



TENNESSEE  
VALLEY  
AUTHORITY

A man in a green shirt and tan waders is fly fishing in a river. He is standing in the water, holding a fishing rod with an orange line. The background is a dense forest of green trees. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

# Stewardship

2022



# To Our Valley Neighbors

We are happy to share with you our look forward at TVA's major stewardship projects planned for Fiscal Year 2022 across the TVA region. In alignment with the 2020 Natural Resource Plan, these projects are divided into the 10 focus areas we use to talk about our work.

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. 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 Resources 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. 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



*Our 2022 Stewardship Book is dedicated to the memory of Hugh Standridge, TVA Natural Resources Management senior manager.*



**293,000**  
Acres of  
Public Land



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

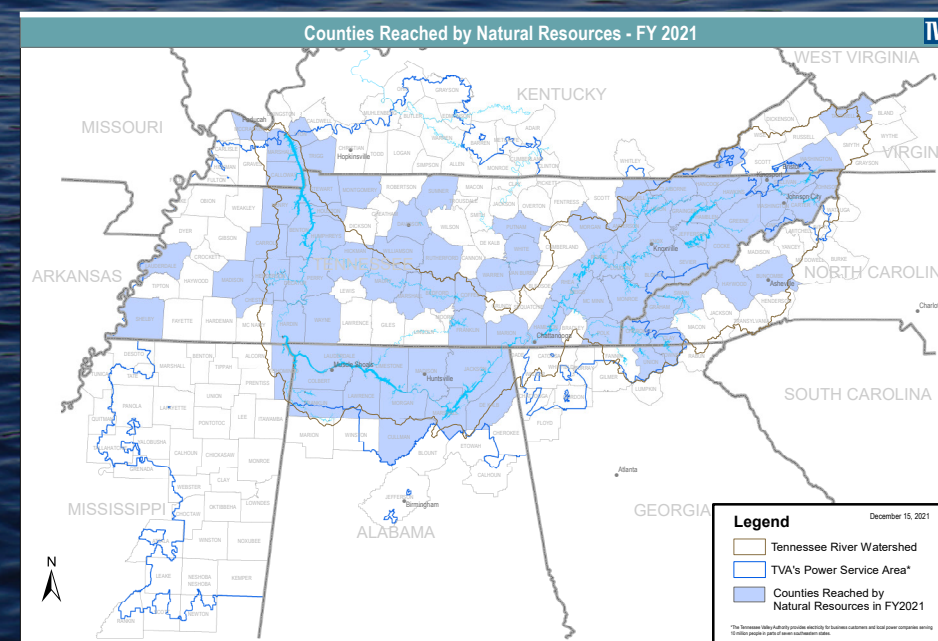


**11,000**  
Miles of  
Public  
Shoreline



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

## Counties We've Served Through Stewardship Projects





# 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.



The project listed below supports 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.



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

**Description:** Revise Reservoir Land Management Plans and NEPA Reviews for Tellico, Tims Ford, Norris, and various reservoirs as needed. Additionally, update allocation changes to all existing RLMPs as needed. Enhance lands planning information available such as GIS data layers and historical files (including scanning and organization of files). Provide information to the public as needed through printing of maps and external interactive maps.

**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 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.



The project listed below supports 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, NEPA, SMP 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.

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

**Description:** As with many other industries and processes, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting quarantines have helped contribute to an increase in in the 26a process and applications. With several projects, we're focusing on reducing the time it takes to review and complete Section 26a permit applications as well as our reviews for land-use applications.

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, 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 Leads:** Nick Morris, Samantha Strickland, Chellye Campbell





# 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 pleasant 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 (6 projects).

**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. (1 project)

**Project:** Boundary Marking

**Description:** TVA will continue its work to reestablish and re-mark boundaries along its public lands. We know the public enjoys visiting our lands, and having a clearly marked boundary helps users enjoy it more safely.

**Project Lead:** Damien Simbeck, Garry Chappelle

**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, and create a visible boundary between public and private lands.

**Project Lead:** Kenley Austin

**Project:** Cherokee and Norris Resource Protection

**Description:** TVA will work to protect sensitive and natural resource management areas on TVA public lands adjacent to Cherokee and Norris reservoirs from motorized vehicle abuse as well as illegal dumping. The project helps maintain Chandler Island access on Cherokee Reservoir for habitat and transmission line work for TVA and local power company Appalachian Electric Cooperative, and for protection of Island F on Norris Reservoir.

**Project Leads:** Brian Stewart, John Reuschel, Brian Ross, Garry Chappelle

**Project:** Nickajack Cave Access and Protection

**Description:** This project consists of improving a 20-by-30-foot parking area and access control measures to better

manage public access to 411 acres of TVA public land. This area receives heavy dumping and ATV abuse, and is also a popular hunting area.

**Project Lead:** Drew Lyles

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

**Project Lead:** Melinda Watson

**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

**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 surveying, shoreline inspections, and leading education workshops and/or conferences to increase awareness of TVA’s regulations and rules on TVA reservoirs throughout the Valley.

**Project Lead:** Mark Morrissey





# 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 (6 projects).

**Objective:** Improve protection and monitoring of sensitive resources on TVA land (9 projects).

**Objective:** Improve forest health and associated ecological benefits (5 projects).

**Objective:** Improve interagency relationships and partnership efforts toward mutual stewardship goals (2 projects).

## THE BIRDS ...

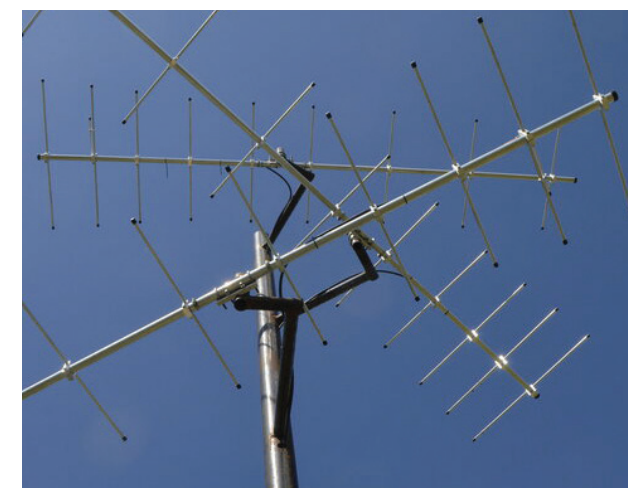
**Project:** Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

**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

**Project:** Motus Wildlife Tracking

**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 and Alabama, Motus receiver stations will be attached to existing fire towers and other structures to help us better understand how these species migrate and use our lands. This in turn 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 ...

**Project:** Pollinator Habitat Enhancement

**Description:** Work will focus on maintaining habitat at established pollinator sites at Trotter Bluff and preparation of new pollinator sites at South Holston.

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

## ... AND THE BATS

**Project:** Southeastern Bat Diversity 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:** Work with partners to explore the roosting and foraging ecology of the female tricolored bat during spring/summer maternity season as part of our efforts to help survey, track and identify imperiled bats and their roost locations on TVA lands. We'll also focus on Indiana, northern long-eared, little brown and other species of bats. This study will fill gaps in TVA knowledge of the species' life histories, aid in recovery planning, allow development of regulatory mechanisms and mitigation strategies that promote species persistence, and permit establishment of management alternatives that conserve, maintain and improve critical spring/summer habitat.

**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 Nottely, Chatuge, Douglas, Elk River, Kentucky, Gunter'sville and Norris. 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:** Develop framework for two key responsibilities resulting from completion of TVA Bat Strategy: 1) prioritization of ideas for TVA Bat Conservation Funding and 2) disbursement of Conservation Funds. This will involve input from staff in multiple TVA organizations, including Biological Compliance, Financial Services and Natural Resources.

**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, work 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

**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

**Project:** Grass and Agricultural Land Management – Douglas Dam Rehabilitation

**Description:** Native plants provide multiple benefits for ecosystems. TVA will move to Phase 2 of this project to rehabilitate old agricultural fields on the Douglas Dam reservation and convert to native warm-season grasses and forbs.

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

**FOREST ENHANCEMENT**

**Project:** Norris Dam Seed Orchards

**Description:** 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 Tennessee Valley. This will be a phased project, with Phase IV consisting of propagation and planting of tree seedlings on the TVA Norris Dam Reservation. We hope to add additional sites at the TVA Walnut Orchard near Norris, Tennessee.

**Project Lead:** Randy Short

**Project:** Cherokee Reservoir Public Lands Enhancements

**Description:** On several sites along Cherokee Reservoir, 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.

**Project Leads:** Brian Stewart / RJ Moore

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

**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

**Project:** Harmon Creek Management Unit

**Description:** Project includes the maintaining of the Harmon Creek Management Unit in Kentucky, including

road maintenance, access control measures and parking lot maintenance.

**Project Lead:** Mike Hooker

**Project:** Amphibian Surveys

**Description:** TWRA 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. Building on the success of our eco-passage tunnels here, we'll continue our partnership work to help establish salamander populations near existing groups found nearby.

**Project Lead:** Heather Hart

**Project:** Botany Surveys

**Description:** TVA will conduct plant surveys at different reservoirs on natural areas and Zone 3 and 4 lands, targeting at-risk species. We want to collect information to make informed decisions for habitat enhancement and provide occurrence data to other agencies to support their efforts as well.

**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.



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 (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 (5 projects).

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**Project:** Osprey Research

**Description:** We'll continue our research project with Mississippi State University and TVA's internal power operations groups to study ospreys and how they interact with man-made structures such as our transmission equipment. The project's goal is to protect our transmission assets while taking careful, proactive measures to relocate the birds.

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

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**Project:** Aquatic Plant Management Stakeholders

**Description:** We will continue to support the Lake Guntersville Stakeholder group in managing aquatic plants at Guntersville Reservoir, while 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



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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 IV

**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:** Invasive Species Priority Sites

**Description:** We'll enhance public access areas at Battle Creek, Charleston, Little Cedar Mountain, Big Ridge and Old First Quarters by treating invasive plants. These areas receive high public recreation use and visibility.

**Project Lead:** Mark Odom

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**Project:** Plant Camp

**Description:** TVA will continue 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



# 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.

**Objective:** Comply with all federal laws related to cultural resources management on federal lands or on lands affected by TVA actions (4 projects).

**Objective:** Partner with stakeholders, such as federally recognized tribes, whose ancestral lands fall within the Tennessee Valley (3 projects).

**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:** 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 (1 project).

**Project:** Archaeological Site Stabilization

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

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

**Project:** Section 110 Survey and Monitoring

**Description:** This project will address TVA's obligation 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 protect in a manner that maintains their integrity.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

**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 Projects Administration Survey.

**Project Lead:** Tom Maher

**Project:** Support of Repatriation

**Description:** Prepare Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act cultural items for repatriation and reburial.

**Project Lead:** Tom Maher

**Project:** Tribal Reburial Assistance

**Description:** Assist multiple Native American tribes in the reburial of NAGPRA cultural items.

**Project Lead:** Erin Dunsmore

**Project:** Tribal Consultation

**Description:** Conduct annual face-to-face consultation with Native American tribes regarding important topics in cultural resource management.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler

**Project:** Trail of Tears Route

**Description:** Through this multi-phase project, TVA will document the portion of the Native American Removal & Relocation Route that crosses TVA property.

**Project Lead:** Marianne Shuler

**Project:** Thousand Eyes Outreach Program

**Description:** Thousand Eyes program, TVA's archaeological outreach and volunteer program, is a requirement under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. The program promotes archaeological site protection in communities 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 (3 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:** Partner to promote and implement water quality and aquatic habitat improvement across the Tennessee River watershed (9 projects).

**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



**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, and to 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

**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

**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



**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

**Project:** Aquatic Barrier Removal

**Description:** TVA is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy 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

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

**Description:** TVA will collaborate with multiple agencies and organizations to host the eighth annual Tennessee River Basin 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

**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

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

**Description:** TVA works with the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership on multiple projects to implement the Little Tennessee Fish Conservation Plan. These projects include removal of stream barriers to create fish passage, planting vegetative buffers along

streams, and rearing and stocking of native fish back into the Little Tennessee River.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O’Quinn

**Project:** Paint Rock Watershed Protection

**Description:** TVA, in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will use existing watershed assessment information to implement streambank stabilization projects, establish riparian buffers, and create aquatic habitat in the Paint Rock River in Jackson County, Alabama.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O’Quinn

**Project:** Tennessee Buffer Initiative

**Description:** 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 and have established over 150 acres of riparian buffers.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O’Quinn



**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

**Project:** Conservation Fisheries Partnership

**Description:** TVA is collaborating with Conservation Fisheries Inc. to propagate and reintroduce the sicklefin darter in the Little 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

**Project:** StreamSweepers

**Description:** TVA is partnering with the Center for Natural Capital to conduct a river cleanup along a 60-mile stretch of the Clinch River in Russell County, Virginia, through TCNC’s StreamSweepers job corps program. They have removed approximately 1,100 tires and 40,000 pounds of trash along 10 miles of stream bed and 20 miles of streambank.

**Project Lead:** Shannon O’Quinn



# Recreation

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 (3 projects).

**Objective:** Protect natural and cultural resources by developing and implementing sustainable recreation practices (3 projects).

**Objective:** Provide commercial and public recreational opportunities on TVA-managed lands (12 projects).

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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:** 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

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**Project:** Little Bear Dam Reservation

**Description:** Construct new Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible fishing pier.

**Project Lead:** Derek South

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**Project:** Goldfield Branch

**Description:** Construct a new ADA-accessible courtesy pier.

**Project Lead:** Derek South



**Project:** McFarland Park

**Description:** Partner with city of Florence, Alabama, to rebuild popular fishing pier at McFarland Park.

**Project Lead:** Derek South

**Project:** Cherokee Dam

**Description:** Construct courtesy dock at the ramp below Cherokee Dam for launching boats.

**Project Lead:** Jonathan McNutt

**Project:** Highway 400 Stream Access Parking

**Description:** Construct and pave new parking lot at new access site in partnership with city of Elizabethton, Tennessee.

**Project Lead:** Clay Guerry

**Project:** Courtesy Docks at Taylor’s Ramp

**Description:** Replace the courtesy docks at this very popular and heavily used ramp on Chickamauga Reservoir.

**Project Lead:** Heather Sellers

**Project:** Beech Island Resort Shoreline Stabilization

**Description:** In partnership with Union County, Tennessee, install 750 feet of stabilization riprap to protect eroding shoreline at a popular recreational area.

**Project Lead:** Aurora Pulliam

**Project:** Boatwright Road

**Description:** Enhance by grading smooth (potholes only) and re-gravelling.

**Project Lead:** Mike Hooker

**Project:** Melton Hill Bathhouse

**Description:** Install new bathhouse at the Melton Hill Campground.

**Project Lead:** Aurora Pulliam

**Project:** TVA Dam Reservation Campgrounds

**Description:** TVA will continue to enhance its six campgrounds on TVA dam reservations under concessionaire agreement with Recreation Resource Management by making upgrades and improvements to the facilities and grounds.

**Project Lead:** Tina Guinn

**Project:** Kentucky Dam Visitor Center

**Description:** Improve signage on dam reservation.

**Project Lead:** Veronica Walters

**Project:** East Lakeshore Trail Bridge

**Description:** Replace stairs on East Lakeshore Trail bridge crossing. Current stairs are wooden and starting to deteriorate, and will be replaced with steel stairs.

**Project Lead:** Ember Anderson

**Project:** Neil Peninsula Parking Area

**Description:** Install a new parking area at Neil Peninsula.

**Project Lead:** Drew Lyles

**Project:** Bass Bay Crooked Creek

**Description:** Concrete will be added to the existing launch ramp to improve longevity and user experience. Parking areas will be re-graded and fortified with new gravel.

**Project Lead:** Mike Hooker

**Project:** Blythe Ferry Ramp

**Description:** Make repairs to Blythe Ferry ramp and parking area on Chickamauga Reservoir in a partnership with Meigs County, Tennessee.

**Project Lead:** Heather Sellers

**Project:** Floating Cabins

**Description:** Work with stakeholders as final rule is published with outreach programs and implement permitting program.

**Project Lead:** Dave Harrell





# 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 (2 projects).

**Objective:** Enhance TVA recreation facilities to expand tourism and local visitation (2 projects).

**Project:** National Geographic MapGuide Partnership Support

**Description:** We will continue to work with partners in the seven-state region to enhance and maintain 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.

**Project Lead:** Bonnie Kourvelas

**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

**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, interpretive and hands-on learning areas.

**Project Lead:** Bonnie Kourvelas

**Project:** Loyston Point Trail Extension

**Description:** As a part of the overall multi-year plan for developing Loyston Point Recreation Area, this project will expand the trail system for an additional 5 miles of recreation opportunities. This addition will take this trail system from a recognizable regional destination into a system worthy of and receiving national attention and recognition with over 20 miles of trail. TVA has partnered with the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club for future maintenance of the current trail system.

**Project Lead:** Brian Ross



# 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.

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**Objective:** Create opportunities for public involvement in resource stewardship and recreation (4 projects).

**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 (1 project).

**Objective:** Encourage 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 (2 projects).

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**Project:** Project Healing Waters

**Description:** TVA will support Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc., Knoxville and Tennessee Valley region program. 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

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**Project:** TVA Science Kids - 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, and will 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 with which 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 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

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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 NR objectives and provide clear public benefit. We'll have 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 Stores

**Description:** 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

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**Project:** TVA Science Kids Children's World Water Monitoring Program

**Description:** Through the Children's World Water Monitoring Program, TVA engages elementary school children in science by providing water monitoring kits to selected schools and delivering in-class water education 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:** Melinda Watson

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**Project:** Visitor Centers, Signage and Marketing

**Description:** TVA plans to enhance visitors' experiences on TVA dam reservations and other TVA public lands by improving signage, displays and other communication tools.

**Project Lead:** Bonnie Kourvelas







