:** Native American Removal Route

**Description:** Through this multi-phased project, TVA will document and assess the condition of the portion of the Native American removal route across TVA's power service area.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler

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### **Project:** Thousand Eyes Outreach Program

**Description:** Thousand Eyes, TVA's archaeological outreach and volunteer program, is a requirement under the Archaeological Resource Protection Act. The program promotes archaeological site protection in the community and works with volunteers to protect archaeological sites.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore



# Water Resources Stewardship

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Water is the lifeblood that runs through the Tennessee Valley. The Tennessee River system is one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the world. Each year, TVA works with partners across the seven-state region to help protect this precious resource and the aquatic life it supports. These efforts are designed to protect and enhance the river system.



The projects listed below support the following Water Resources Stewardship objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Develop and execute outreach activities to raise public awareness of the importance and value of protecting water resources within the Tennessee River Watershed.

**Objective:** Monitor and assess biological conditions in streams and tailwaters to maintain an in-depth knowledge of the changing conditions of water quality throughout the Tennessee Valley and help TVA and stakeholders identify and track water quality protection and improvement opportunities.

**Objective:** Partner to promote and implement water quality and aquatic habitat improvement across the Tennessee River watershed.

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**Project:** Tennessee Aquarium Sturgeon Program

**Description:** TVA continues its partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group. Funds go to purchasing food for sturgeon (increasing the number that can be reared and stocked), rearing and monitoring equipment, research, and public outreach and education.

**Project Lead:** Mark Odom




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**Project:** Highlighting Aquatic Diversity

**Description:** TVA hosts and participates in outreach efforts to enhance awareness of its efforts to protect the Tennessee River system's resources, promote the value of clean water and highlight the significance of the Valley's aquatic resources. TVA's Natural Resources and River and Reservoir Compliance groups reach thousands of Valley stakeholders by hosting booths during professional fishing tournaments and community events, and hosting in-stream educational events for children.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Tennessee Valley Clean Marinas

**Description:** TVA will continue to work with marinas operating on the Tennessee River and its tributaries to grow the program. It recognizes marinas for going beyond normal operations to protect the water resource they rely on to generate income. We'll also develop tools for marinas to use to spread clean boating messages.

**Project Lead:** RaSharon King

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**Project:** Index of Biological Integrity Stream Monitoring

**Description:** TVA will continue to conduct its annual Index of Biological Integrity monitoring to assess fish and benthic macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) communities to determine stream health across the Tennessee River watershed. TVA monitors 528 sites on a five-year rotation; each year approximately 100 sites are monitored.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Stream Sentinel Monitoring

**Description:** TVA will continue its stream sentinel monitoring efforts in collaboration with a multi-agency partnership. With our partners we will monitor stream sites for indications of long-term climate change, and perform trend analysis on the data.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Aquatic Barrier Removal

**Description:** TVA is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other stewardship partners to identify stream barriers in the Tennessee River watershed that impede the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms and/or pose a potential danger to recreational activities.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Tennessee River Basin Network (TRBN) Coordinator

**Description:** TVA is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mainspring Inc. to fund and host the TRBN Coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing the TRBN strategic plan, continuously coordinating information among partners, planning and implementing the annual meeting and implementing projects identified by the network.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Aquatic Biodiversity Network Meeting and Support

**Description:** The purpose of this annual meeting is to bring together a diverse assemblage of coalitions, state and federal agencies, national and local conservation organizations, citizens-based watershed associations, municipalities and community groups, and universities that share a common goal of preserving the world-class aquatic biological diversity of the Tennessee River Basin.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Clinch/Powell Watershed Initiative

**Description:** TVA and regional partners will carry on their work to improve aquatic biodiversity in the Clinch/Powell River watersheds. This is a multi-year initiative to help maintain the Clinch River as one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the Tennessee River watershed.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation

**Description:** TVA partners with the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership on multiple projects to implement the Little Tennessee River Fish Conservation Plan. These projects include environmental outreach; stream barrier removal; rearing and releasing of yellow fin madtom, smoky madtom, dusky darter and spotfin chub in the Tellico River; rearing and stocking of blochside logperch in Abrams Creek; and determining if it is feasible to reintroduce native mussels to the upper Oconaluftee River.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn








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**Project:** Paint Rock Watershed Protection

**Description:** TVA, in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been working since 2014 to protect and enhance aquatic biodiversity in the Paint Rock River in Jackson County, Alabama. Projects include stream and riparian restorations, bank stabilization, stream barrier removal, riparian buffer protection, alternative water source for livestock, and the augmentation and reintroduction of imperiled freshwater mussels.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Tennessee Riparian Incentive Program

**Description:** This is a 10-year project with TVA, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to work with landowners in Tennessee to plant approximately 500,000 trees to establish vegetative buffers along streams and rivers.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Tennessee River Shade Your Stream

**Description:** TVA and its partners are expanding the Shade Your Stream program from North Carolina streams to the Tennessee River. A healthy shaded stream provides valuable habitat for wildlife by keeping the water cool, allowing fish and aquatic life to thrive.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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**Project:** Conservation Fisheries Partnership

**Description:** TVA is collaborating with Conservation Fisheries Inc. to propagate and reintroduce the sicklefin darter and other fish species in the Tennessee River. These efforts support recovery goals for the species and are intended to result in the downlisting or delisting of species under the Endangered Species Act.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

# Recreation

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At TVA, we're hard-wired for fun. Recreation on TVA public lands and waters provides opportunities for visitors, residents, families and friends to enjoy the beauty of the Tennessee River watershed. From hiking trails to swim beaches, and from boat ramps to our universally accessible piers and picnic tables, we strive to work with partners across our service region to do the work that meets the greatest need. Our project list this year reflects our ongoing desire to provide quality recreation so that everyone in the Tennessee Valley has a chance to get out and play.







The projects listed below support the following Recreation objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Partner with municipalities, nongovernment organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies to provide recreation assets and opportunities throughout the Valley.

**Objective:** Protect natural and cultural resources by developing and implementing sustainable recreation practices.

**Objective:** Provide commercial and public recreational opportunities on TVA-managed lands.

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**Project:** Camp Right

**Description:** TVA provides campground operators information about environmentally friendly camping practices and encourages operators to adopt or maintain those practices. Participants also have opportunities to network with other campgrounds in their area.

**Project Lead:** RaSharon King

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**Project:** Floating Cabins

**Description:** We will continue stakeholder outreach and communications along with implementation of our permit program.

**Project Lead:** Dave Harrell

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**Project:** Scenic Floatway Maintenance

**Description:** TVA maintains canoe access sites along the Bear, Elk and Duck rivers in Middle Tennessee to support local recreation opportunities and tourism.

**Project Lead:** Derek South

## RECREATION SITE IMPROVEMENTS

**Project:** Pickwick Reservation and Campground

**Description:** This paving project will include the main roads through the day-use area, the ramp parking area and the three campground loops.

**Project Lead:** Derek South

**Project:** Tellico Parking Expansion

**Description:** Thirty new spaces will be added to the very popular Hall Bend parking area. This addition will include Americans With Disabilities Act-compliant parking spaces.

**Project:** TVA Dam Reservations Maintenance

**Description:** All facilities have things that break, become damaged or simply need to be replaced. TVA strives to keep our dam reservation areas open for the public to enjoy anytime they want to visit one of our sites.

**Stream Access Points:**

- Green Island – Duck River Stream Access Site (Derek South)

**Other Improvements:**

- Taylor's Ramp – Chickamauga – replace courtesy dock (Heather Sellers)
- Dogwood Dam Picnic Area (Veronica Walters)
- Fort Patrick Henry and Kingsport Park – partnership to improve access (Jonathan McNutt)
- Cherokee Dam Reservation – pavilion improvements (Jonathan McNutt)
- Cherokee Tailwater Boat Ramp – courtesy pier (Jonathan McNutt)
- Wheeler Dam Reservation – widen one-lane road for larger vehicles and those towing trailers (Derek South)

## TRAILS

**Project:** South Holston Tailwater Trail Continuance

**Description:** This will be an extension of the previously completed ADA-compliant section of the South Holston Tailwater Trail. This project is to construct required bridges for ADA access across two waterways. Once bridges are installed, the project can move to the next phase of trail construction to be conducted in future years. This trail extension will expand access to the South Holston tailwater for users with disabilities as well as offer more hiking/walking options for other users.

**Project Lead:** Randy Short







## CAMPGROUNDS

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### **Project:** Campground Improvements

**Description:** By making upgrades and improvements to the facilities and grounds, TVA will continue to enhance its six campgrounds on TVA dam reservations under contract to Recreation Resource Management.

**Project Lead:** Tina Guinn

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### **Project:** Melton Hill Bathhouse

**Description:** TVA will install a new full-service bathhouse at Melton Hill Campground for campers and to alleviate crowding at other facilities on the reservation.

**Project Lead:** Brian Ross

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### **Project:** Bull Durham Dispersed Recreation Area on Kentucky Lake

**Description:** This project will stabilize a popular camping, and fishing spot that is seeing substantial erosion on one side. The existing informal gravel ramp is also washing away and will be stabilized with an articulated concrete mat that will also serve as a launch ramp. The area will also receive a fresh coat of gravel and be graded smooth again.

**Project Lead:** Mike Hooker

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### **Project:** Norris Reservoir Dispersed Recreation Management

**Description:** We'll complete improvements to several heavily used dispersed recreational sites on Norris Reservoir to enhance user experience.

**Project Leads:** Ember Anderson, Mike Hooker

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### **Project:** Melton Hill Reservoir Dispersed Recreation Management

**Description:** Areas at Jim Jones, Hickory Creek and Worthington Cemetery: TVA will take measures to control invasive exotic overgrowth to preserve the existing roads; Bush Hog, sidearm, and apply herbicide to invasives; regravels and regrade existing roads; construct three hardened campsites with fire rings and lantern hangers to enhance user experience.

**Project Lead:** Angela Sutton

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### **Project:** Cherokee Reservoir Dispersed Recreation Management

**Description:** TVA will enhance public access to the Fall Creek Bluff area, a 66-acre parcel that is accessible mainly by boat. This will include fence repair, access control and creating a better access area.

**Project Lead:** John Reuschel

# Ecotourism

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TVA's public lands and shorelines have long provided a platform in support of tourism – as was demonstrated by a recent University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture study that found the value of water-based recreation on TVA's reservoir system is \$11.9 billion a year.

In recent years, nature-based recreation, outdoor adventure, and sustainable tourism have increasingly been referred to as “ecotourism.” This combines outdoor recreation experiences with conservation-based work in extended travel destination experiences that contribute to local economies, job creation, private investment, and expansion of the tax base. TVA's ecotourism program is designed to complement existing community, regional, and state travel and tourism efforts, and it aligns with TVA's mission to help make the Valley a great place to live, work and play.





The projects listed below support the following Ecotourism objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Promote recreation and tourism opportunities to encourage use.

**Objective:** Enhance TVA recreation facilities to expand tourism and local visitation.

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**Project:** National Geographic MapGuide Partnership Support

**Description:** We will continue to work with partners in the seven-state region to enhance and maintain the National Geographic's online Geotourism MapGuide ([exploreTRV.org](http://exploreTRV.org)). The website showcases the beauty and wonder of our natural resources and heritage, and promotes recreational opportunities across the Tennessee River Valley. In FY23 we'll help this group explore new ways of reaching their audiences.

**Project Lead:** Bonnie Kourvelas




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**Project:** Tennessee RiverLine

**Description:** Our partnership group has a goal to develop the Tennessee RiverLine, a 652-mile water trail along the Tennessee River that connects Knoxville, Tennessee, and Paducah, Kentucky. The trail will use existing facilities when available and work with communities to determine the feasibility and benefit of creating new facilities such as river access, pavilions, trails and camping areas on public lands to create a continuous system.

**Project Lead:** Clay Guerry

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**Project:** Dam Explore Program

**Description:** TVA will work with local communities and TVA partners to plan and develop visitor destinations on TVA dam reservations and surrounding areas by creating new or enhancing existing recreation facilities and developing interactive, hands-on learning areas.

**Project Lead:** Bonnie Kourvelas

# Public Outreach and Support

We partner to enhance and preserve our cultural and natural resources, and to increase recreational opportunities throughout the region. One of the most important things we can do to ensure these resources are protected for future generations is to engage visitors, residents, business leaders and others.





The projects listed below support the following Public Outreach and Support objectives from the Natural Resource Plan:

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**Objective:** Create opportunities for public involvement in resource stewardship and recreation.

**Objective:** Develop and maintain strategic relationships to enhance stewardship of recreational assets and natural and cultural resources in the Tennessee River Watershed and TVA's Power Service area through collaborative efforts and education.

**Objective:** Engage communities to increase awareness and understanding of the value of natural and cultural resources and recreational opportunities associated with public lands and waters throughout the Tennessee River Watershed and TVA's Power Service area.

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**Project:** TVA - Citizen Science BioBlitz

**Description:** The Citizen Science BioBlitz partnership with Discover Life in America uses expert naturalists and biologists to train citizen volunteers to conduct biological inventories on TVA public lands. We host family-friendly events on TVA public lands, including opportunities to learn about plants and animals in their natural habitats. These events help increase awareness of TVA public lands and the natural resources with we are entrusted.

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson

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**Project:** Volunteer Program

**Description:** TVA will continue to engage the public by providing volunteer opportunities on TVA public lands including TVA trails, dispersed recreation areas and boat ramps, and with events. We will hold volunteer event days, implement Team Up for Trails and bridge volunteer efforts with nonprofit groups and community efforts.

**Project Lead:** Suzanne Fisher

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**Project:** Community Outreach Support

**Description:** This initiative supports stakeholder requests with limited funding for organizations' purchase or rental of supplies, equipment and other incidentals for environmental education events and activities across the TVA Power Service Area. All approved requests must meet Natural Resources objectives and provide clear public benefit. We'll put extra focus this year on engaging partners on the west end of our region.

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson

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**Project:** Outdoor Retail and Manufacturers

**Description:** TVA's relationship with outdoor retail stores and local brands allows us to work in the recreation community by creating stream access maps, sharing volunteer opportunities, and encouraging local community members to discover opportunities on TVA public lands. These Valley-wide partnerships have grown to over 33 retail stores and 20 outfitters. In-store recognition of TVA as a partner in conservation and recreation in local communities allows us to educate the public, provide small grants for equal opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, and showcase our stewardship work.

**Project Lead:** Suzanne Fisher

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**Project:** TVA Kids Water Monitoring Lab

**Description:** TVA engages elementary school children in science by providing water monitoring kits to selected schools and delivering in-class water educational programs. We also encourage teachers to enhance their experience by using the Earth Echo International's online resources, whereby they can log their classroom data and see how other children from around the world are using the program. Efforts are carried out within the Power Service Area and Tennessee River Watershed.

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson





2023 STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS









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