

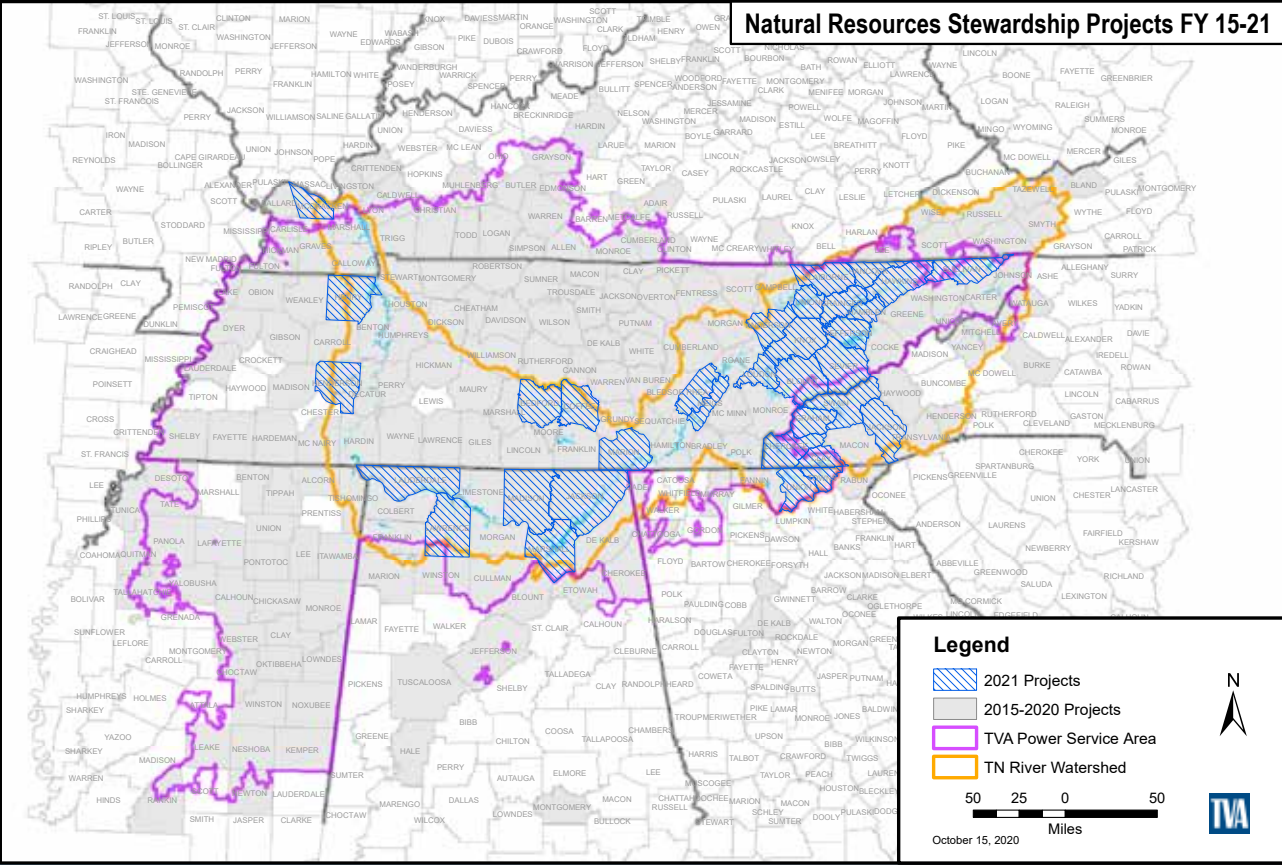


# **TVA STEWARDSHIP 2021**





# COUNTIES WE'VE SERVED THROUGH STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS





# TO OUR VALLEY NEIGHBORS

We are excited to share with you TVA's stewardship projects planned for 2021 in the Tennessee Valley. This Stewardship Book includes our major planned projects for this year, divided into the 10 focus areas that encompass our work.

Protecting, preserving and improving the Tennessee River system and its public lands across the beautiful Tennessee Valley is at the core of TVA's stewardship mission. In its earlier years, TVA championed programs such as reforestation, fertilizer development, and agricultural assistance to help the impoverished Southeast. Now – through expanding initiatives in recreation, habitat enhancement, ecotourism, conservation and more – TVA's stewardship commitment continues to be a vital factor in the success and growth of the entire Tennessee Valley region.

TVA's stewardship strategy is implemented through its Natural Resources organization, which is committed to balancing competing demands and acting as a catalyst for collaboration. TVA's Natural Resources teams work to:

- Create and sustain destinations for recreation and opportunities for learning and research.
- Protect and enhance biological, cultural and water resources, and uphold TVA's programmatic interests through integrated management of the Tennessee River system and public lands.
- Assist water-based community development with technical support, land agreements, permitting, planning, regulations, guidelines and enforcement.

We are fortunate to work with many great partners across the region. Collaborative efforts to successfully manage public lands and waters ensure our resources and recreational lands will be available today and for future generations. Stewardship is part of TVA's mission of service to make life better for the people of the Tennessee Valley. It's a mission we believe in – and one we look forward to continuing for decades to come.

Bucky Edmondson  
Director, TVA Natural Resources



**293,000**  
ACRES OF  
PUBLIC LAND



**11,000**  
MILES OF  
PUBLIC  
SHORELINE



**650,000**  
ACRES OF  
RESERVOIR  
SURFACE WATER



**\$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 assigns land-use allocation categories – or “zones” – to parcels of public land, reflecting their best use and communicating to the public what it 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.



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*The project listed below supports the following Reservoir Lands Planning objective 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 (1 project).

## **Updates to Reservoir Land Management Plans**

TVA will revise the Reservoir Land Management Plans for Tellico and Watts Bar reservoirs. We will encourage public input and participation in the plan revisions through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

**Project Lead:** Lesley Webb

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## SECTION 26A PERMITTING AND LAND USE

The lands and shorelines along the rivers and reservoirs within the Tennessee River watershed are special places. Section 26a of the TVA Act and the land-use processes associated with it 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.



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*The project listed below supports the following Section 26a Permitting and Land Use Agreements objective 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 (1 project).

### Section 26a Media Campaign

The Tennessee River system hosts some of the most beautiful lakefront property in the Valley. This year as in every year, TVA engages with the public, realtors, 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: Samantha Strickland**

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## 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.



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*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 (6 projects).

**Objective:** Assess and inventory TVA public lands and associated assets to improve the quality of public lands (1 project).

### **Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful**

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

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **Reservoir Community Cleanups**

This initiative funds volunteer cleanups, recycling and litter prevention activities by partners across the Tennessee River watershed and Power Service Area. We will also continue to provide bags and gloves for cleanups hosted by partners conducted on public lands.

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **Zone 7 Surveying**

TVA will again survey Zone 7 boundary lines to prevent encroachments on TVA property by landowners who share a property boundary with TVA, and create a visible boundary between public and private lands.

**Project Lead: Kenley Austin**

### **Boundary Marking**

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

**Project Lead: Damien Simbeck**



### **Public Land Protection Efforts**

TVA will implement efforts, including asset inventory process improvements, public land surveying, and shoreline inspections, to identify and reduce violations and encroachments on TVA shorelines and other public lands.

**Project Lead: Mark Morrissey**

### **Cherokee Resource Protection**

TVA will work to protect sensitive resource areas on TVA public lands adjacent to Cherokee Reservoir from motorized vehicle abuse as well as illegal dumping. The project helps maintain island access for habitat and transmission line work for TVA and the local power distributor, Appalachian Electric Cooperative, which shares the transmission line right-of-way across the island.

**Project Lead: Brian Stewart**

### **Washington Ferry Stabilization**

The Washington Ferry Wildlife Management Area (WMA) runs alongside Chickamauga Reservoir and is an important part of the landscape. Previously TVA collaborated with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to stabilize approximately 3,200 feet of the 5,000-foot shoreline of Washington Ferry WMA. This year TVA will stabilize the remaining 1,800 feet, protecting the entire Washington Ferry WMA shoreline.

**Project Lead: Mark Odom**



# 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.

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

**Objective:** Improve protection and monitoring of sensitive resources on TVA land (5 projects).

**Objective:** Improve forest health and associated ecological benefits (4 projects).

**Objective:** Enhance biological diversity and wildlife habitat (4 projects).

**Objective:** Improve interagency relationships and partnership efforts toward mutual stewardship goals (1 project).

## FOREST ENHANCEMENTS

### Cherokee Island Habitat Enhancements

On several sites along Cherokee Reservoir, TVA will enhance dispersed recreation, wildlife habitat and invasive plant species control by introducing a prescribed fire regimen in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Forestry.

**Project Lead:** Brian Stewart

### Cherokee Public Lands

This year's work will include maintenance of previously planted areas and preparation of other areas with prescribed burns and herbicide treatment along Cherokee Dam Reservoir.

**Project Lead:** Brian Stewart

### Watts Bar Public Lands

TVA and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will collaborate to enhance wildlife habitat and forest

health on Duck, Thief Neck, Iron Hill, Huffine, and Long Islands on Watts Bar Reservoir. The project will include mowing, spraying, prescribed burning, and planting of several acres of TVA land.

**Project Lead:** Scott Ledford

### Grass and Agricultural Lands Management – Douglas Dam Rehabilitation

Native plants provide multiple benefits for ecosystems. TVA will begin a phased project to rehabilitate old agriculture fields on dam reservations, converting the existing vegetation to native warm-season grasses. This year TVA will focus on Douglas Dam Reservation.

**Project Lead:** Brian Stewart

### Grass and Agricultural Lands 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 on TVA public lands along Melton Hill, Norris and Tellico Dam reservations.

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

### Norris Dam Seed Orchards

TVA will continue working with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and its 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 eastern Valley. TVA and UT will plant trees around the Norris Dam Reservation for tree improvement studies.

**Project Lead:** Randy Short

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### **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. Project will measure plant response from the seedbank and resulting habitat quality for various wildlife species after the eradication of tall fescue in fields across Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, and compare that with plant response and habitat quality of planting native grasses and forbs. This ongoing effort helps provide insight on pollinator possibilities associated with native plant communities.

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

### **Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership**

TVA is again participating in the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, established for the restoration of a self-sustaining population of whooping cranes in eastern North America.

**Project Lead: Damien Simbeck**

### **Amphibian Surveys**

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has designated the four-toed salamander as a species of greatest conservation need. The populations at TVA's South Holston Dam Reservation near Osceola Island are some of the largest in east Tennessee. We will collaborate with local partners to survey nearby tracts of land to determine if the salamanders are present and whether there is suitable habitat for possible reintroduction efforts.

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**

**Reservoir: South Holston, Sullivan County, TN**

### **Salamander Eco-Passage**

Building on the great success of a recently installed tunnel near South Holston Reservoir, TVA will install its second tunnel, parallel to the existing one, to provide additional opportunities for salamanders and other amphibians and reptiles to cross under the road safely. These are the only known wildlife passage tunnels in Tennessee.

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**

## **CARING FOR THE BATS**

### **Artificial Bat Roost Installation Monitoring**

TVA will conduct additional monitoring of the artificial bat roosts installed in 2016 and 2019 on TVA public

lands adjacent to Douglas, Norris, Chatuge, Nottely, Guntersville, Wheeler and Kentucky reservoirs. Through the monitoring efforts, we will learn of the bats' roosting behavior, which species are using the roosts and check the presence of maternity colonies. This work could support efforts to satisfy proactive conservation efforts aligning with Section 7(a)(1) of ESA.

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**

### **Southeastern Bat Diversity Meeting**

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**

### **Cave and Bat Protection**

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

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**

### **Key Cave Perimeter Steel Fence Install**

TVA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alabama Department of Natural Resources cooperate to maintain the cave gate at Key Cave in Lauderdale County, Alabama. TVA will replace the perimeter fence at the site. Through this partnership, we help protect the large gray bat colony that resides there in the summer. Up to 60,000 bats are present here, and the bats move back and forth between Key and nearby Collier Cave.

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**



## **NUISANCE AND INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

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.





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

**Objective:** Establish partnerships with universities and local, state and federal entities to identify and address threats posed by invasive and nuisance species within the Tennessee Valley (1 project).

**Objective:** Sustain and expand efforts to address the threats of invasive and nuisance species in order to best protect the Valley's natural resources (3 projects).

**Objective:** Ensure use of practical and environmentally sound management practices that will take into account stakeholder expectations and the multiple uses of TVA lands and waters (2 projects).

**Objective:** Implement internal and external outreach efforts creating enhanced public awareness and action regarding the impacts of invasive and nuisance plants and animals (1 project).

### **Osprey Research**

TVA is continuing its research project with Mississippi State University to understand interactions between osprey and man-made structures, and explore options to address raptor nesting sites on TVA structures. This project's goal is to protect TVA transmission assets while taking proactive measures to relocate the birds.

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

### **Jackson Cemetery Vegetation Management and Enhancement**

TVA will partner with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to treat exotic and invasive vegetation through prescribed burning and other treatments on parcels adjacent to Tellico Reservoir. Additional work includes establishing and enhancing native grasses and forbs to provide high-quality pollinator habitat.

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

### **Hemlock Bluff Woolly Adelgid Treatment**

As a control measure, TVA will treat hemlock trees at Hemlock Bluff Small Wild Area infested with the invasive woolly adelgid.

**Project Lead: Heather Hart**



### **Aquatic Plant Management Stakeholder Group**

We will continue to support the Guntersville Stakeholder group in managing aquatic plants, as the group develops the capability to obtain funding and the ability to manage aquatic plants fronting both commercial and residential shoreline in Jackson and Marshall Counties in Alabama.

**Project Lead: Stephen Turner**

### **Aquatic Plant Management**

TVA will continue to manage aquatic plants near developed, public shorelines Valleywide on an as-needed basis. Additionally, TVA will increase efforts to address new introductions of aquatic plants on Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Fort Loudoun and other reservoirs as identified in the 2017 growing season.

**Project Lead: Stephen Turner**

### **Beech River Grass Carp Phase III**

TVA plans 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**

### **Plant Camp**

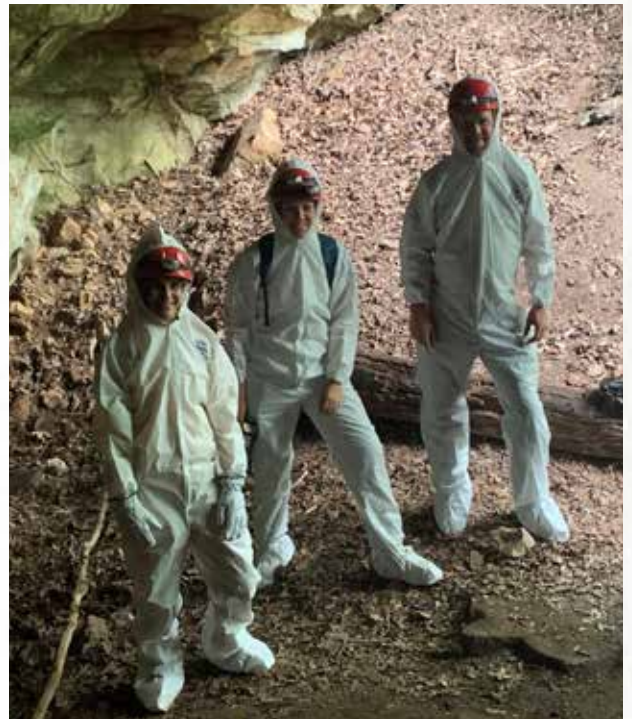
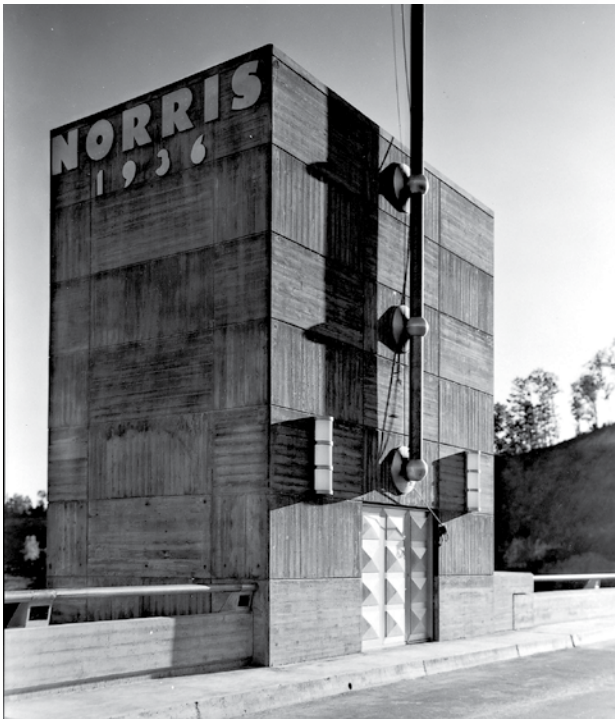
TVA plans to host its popular TVA Plant Camp to provide learning opportunities for teachers and students. During plant camp, participants learn about aquatic plants and regional ecology.

**Project Lead: Stephen Turner**

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## CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Many of TVA's public lands include much more than the beauty of nature. They include a history of those who came before us. From the Native American tribes who 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.





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

**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 (2 projects).

**Objective:** Comply with all federal laws related to cultural resource management on federal lands or on lands affected by TVA actions (2 projects).

**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 (2 projects).

**Objective:** Partner with stakeholders, such as federally recognized American Indian tribes, whose ancestral lands fall within the Tennessee Valley (1 project).

### **Archaeological Site Stabilization**

TVA will prepare for site stabilization along TVA reservoirs by selecting priority sites and conducting environmental reviews and applying for any necessary permits.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

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

We are entering year eight of a multi-year curation rehabilitation project to improve TVA collections obtained from the Works Progress Administration Survey.

**Project Lead:** Tom Maher

### **Support of Repatriation**

Preparation of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act cultural items for repatriation and reburial.

**Project Lead:** Tom Maher

### **Thousand Eyes Outreach Program**

The Thousand Eyes program is TVA's archaeological outreach and volunteer program.

It is also a requirement under the Archaeological Resource Protection Act. The program promotes archaeological site protection in communities and works with volunteers to protect archaeological sites.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

### **Section 110 Survey**

This project will address TVA's obligations to conduct identification surveys of historic properties on TVA lands pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. TVA will choose locations based on areas with high probability for archaeological sites. TVA's Section 110 data provides an inventory of sites that the agency is required to manage and maintain in a manner that maintains their integrity.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

### **Tribal Consultation Meeting**

Annual face-to-face consultation with Native American tribes regarding important topics in cultural resource management.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler

### **Native American Removal & Relocation Route Project**

Through this multi-phased effort, TVA will document the portion of the Native American Removal & Relocation Route that crosses TVA property.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler



# 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.

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

**Objective:** Partner to promote and implement water quality and aquatic habitat improvement across the Tennessee River watershed (11 projects).

**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 (2 projects).

**Objective:** Develop and execute outreach activities to raise public awareness of the importance and value of protecting water resources within the Tennessee River watershed (1 project).

## Tennessee Valley Clean Marina

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.

**Project Lead:** RaSharon King

## Index of Biological Integrity Stream Monitoring

TVA will 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. TVA and its partners will monitor stream sites for indications of long-term climate change and perform trend analysis on the data.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

## Barrier Removal in the Tennessee River Basin (Sawpauh Dam)

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. The old Sawpauh Mill Dam, a 60-foot abandoned stone low-head dam on Oostanaula Creek, is a barrier. Partners are planning for partial or total removal to provide miles of passage and aquatic habitat in the future.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

## Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation

TVA is partnering with the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership to implement aquatic habitat improvement projects to support the Little Tennessee River Fish Conservation Plan.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O'Quinn

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### **Clinch/Powell Watershed Initiative**

TVA and regional partners will carry on their work to improve aquatic biodiversity in the Clinch/Powell River watersheds. This upcoming year TVA is partnering with the Center for Natural Capital to conduct a river cleanup along a 60-mile reach of the Clinch River in Russell County, Virginia. The Clinch River is one of the most biologically diverse rivers in the Tennessee River watershed.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

### **Paint Rock Watershed Protection**

TVA, in conjunction with the Tennessee Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will use existing watershed assessment information to identify and stabilize streambanks and establish riparian buffer along the Paint Rock River in Jackson County, Alabama.

**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. Shade Your Stream provides workshops to teach students and landowners how to establish vegetated buffers in the Tennessee River watersheds. 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**

### **Tennessee Buffer Initiative**

This is a multi-year project with TVA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several other federal, state, and local organizations. Partners focus on the Elk and Duck rivers, working with land owners to establish riparian buffers and improve aquatic habitat in streams that are hotspots for aquatic biodiversity.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

### **Asian Carp**

TVA is collaborating with multiple federal, state and local agencies to help manage and stop the invasive Asian carp from moving up the Tennessee River system. This includes tracking their movement up the river system and evaluating barrier locations.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

### **Conservation Fisheries Partnership Reintroduction**

TVA is collaborating with Conservation Fisheries Inc. to propagate and reintroduce the boulder darter in the Elk River watershed. This species is federally listed. These efforts support recovery goals for the species and are intended to result in the downlisting or delisting of the species under the Endangered Species Act.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

### **Highlighting Aquatic Diversity**

TVA hosts and participates in outreach efforts to enhance awareness of its efforts to protect the Tennessee River system's resources, and promote the value of clean water and 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 fishing tournaments, conducting high school fishing outreach, and conducting Kids in the Creek events.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

### **Tennessee Aquarium Sturgeon Program**

This is the sixth year of TVA's partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group. In addition to providing technical support, TVA's support helps provide food that increases the number of sturgeon that can be reared and stocked, purchase rearing and monitoring equipment, and fund research, public outreach and education.

**Project Lead: Mark Odom**

### **Aquatic Biodiversity Network Meeting and Support**

TVA will collaborate with multiple agencies and organizations to host the seventh annual Tennessee River Basin Biodiversity Network meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together coalitions, state and federal agencies, national and local conservation organizations, citizen-based watershed associations, municipalities, community groups, and universities that share a common goal of preserving the aquatic biological diversity of the Tennessee River Basin.

**Project Lead: Shannon O'Quinn**

# RECREATION

At TVA, we're hardwired 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!

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

**Objective:** Provide commercial and public recreational opportunities on TVA-managed lands (19 projects).

**Objective:** Partner with municipalities, nongovernment organizations, and local, state and federal agencies to provide recreation assets and opportunities throughout the Valley (2 projects).

**Objective:** Protect natural and cultural resources by developing and implementing sustainable recreation practices (1 project).

## Camp Right

TVA will provide campground operators information about environmentally friendly camping practices and encourage operators to adopt or maintain environmentally friendly practices. Participants will also have an opportunity to network with other campgrounds in their area.

**Project Lead:** RaSharon King

## Scenic Floatway Access

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

**Project Lead:** Derek South

## Raccoon Mountain Pier

TVA will renovate the courtesy pier at Raccoon Mountain to enhance users' experiences on Nickajack Reservoir.

**Project Lead:** Heather Sellers

## Wheeler Dam Reservation

TVA will install a new fishing pier at the Wheeler Dam Tailwater Day Use Area to enhance recreation and tourism opportunities.

**Project Lead:** Derek South

## Watts Bar Dam Reservation Headwater Enhancements

TVA plans to repair the launching ramp and replace the courtesy pier at the Watts Bar Dam Reservation headwater facility site.

**Project Lead:** Aurora Pulliam

## West Sandy Ramp Parking Area

TVA will pave and stripe the existing gravel parking area adjacent to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency public launch ramp and fishing pier to help visitors access the Kentucky Reservoir.

**Project Lead:** Veronica Walters

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### **Mulberry Creek Stream Access Site Boat Ramp**

TVA will partner with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Hancock County to replace the Mulberry Creek boat ramp on the upper reach of the Powell River.

**Project Lead: Clay Guerry**

### **Claysville Launching Ramp – Phase III**

TVA will construct a new concrete launching ramp and parking area to replace the existing facilities.

**Project Lead: Jimmy Lemmond**

### **Pine Circle Launching Ramp**

TVA will construct a new concrete launching ramp and parking area to replace gravel ramp and parking area at the Pine Circle ramp on the South Holston Dam Reservation.

**Project Lead: Jonathan McNutt**

### **Pine Dam Reservation**

TVA will update the Pine Dam Reservation by constructing a new restroom facility to replace the existing facility.

**Project Lead: Jimmy Lemmond**

### **Pine Reservoir Ramp Area**

TVA will update the picnic area with new tables and grills.

**Project Lead: Veronica Walters**

### **Turkey Springs**

TVA will enhance the Turkey Springs area in Marshall County, Alabama by expanding parking, improving the road access, and adding signs.

**Project Lead: Derek South**

### **Tellico Dam Reservation Beach Improvement**

TVA will upgrade the swim beach area with new sand and other improvements and complete the expansion of the parking area.

**Project Lead: Tina Guinn**

### **Mickens Branch Improvement**

TVA will improve visitors' experience at Hiwassee Reservoir's Mickens Branch launching ramp by installing a new vault toilet.

**Project Lead: Tina Guinn**

### **Campground Improvements**

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

**Project Leads: Aurora Pulliam (Melton Hill Dam Campground) Jonathan McNutt (Douglas Dam Campground and Douglas Dam Tailwater Campground, Cherokee Dam Campground, Watauga Dam Campground) Derek South (Pickwick Dam Campground)**

### **Boone Dam Reservation Improvements**

TVA will construct new trails that will connect the day-use area, boat ramp and existing trail on Earl Light Tract along Boone Reservoir.

**Project Lead: Jonathan McNutt**

### **Loyston Trail Extension**

As a part of the multi-year plan for developing Loyston Recreation Area adjacent to Norris Reservoir, TVA will expand the trail system, crossing a portion of Boy Scout property. With proximity to lodging and additional recreation opportunities, this recreation area is prime for national recognition.

**Project Lead: Brian Ross**

### **South Holston Industrial Bike Trail**

TVA will add another mile to its recently completed trail on TVA lands near South Holston Reservoir.

**Project Lead: Randy Short**

### **Norris Dispersed Recreation**

TVA will support dispersed recreation on TVA public lands by making improvements to the road leading to the dispersed recreation sites adjacent to Norris Reservoir.

**Project Lead: Brian Ross**



### Mull Road Dispersed Recreation

TVA will expand the facilities at Mull Road along Chatuge Reservoir to meet high demand free public access, dispersed recreation camping, and winter hunting. As part of the effort, we will construct additional access and dispersed campsites. Partnership efforts will help maintain the area.

**Project Lead:** Kemmy Garrett

### Melton Hill Dispersed Recreation

On Melton Hill public lands, we will reduce invasive exotic overgrowth to preserve the existing road, and re-gravel and re-grade the road. We will also construct three hardened campsites with fire rings and lantern hangers.

**Project Lead:** Angela Sutton

### Floating Cabins

Upon completing the final floating cabin rule amendments, TVA will begin implementation of a permitting program, continue its stakeholder outreach and communications to ensure clear understanding of the policy and permitting program, and maintain the floating cabin inventory.

**Project Lead:** Dave Harrell









## ECOTOURISM

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.





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

**Objective:** Enhance TVA recreation facilities to expand tourism and local visitation (1 project).

**Objective:** Gain knowledge of use, trends and preferences to aid in planning efforts through targeted studies (1 project).

**Objective:** Promote recreation and tourism opportunities to encourage use (1 project).

**Objective:** Partner with local communities to maximize their ecotourism and recreation potential (1 project).

### **Enhanced Stream Access Study Data Analysis**

Work with the University of Tennessee to extrapolate existing stream access study data to all stream access sites on TVA lands.

**Project Lead:** Clay Guerry

### **National Geographic MapGuide Partnership Support**

We will continue to work with partners in the seven-state region to enhance and maintain the National Geographic – Tennessee River Valley online MapGuide ([exploreTRV.org](http://exploreTRV.org)). The website provides a platform to highlight the region's beauty and heritage and recreation opportunities, and promote Valley tourism opportunities.

**Project Lead:** Tiffany Foster

### **Tennessee RiverLine**

Our partnership group has a goal to develop the Tennessee RiverLine, a 642-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:** Tiffany Foster

### **Dam Explore Program**

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

**Project Lead:** Tiffany Foster





## 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.





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*The projects listed below support the following Public Outreach and Information objectives from the Natural Resource Plan.*

**Objective:** Engage communities to increase awareness and understanding of the value of cultural and natural resources and recreational opportunities associated with public lands and waters throughout the Tennessee River watershed and TVA's power service area (7 projects).

**Objective:** Create opportunities for public involvement in resource stewardship and recreation (2 projects).

### **TVA Science Kids – World Water Monitoring Program**

Through the World Water Monitoring program, TVA engages elementary schoolchildren 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 to 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: Tiffany Foster**

### **Visitor Centers, Signage and Marketing**

Enhance visitors' experiences on TVA dam reservations and other TVA public lands by improving signage, displays, and other communication tools.

**Project Lead: Tiffany Foster**

### **TVA Science Kids – Citizen Science BioBlitz iSCI**

We will implement our iSCI environmental outreach program using the BioBlitz methodology and iNaturalist app. We coordinate with teachers to help middle school children connect with nature and discover plants and animals on their school grounds or in local public parks. We will host teacher training opportunities for the iSCI program to engage students in learning about the natural world through hands-on learning and technology. iNaturalist field guides will be created for each event.

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **TVA Science Kids – Citizen Science BioBlitz**

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 will host family-friendly events on TVA public lands, and will include opportunities to learn about plants and animals in their natural habitats. These events help increase awareness of TVA public lands and natural resources we are entrusted with. iNaturalist field guides will be created for each event.

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **Outdoor Retail Stores**

Create outreach materials for stores and implement a social media campaign to promote TVA recreation opportunities to their customers.

**Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher**

### **Volunteer Program**

Continue Team Up for Trails training opportunities and outreach, and bridge volunteer efforts with nonprofit and community initiatives.

**Project Lead: Suzanne Fisher**

### **Community Outreach Support**

Through this initiative TVA supports stakeholder organizations in their efforts to carry out environmental education events and activities across the TVA Power Service Area and Tennessee River watershed.

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **Reservoir and Community Cleanups**

This initiative provides support to organizations for volunteer cleanups, recycling, and litter prevention activities across the Tennessee River watershed and Power Service Area.

**Project Lead: Melinda Watson**

### **Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge Wings of Winter Festival**

Support the Wings of Winter Birding Festival promotion efforts by sharing information about the festival and the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge.

**Project Lead: Damien Simbeck**



Visit us at [tva.com/nrp](https://tva.com/nrp)

TVA's Public Land Information Center (PLIC) is your single source for answers to questions about a variety of public land topics including recreational opportunities, shoreline permits, and volunteering. Email [PLIC@tva.gov](mailto:PLIC@tva.gov) or call 800-882-5263 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.