

Stewardship

2024



TENNESSEE
VALLEY
AUTHORITY

To Our Valley Neighbors

We are pleased to share with you TVA's major stewardship projects underway for Fiscal Year 2024 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 reservoir on the Tennessee River year after year because you know the fishing is good. Or perhaps you're ready to explore a new hiking trail. We invite you to browse 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 power service region.

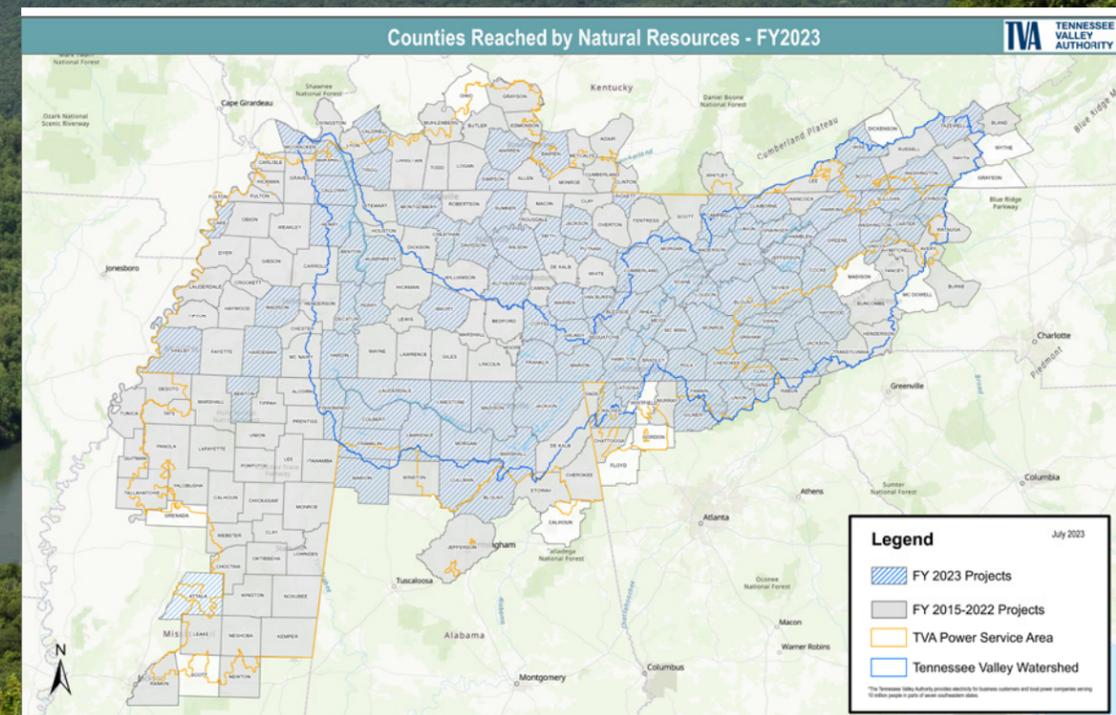
Our goal is to keep the Tennessee Valley a beautiful place to live, work and play. Over the years we've seen that work contribute more and more to attracting new businesses and jobs to the Valley. And our worldclass recreation opportunities draw people to the Valley from all over the world! We're pretty 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 knowledge and support of 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 success of the entire region, and we're glad to work with you on that mission. We expect it will be another exciting year!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hayden
Director, TVA Natural Resources

Counties We've Served Through Stewardship Projects



293,000
Acres of
Public Land



650,000
Acres of
Reservoir
Surface Water



11,000
Miles of
Public
Shoreline



\$12 Billion
Economic
Benefit From
Recreational
Opportunities

Reservoir Lands Planning

TVA’s reservoir land management plans direct how TVA manages its public land on a reservoir-by-reservoir basis – and help TVA make decisions about how we use the public lands under our stewardship. The reservoir lands planning process is a systematic method of identifying and evaluating suitable land uses, and it assigns land-use allocation categories – or “zones” – to parcels of public land, reflecting their best use and communicating to the public what they can expect to see happening on the parcels.



Reservoir lands planning is the process by which land is allocated between competing and sometimes conflicting uses. Reservoir lands planning guides TVA management decisions on natural resources and property administration.

The projects listed below support the following Reservoir Lands Planning objectives from the Natural Resource Plan.

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.

UPDATES TO RESERVOIR LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

TVA will complete reviews and revisions of the reservoir land management plans for various reservoirs, including Tims Ford.

Project Lead: Lesley Webb

Section 26a Permitting and Land Use Agreements

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.

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



SECTION 26A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

As growth and movement into the Valley occurs, TVA has seen increased requests in Section 26a permit applications. We are working on projects that refine our process and increase efficiencies during this high demand.

The Tennessee River system has some of the most beautiful lakefront property in the Valley. This year, as in every year, TVA engages 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



SECTION 26A TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

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

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.



will continue to provide bags and gloves for cleanups hosted by our partners on TVA-managed lands.

Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher

BOUNDARY MARKING

TVA will continue its work to maintain and reestablish over 4,000 miles of property boundary along its public lands. We know the public enjoys visiting them, and by clearly identifying our property lines, we can help users safely enjoy TVA’s public lands.

Project Leads: Damien Simbeck

KEEP THE TENNESSEE RIVER BEAUTIFUL

TVA will continue support of Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful. This group is a regional voice and advocate for the protection and improvement of the entire Tennessee River system, focusing first on litter while encompassing other related issues (e.g., water quality, biodiversity).

Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher

ZONE 7 SURVEYING

TVA will continue to survey and identify property boundary lines along TVA land allocated Zone 7, Shoreline Access, as a proactive measure to prevent encroachments on TVA property by landowners who share a property boundary with TVA. The goal is to clearly identify and establish a visible boundary between TVA public lands and private property.

Project Lead: Kenley Austin

PUBLIC LAND PROTECTION EFFORTS

TVA will implement efforts to identify and resolve violations and encroachments, and to prevent abuse and destruction on TVA shorelines and other public lands. This includes asset inventory process improvements, conducting land condition assessments on TVA public lands throughout the Valley, collaborating with TVA Police to enforce rules governing the authorized uses of TVA’s public lands, encroachment surveys, shoreline inspections, promoting awareness of the rules for use of TVA public land, and leading informational workshops for those who have interest in developing land or constructing structures on TVA reservoirs throughout the Valley.

Project Lead: Samantha Hartsell

RESERVOIR AND COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

This initiative funds volunteer cleanup, recycling and litter prevention activities involving partners across the Tennessee River watershed and power service area. We

Land and Habitat Stewardship

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.

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.



TENNESSEE AQUARIUM STURGEON PROGRAM

Funds for this partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group increase the number of sturgeon that are reared and stocked through the purchase of food, monitoring equipment, research, public outreach, and education.

Project Lead: Mark Odom

THE BIRDS ...

WHOOPING CRANE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership has been established for the restoration of a self-sustaining migratory population of whooping cranes in eastern North America. TVA provides funds annually to support outreach programs in the Tennessee Valley to increase awareness of the restoration program as well as hunter identification of Whooping Cranes. Outreach efforts are made throughout the valley but are concentrated near Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge near Huntsville, Alabama and the Hiwassee River Refuge north of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Whooping Cranes regularly use these two refuge areas during their migration to and from Florida, and a few individuals will spend the entire winter near these refuges.

Project Lead: Damien Simbeck

MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING SYSTEM

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 organizations that contribute data. In Tennessee, Motus receiver stations will be attached to structures on dam reservations to help us better understand how these species migrate and use our lands, providing 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, make informed decisions for habitat enhancement and provide occurrence data to other agencies to support their efforts.

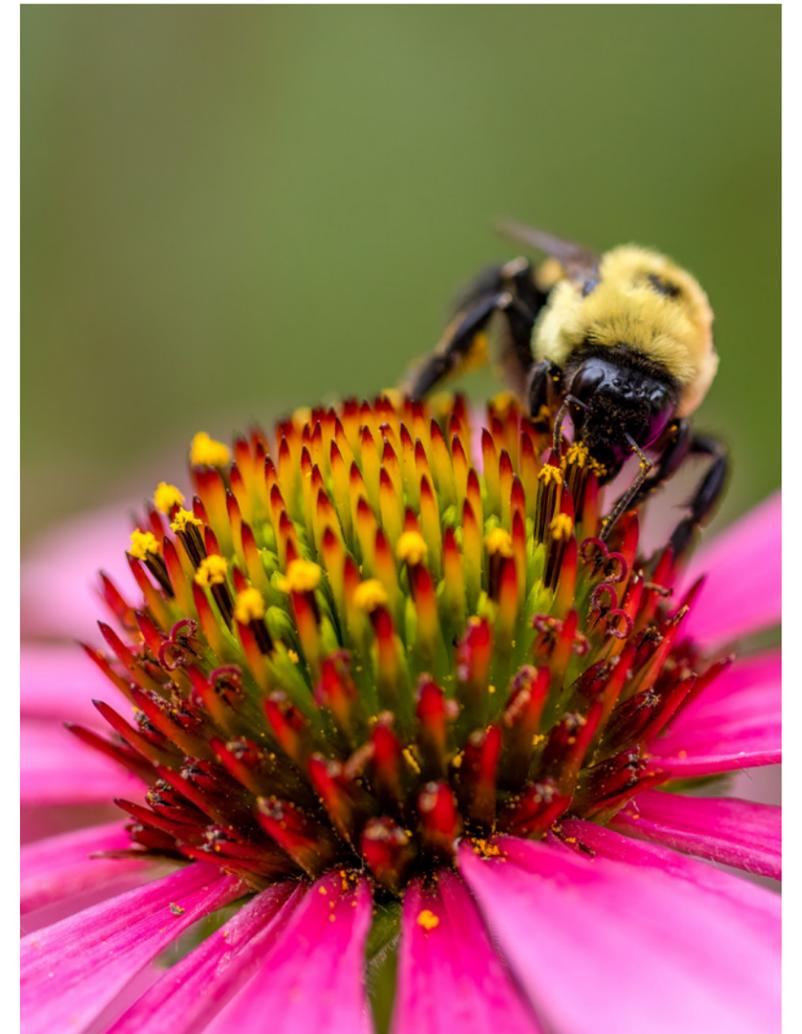
Project Lead: Heather Hart

... THE BEES ...

POLLINATOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

Locations on TVA lands are selected based on suitability to enhance pollinator habitat including where TVA transmission line right of ways cross state lands. Recent habitat establishment on Douglas, Watts Bar and South Holston dam reservations are maintained to preserve pollinator habitat.

Project Lead: Heather Hart



... AND THE BATS

SOUTHEASTERN BAT DIVERSITY MEETING

TVA joined other agencies and organizations in sponsoring and participating in the annual bat diversity meeting, to be held in South Carolina in February 2024. TVA and other participants will focus on developing bat preservation partnership opportunities.

Project Lead: Heather Hart

BAT SURVEYS

Mist net surveys, anabat detection, attachment of transmitters to track imperiled forest-dwelling bats that are considered at-risk species and also on the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan for species of greatest conservation concern (Indiana, northern long-eared, little brown and tricolored bats) to collect meaningful data for TVA and in support of monitoring and protection efforts by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This work provides a foundation for informed decision making in the selection of habitat enhancement projects. These projects help to satisfy TVA's compliance responsibilities outlined in Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act for proactive conservation efforts.

Project Lead: Heather Hart

ARTIFICIAL BAT ROOST INSTALLATION MONITORING

TVA will conduct monitoring of additional artificial bat roosts installed in recent years on TVA public lands adjacent to Elk River, Chatuge, Douglas, Kentucky, Guntersville, Nottely and Norris reservoirs. There are 51 roosts that are monitored annually. This will help us learn which species are using the roosts and to check the presence of maternity colonies.

Project Lead: Heather Hart



CAVE AND BAT PROTECTION

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

Project Lead: Heather Hart

BAT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

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

NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES RESEARCH

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

GLADE AND BARRENS RESTORATION

In new locations on Norris and Chickamauga reservoirs and existing locations on Nickajack and Kentucky reservoirs, this project takes 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

GRASS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT – WILDLIFE OPENINGS

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

CHEROKEE RESERVOIR PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT

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





WATTS BAR RESERVOIR PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT

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

BOTANY SURVEYS

TVA will conduct plant surveys, targeting at-risk species, at TVA Natural Areas and other TVA lands allocated Zone 3, Natural Resource Conservation and Zone 4, Sensitive Resource Management. This data will support informed decision making for habitat enhancement efforts and provide occurrence data to other agencies to support their efforts as well.

Project Lead: Heather Hart

FOREST ENHANCEMENT

NORRIS DAM SEED ORCHARDS

This is a partnership effort with the University of Tennessee Tree Improvement Program in the reestablishment 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

SHORTLEAF PINE RESTORATION

This project involves the 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

NATIVE AMERICAN PLANT PARTNERSHIP

TVA is working with federally recognized Native American tribes to develop a partnership to propagate and harvest native plants as well as informing the public about the importance of these plants in Native American culture. TVA proposes to plant and 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

Invasive species of all kinds represent a significant threat 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.

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

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

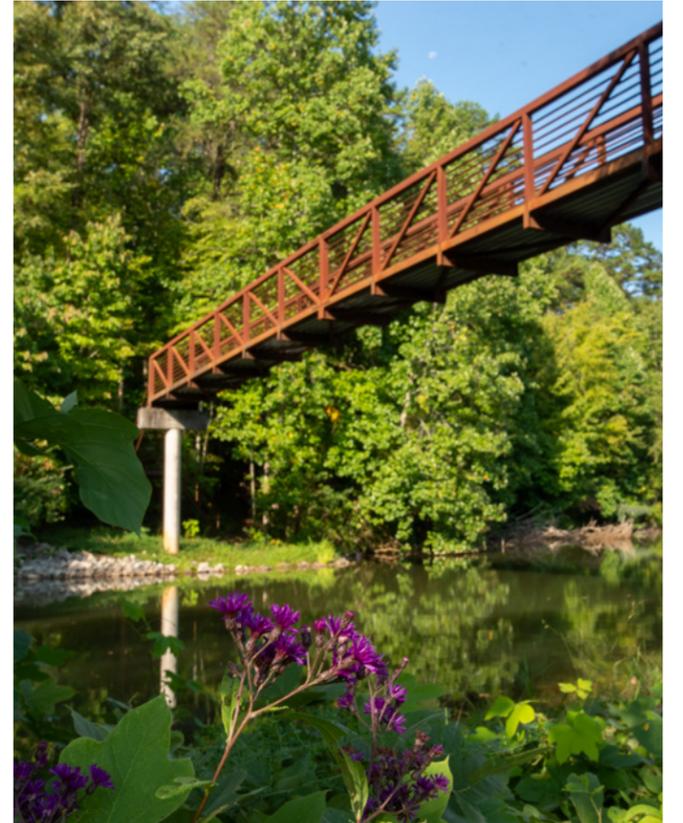
TVA will continue to manage aquatic plants near developed, public shorelines Valley-wide on an as-needed basis. Additionally, TVA will increase efforts to address new introductions of non-native and invasive aquatic plants on Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Loudon and other reservoirs. Members of the TVA Aquatic Plant Management Team will also continue to provide Information and educational materials to stakeholders at outreach events throughout the Valley.

Project Lead: Stephen Turner

BEECH RIVER GRASS CARP PHASE V

TVA plans to continue to monitor a population of triploid (sterile) grass carp stocked in the Beech Reservoir as a measure to control a recently introduced invasive/exotic plant, Hydrilla verticillata. TVA will also continue to monitor the remaining Beech River Watershed reservoirs for potential need for grass carp stocking. This non-reproductive species of fish is useful as a natural form of invasive/exotic plant control.

Project Lead: Stephen Turner



EAST LAKESHORE VEGETATION IMPROVEMENTS

East Lakeshore provides public use opportunities including approximately 30 miles of trails, multiple areas for dispersed camping, bank fishing, boating and other activities. TVA is currently working with a local partner group, Watershed Association of Tellico Reservoir, to control exotic, invasive vegetation along areas of the East Lakeshore trail system. Phase I consisted of removal and treatment of approximately 3.0 acres of targeted invasive species and this area is being restored back to native tree species at the Coytee Trailhead. Restoration efforts will provide native plant community improvement along with better access to the existing trailhead. Continued efforts will be made to improve vegetation along other portions of the East Lakeshore Trail system.

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 this history has disappeared following years of development, erosion and looting, making TVA's efforts to protect what we have left a critical part of its mission.



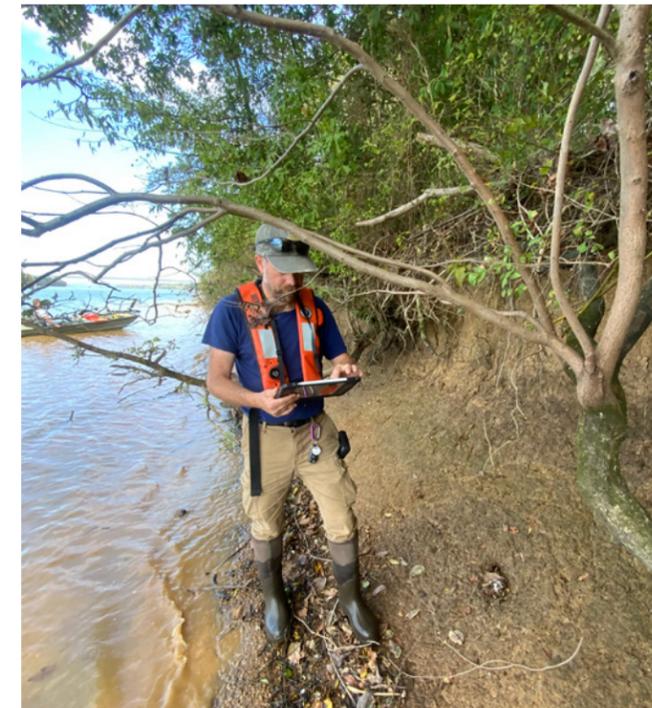
The projects listed below support the following Cultural Resource Management objectives from the Natural Resource Plan.

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: Provide educational and outreach opportunities within TVA communities on the need to protect cultural resources and to share the unique history of the Tennessee Valley.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE STABILIZATION

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

NAGPRA COMPLIANCE

Engaging in regular tribal consultation to identify funerary and sacred items for Repatriation. Tribes guide the agency on the final disposition and preparation of Ancestral remains and cultural items for repatriation and reburial in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Project Lead: Meg Cook/Paul Avery

TRIBAL RELATIONS

TVA works closely with Federally recognized Native American tribes that have a religious and cultural interest in the Tennessee Valley regarding important topics in cultural resource management. This includes regular meetings that provide engagement opportunities for consultation and interaction between federally recognized tribes and TVA staff.

Project Lead: Marianne Shuler/Meg Cook

THOUSAND EYES OUTREACH PROGRAM

Thousand Eyes program, 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

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.

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.



TENNESSEE AQUARIUM STURGEON PROGRAM

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



HIGHLIGHTING AQUATIC DIVERSITY

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 reaches 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



TENNESSEE VALLEY CLEAN MARINAS

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

INDEX OF BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY STREAM MONITORING

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

STREAM SENTINEL MONITORING

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



AQUATIC BARRIER REMOVAL

TVA is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & 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

TENNESSEE RIVER BASIN NETWORK (TRBN) COORDINATOR

TVA is partnering with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and MainSpring Inc. to fund the position of TRBN Coordinator. This position 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

AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY NETWORK MEETING AND SUPPORT

TVA hosted the eighth annual Tennessee River Basin Biodiversity Network meeting and celebration on August 24 and 25 at Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, with this year’s theme being “Diverse Connections for Diverse Watersheds.” 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

CLINCH/POWELL WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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. TVA has participated in a partnership project with American Climate Partners (ACP) since 2019 to conduct a river cleanup along a 60-mile reach of the Clinch River in Russell and Tazewell Counties, Virginia, through ACP’s StreamSweepers Job Corps Program which is a river assessment and cleaning initiative engaging youth and adults in stream cleanup and restoration.

Project Lead: Shannon O’Quinn

LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER NATIVE FISH CONSERVATION

TVA is partnering 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 Tellico River
- rearing and stocking of blochside logperch in Abrams Creek
- determining if it is feasible to reintroduce native mussels to the upper Oconaluftee River.

Project Lead: Shannon O’Quinn

PAINT ROCK WATERSHED PROTECTION

TVA, in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish & 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

TENNESSEE RIPARIAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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

TENNESSEE RIVER SHADE YOUR STREAM

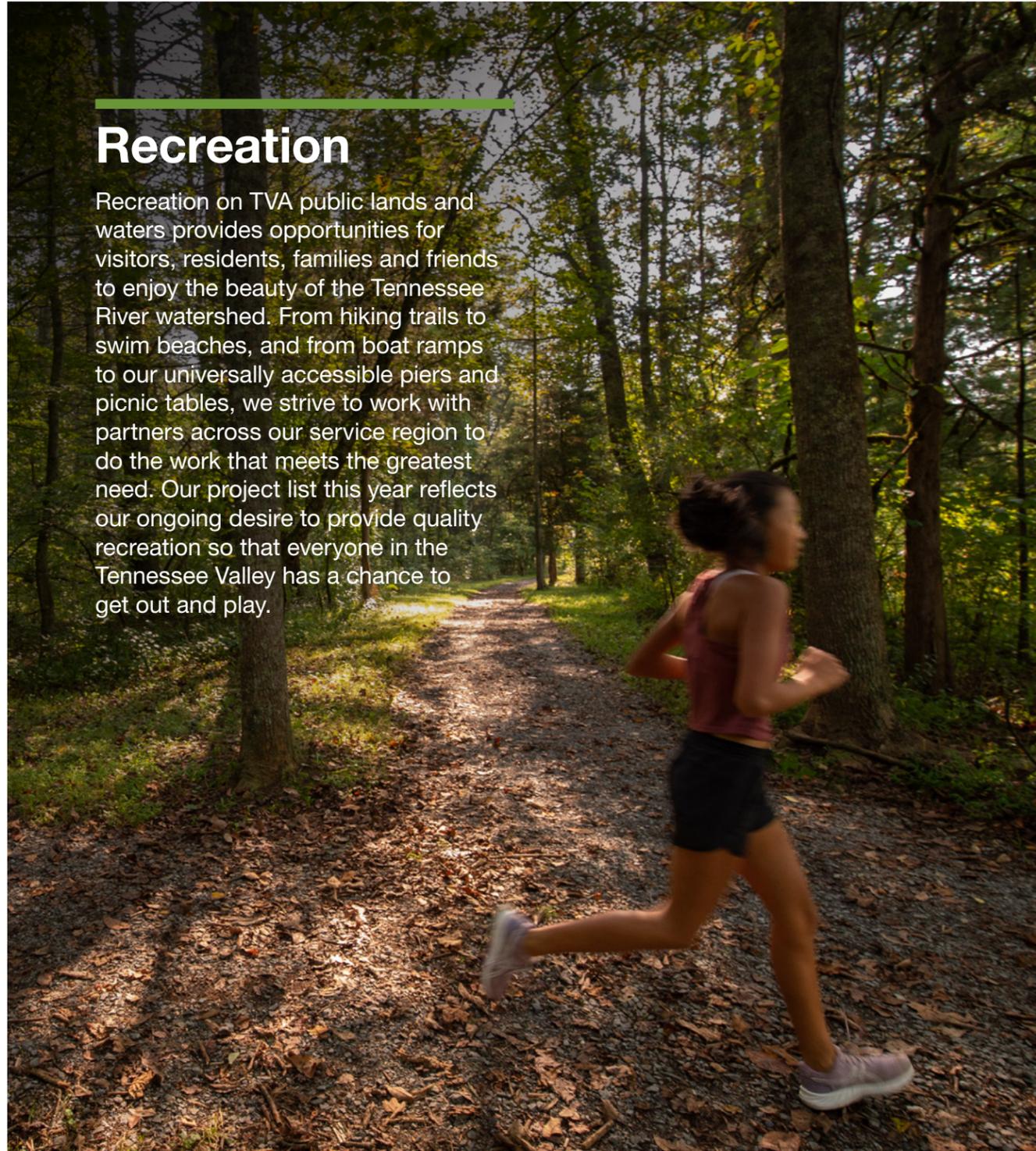
TVA and its partners are expanding the Shade Your Stream program from North Carolina streams to the Tennessee River. A healthy shaded stream provides valuable habitat for wildlife by keeping the water cool, allowing fish and aquatic life to thrive.

Project Lead: Shannon O’Quinn

CONSERVATION FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP

TVA is collaborating with Conservation Fisheries Inc. to propagate and reintroduce the sickle 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

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.

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.



CAMP RIGHT

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

FLOATING CABINS

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

Project Lead: Dave Harrell

SCENIC FLOATWAY MAINTENANCE

TVA maintains and partners with BCDA (Bear Creek Development Authority) to provide paddle access sites for the public along Bear Creek in North Alabama as well as the Elk and Duck rivers in Middle Tennessee to support recreation opportunities and tourism for the region.

Project Lead: Derek South

PARTNERSHIP

TVA will work with state agencies, non-governmental agencies, and other partners to offer adaptive equipment (such as offroad accessible wheelchairs) and facilities that provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities for people with varying disabilities.

Project Lead: Damien Simbeck

Recreation Site Improvements

PICKWICK RESERVATION AND CAMPGROUND

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

TELLICO PARKING EXPANSION

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

TVA Dam Reservations Maintenance

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:

- Carter County Stream Access Sites (Clay Guerry)
- Gap Creek Stream Access Site (Clay Guerry)
- Green Island – Duck River Stream Access Site (Derek South)

Other Improvements:

- Russell Branch – Chickamauga – improve access (Drew Lyles)
- Taylor’s Ramp – Chickamauga – replace courtesy dock (Heather Sellers)
- Fall Creek Bluff – Cherokee – improve access (Brian Stewart)
- Sugar Way – Wheeler – improve access (Damien Simbeck)
- Beech Reservoir Shoreline Stabilization (Veronica Walters)
- Pine Reservoir Shoreline Stabilization (Veronica Walters)
- Nickajack (Laurel Point) Restroom Replacement, Phase 1 (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

HATCHETT ROAD ON WHEELER

Extend current dead-end trail back to starting point to complete a loop. This phase will add 1,100 ft of trail.

Project Lead: Levi Yancey

SOUTH HOLSTON ADA TAILWATER TRAIL CONTINUANCE

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 and hardened with concrete the 1500 foot section between the bridges, making the total length of the ADA compliant section approximately 1 mile upon completion. 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

CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

TVA will continue to enhance its six campgrounds on TVA dam reservations under contract to Vista Recreation by making upgrades and improvements to the facilities and grounds.

Project Lead: Tina Guinn

MELTON HILL BATHHOUSE

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

BULL DURHAM DISPERSED RECREATION AREA ON KENTUCKY LAKE

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 would 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

NORRIS RESERVOIR DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT

We’ll complete improvements to several heavily used dispersed recreational sites on Norris Reservoir to enhance user experience.

Project Lead: Ember Anderson

MELTON HILL RESERVOIR DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT

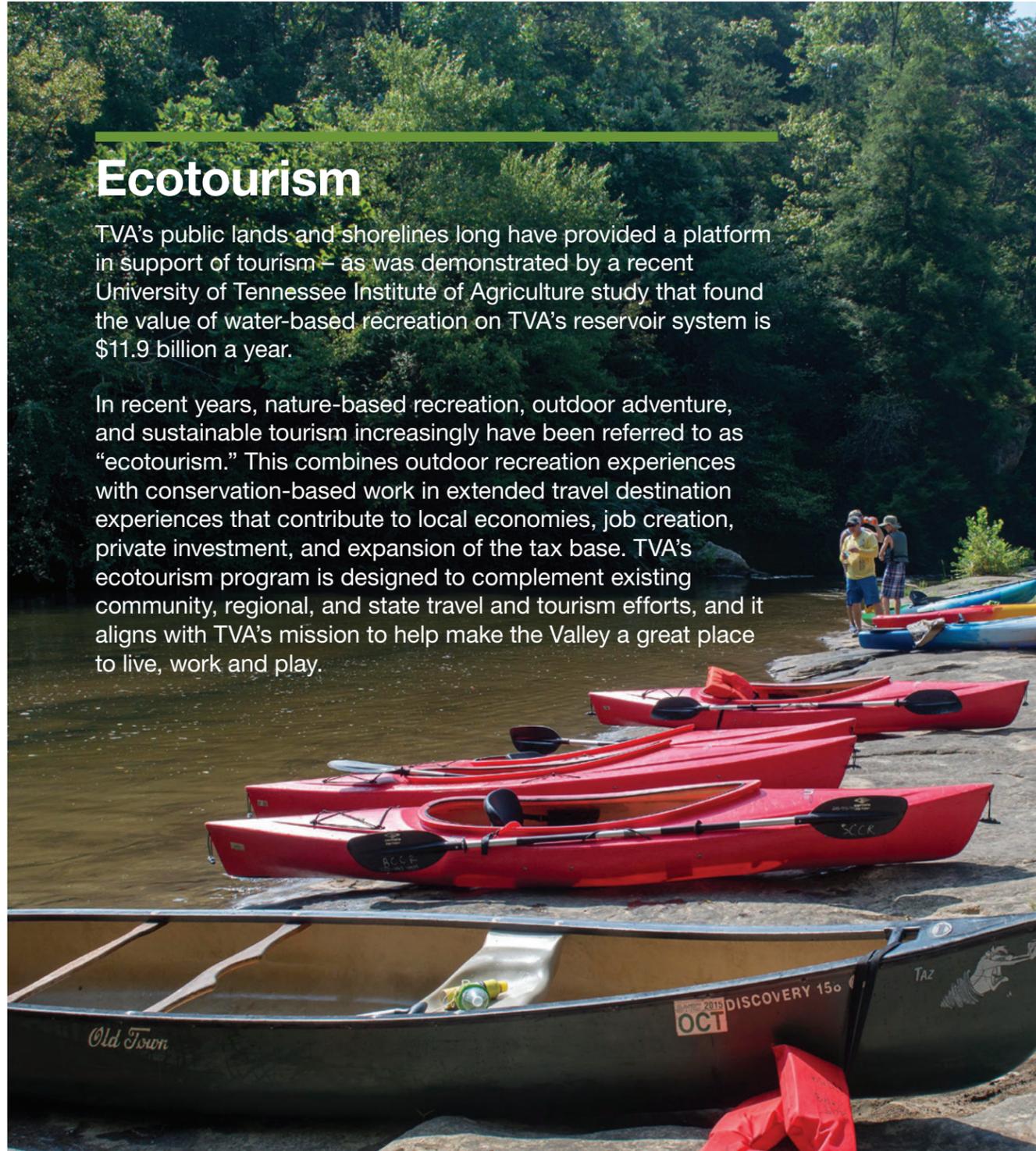
Areas at Jim Jones, Hickory Creek and Worthington Cemetery: Control invasive exotic overgrowth to preserve the existing roads; Bush Hog, sidearm, and apply herbicide to invasives; re-gravel and regrade existing roads; construct three hardened campsites with fire rings and lantern hangers to enhance user experience.

Project Lead: Angela Sutton

CHEROKEE RESERVOIR DISPERSED RECREATION MANAGEMENT

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

Project Lead: John Reuschel



Ecotourism

TVA's public lands and shorelines long have 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 increasingly have 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.

Objective: Promote recreation and tourism opportunities to encourage use.

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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAP GUIDE PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

We will continue to work with partners in the seven-state region to enhance and maintain National Geographic's online Geotourism MapGuide (exploreTRV.org). The website showcases the beauty and wonder of our natural resources and heritage, and promotes recreational opportunities across the Tennessee River Valley.

Project Lead: Ben Bean

TENNESSEE RIVERLINE

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. In FY24, TVA renewed its partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture as a principal partner in this effort.

Project Lead: Clay Querry

DAM EXPLORE PROGRAM

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 interpretative and hands-on learning areas.

Project Lead: Ben Bean

Public Outreach and Information

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 Information objectives from the Natural Resource Plan.

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.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS

TVA will support Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc. Project Healing Waters is recognized as an innovative leader and model in the field of therapeutic outdoor recreation for disabled military veterans, successfully using the sport of fly fishing as a rehabilitation tool.

Project Lead: Dave Harrell

TVA SCIENCE KIDS - CITIZEN SCIENCE BIO BLITZ

The Citizen Science Bio Blitz 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 that include opportunities to learn about the plants and animals in their natural habitats. These events help increase awareness of TVA public lands and natural resources we are entrusted with.

Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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 through 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

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUPPORT

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.

Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher

OUTDOOR RETAIL STORES

We create outreach materials for stores, including our water trail maps, and we provide a social media campaign to let recreational visitors know how to find them or download them.

Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher

TVA SCIENCE KIDS CHILDREN'S WORLD WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Through the Children's World Water Monitoring Program, TVA engages elementary students 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 program'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: Suzanne Fisher





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