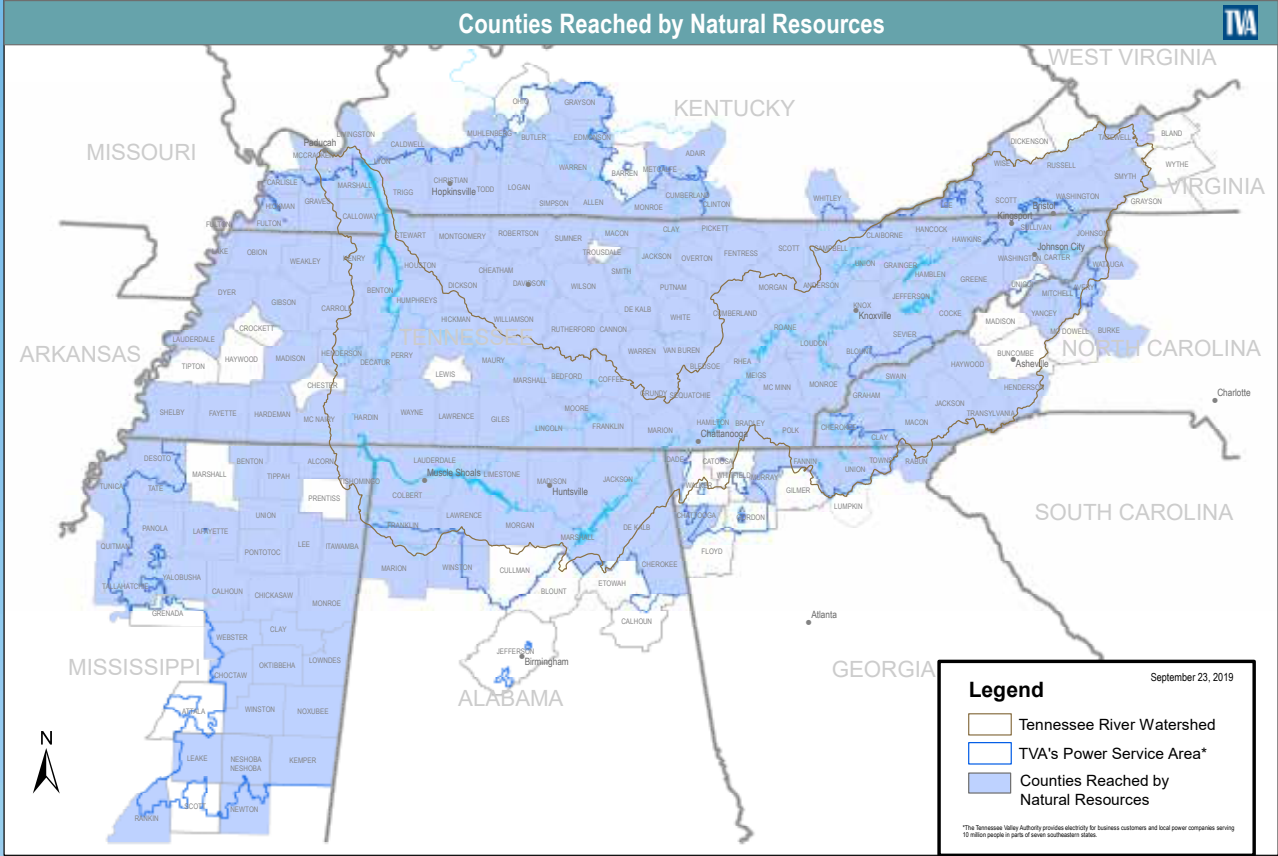


TVA Stewardship

2020

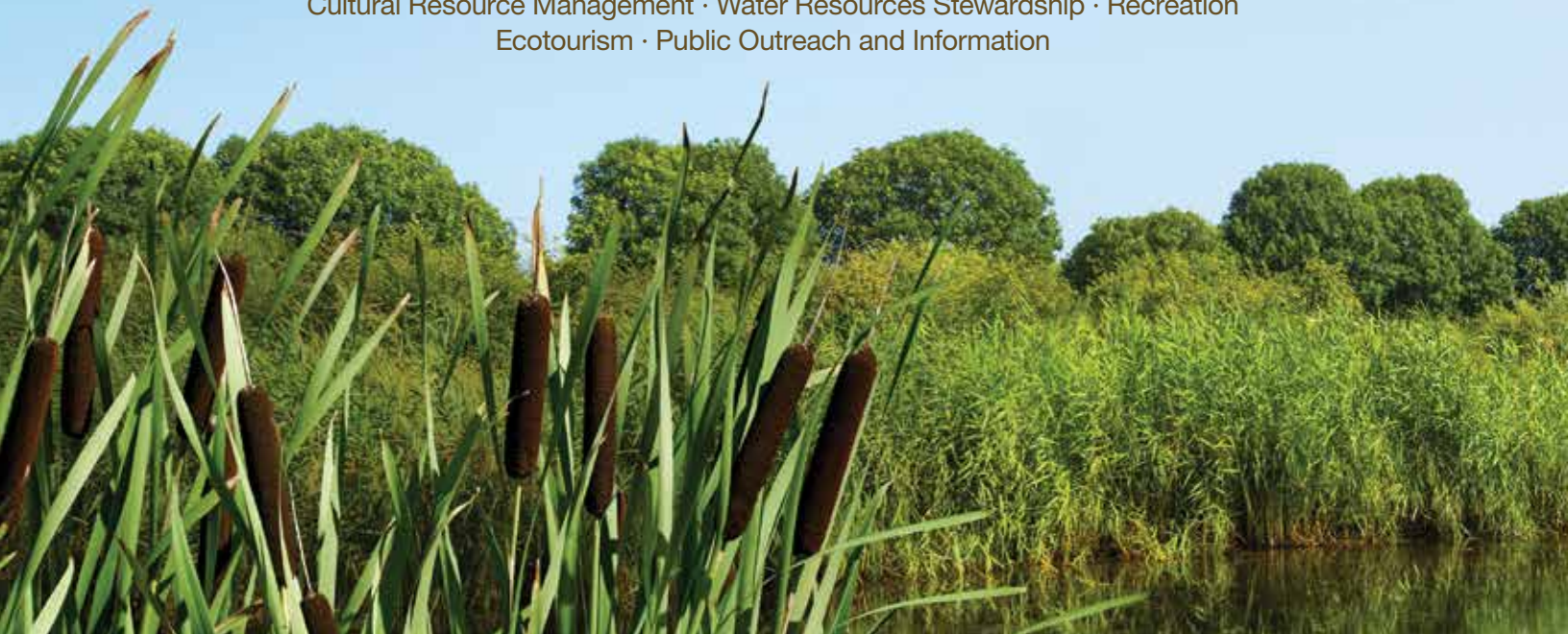


COUNTIES WE SERVE THROUGH STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS



FOCUS AREAS

Reservoir Lands Planning · Section 26a and Land Use Agreements · Public Land Protection
 Land and Habitat Stewardship · Nuisance and Invasive Species Management
 Cultural Resource Management · Water Resources Stewardship · Recreation
 Ecotourism · Public Outreach and Information



TO OUR VALLEY NEIGHBORS

We are excited to share with you TVA's stewardship projects planned for 2020 in the Tennessee Valley. This 2020 TVA Stewardship Booklet includes TVA's major stewardship projects for this year, divided into 10 focus areas we use to talk about 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 like 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 they can expect to see happening where.

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.



Updates to Reservoir Land Management Plans


PROJECT LEAD: LESLEY WHITE

TVA uses reservoir land management plans as a tool to manage the 293,000 acres of public land under its stewardship. In 2020, TVA will revise its reservoir land management plans and conduct National Environmental Policy Act reviews to support plan revisions for Tims Ford, Norris and other reservoir lands as required. Reservoir land plans are updated in an order that considers the age of the current plan, known deficiencies, and any developing trends that warrant potential changes. Updates to reservoir land plans allow TVA to respond to new issues and changes in conditions and circumstances. These important land use decisions are key to helping TVA strike a balance for

the overall health, economic development and recreation opportunities of our reservoir land.



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.

Section 26a Awareness Campaign

PROJECT LEAD: MILLI WARREN

In the TVA Act, Section 26a requires the public to obtain a permit from TVA for construction projects and other alterations along the shoreline to ensure these activities don't affect TVA's ability to manage the waters within the Tennessee River watershed. TVA is enhancing its website and other materials to help get the word out to stakeholders about how Section 26a works and let people know that they should contact TVA before commencing any shoreline construction activities.

Section 26a Realtor Workshops

PROJECT LEAD: MILLI WARREN

TVA will continue this popular outreach campaign to help realtors better understand TVA's permitting

requirements for using TVA public lands. These workshops provide realtors with the knowledge they need to help guide clients who are purchasing lakefront property.

TVA Land Surveys

PROJECT LEADS: NICK MORRIS AND TINA GUINN

TVA manages approximately 293,000 acres of public land with varying land management goals depending on the zone or land use classification. Surveying these lands enables TVA to ensure they are managed according to the land management plans and ready for public use when appropriate.

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 improvement to preserve natural and cultural resources and to ensure a good experience for users.



Public Land Protection Efforts

PROJECT LEAD: TYLER FERGUSON

TVA will proactively address potential public land concerns by conducting activities and outreach to support the protection of these lands and will collect reservoir information for specific issues.

Boundary Marking

PROJECT LEADS: KENLEY AUSTIN, GARRY CHAPPELLE, TAMMY MCCOY AND DAMIEN SIMBECK

Caring for public lands starts with knowing where TVA property ends and others' begins. In 2020, TVA will continue to reestablish and clearly mark public land property boundaries across the Tennessee Valley. New paint and improved signage mean TVA can be a better neighbor to those who share a boundary with TVA and help visitors navigate public property.

Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

TVA is continuing its partnership with the nonprofit organization Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful in hosting river cleanups at locations along the Tennessee River not reached by other local efforts. In addition to hosting cleanups, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful assists local organizations and communities with supplies and coordination for cleanups on Tennessee River waterways. Adopt-a-River-Mile is an outreach program also offered by Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to encourage local organizations to adopt sections of river to care for, allowing them to take action at a place of their choice and at their own pace.

Reservoir and Community Cleanups

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

This initiative supports volunteer cleanups, recycling efforts, and litter prevention activities led by partners across the TVA power service area and Tennessee River watershed. The project will also fund bags and gloves for TVA-led cleanups. All approved requests must align with TVA Natural Resources' objectives and provide a clear public benefit.

Natural Resources Maintenance and Inventory Project

PROJECT LEAD: TYLER FERGUSON

This is a continuation of a project in which TVA uses mobile technology to collect data on assets located on TVA public lands. These assets include picnic tables, playgrounds, roads, campgrounds and habitat enhancement areas that require maintenance and upkeep. This ongoing inventory supports TVA's efforts to ensure all assets are in good working order and it will assist in identifying needs for project development and planning.

Protecting Sensitive Resources

PROJECT LEAD: BRIAN STEWART

Off-road vehicles may be fun to ride, but they can damage sensitive resources and destroy natural habitats. TVA will create an access control system to prevent unauthorized use of off-road vehicles and trash dumping to protect sensitive areas and resources on public lands. The sites that are experiencing high levels of vehicle abuse are located on Cherokee, Norris, and Pickwick Reservoirs. These access controls will aid TVA in implementing future habitat enhancement projects.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK MORRISSEY

TVA will create a parking area and public access at Gourdneck Hollow along Tims Ford Reservoir. This public land is abused by off-road vehicle use, and is a common dumping site. By providing access for residents and visitors to enjoy the nearly 150 acres of public land associated with this site, TVA can deter the existing abuse and provide recreational opportunities.

Keeping Trash Where It Belongs

PROJECT LEAD: GARRY CHAPPELLE

TVA's public lands are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In most cases, people that come to enjoy public lands take good care of the areas, often leaving them cleaner than when they arrived. However, there are many areas where trash and litter are a problem. To address some of these more remote areas of abuse, TVA will purchase a boat to support trash cleanups and better mobilize the equipment needed to care for the public lands.

Protecting Shorelines

PROJECT LEAD: SCOTT LEA

Although erosion is a naturally occurring action along the water's edge, it can threaten to destabilize roads, trails, and other facilities. This is the case in Morgan County, Alabama, where TVA will use riprap to stabilize land along the Tennessee River.



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.



Grass and Agricultural Lands Management

PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE

Wildlife openings serve as interruptions in forested landscapes that are attractive to wildlife and that often provide nesting areas, food, and cover. In some cases, they are simply forest roads that create linear travel routes for both wildlife and people to access TVA land. Others are openings which are managed in high quality native, early-successional plant communities (i.e., grasses and forbs) to attract and provide for various species of wildlife. TVA will maintain these existing wildlife openings by controlling exotic and invasive plant encroachment and improving overall native plant communities.

Forest Enhancements

- TVA will continue to partner with the University of Tennessee through their tree improvement program in the re-establishment of historic TVA seed orchards to produce locally adapted tree seedlings for planting and reforestation efforts in east Tennessee. The improved seedlings will provide increased food production for wildlife, insect, and disease resistance.

PROJECT LEAD: RANDY SHORT

- TVA will continue to maintain and restore the shortleaf pine and native plant communities on multiple parcels on Cherokee Reservoir.

PROJECT LEADS: BRIAN STEWART AND KELVIN YOUNG

- TVA will improve an existing forest road to support future prescribed burn efforts, provide foot traffic access to TVA land, and enhance wildlife habitat by creating an opening.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK MORRISSEY

- TVA is taking steps to begin oak and shortleaf pine restoration and enhancements in the Lauderdale County Wildlife Management Area in Alabama.

PROJECT LEAD: JOSH BURNETTE

Wildlife Habitat Improvements

- TVA will partner with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to enhance wildlife habitat and improve overall forest health on Duck, Thief Neck, Iron Hill, Huffine, and Long Island on Watts Bar Reservoir. Management techniques will include prescribed burning and planting native vegetation.

PROJECT LEADS: SCOTT LEDFORD AND GARRY CHAPPELLE

- TVA will explore opportunities to use TVA rights of way as pollinator habitat sites. Suitable right of way sites identified include TVA public land associated with the Trotter Bluff Small Wild Area on Douglas Reservoir and the South Holston Dam Reservation near Osceola Island.

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

- TVA will continue efforts to restore fragile glade and barrens habitat by managing vegetation through mulching and prescribed burns at selected locations. Bird, reptile, and plant surveys will be conducted after implementation. These efforts will improve the overall biodiversity of these rare habitats.

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

University of Tennessee Research on Native Plant Communities

PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE

In selected areas across Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky, TVA and its partners at the University of Tennessee will evaluate plant communities and habitat quality following tall fescue eradication, and compare plant response from the seed bank and direct planting of native grasses and forbs. Information gathered can provide insight on pollinator possibilities associated with native plant communities.

West Sandy Drainage Rehabilitation

PROJECT LEAD: KELVIN YOUNG

TVA will continue to partner with the West Tennessee River Basin Authority, Henry County, United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to remove fallen trees and other woody debris in and along the West Sandy drainage area. This project will provide water impoundment relief for adjacent property owners, local farmers, and public land managers. TVA also will partner with USDA to manage nuisance animals.

Amphibian, Reptile, and Small Mammal Surveys

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

TVA is partnering with Virginia Highlands College and Virginia Tech to conduct amphibian and reptile surveys to identify occurrences of species listed as “species of greatest conservation need” and collect the information needed to guide decisions about habitat enhancement opportunities for salamanders at South Holston Reservoir. Information gathered can also be shared with other agencies to support their conservation efforts.

Caring for the Bats

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER HART

The Tennessee Valley is home to some of the most extensive bat colonies in the world. TVA continues to look for ways to ensure that the bats have what they need to survive and thrive. Projects this year include:

- Activities to increase surveillance and protection of caves and restrict cave access to protect endangered bat habitats.

- Monitoring 55 artificial bat roosts that were installed throughout the Valley over the past three years to provide instant habitat for the target species of Indiana and Northern long-ear bat. By monitoring these sites, TVA can determine the use of these roosts by bats and identify species.

- Partnering with University of Tennessee-Knoxville to track imperiled forest bats’ (female tri-color) summer foraging and roosting behavior around TVA reservoirs by transmitter attachment to help fill gaps in TVA knowledge of the species’ life history, aid in recovery planning, allow development of regulatory mechanisms, promote species persistence, and permit establishment of management alternatives that conserve, maintain, and improve critical spring/summer habitat.

- Sponsoring meetings and workshops that help bring together professionals to share information and strategies to help with bat conservation and protection, including the Tennessee Bat Working Group and the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Annual Meeting.

Tennessee Valley Dendrochronology Study

PROJECT LEADS: HEATHER HART, SUZANNE FISHER AND CURT JAWDY

TVA is partnering with University of Tennessee to examine tree rings of Eastern red cedar and similar species to gain information about past droughts. This information will extend TVA’s drought record by several hundred years and help it better prepare for potential droughts that may occur by quantifying the reliability of the water supply.

Our Feathered Friends

PROJECT LEAD: DAMIEN SIMBECK

- A partnership between TVA and the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, International Crane Foundation, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies, and others has been established to support the restoration of a self-sustaining migratory population of whooping cranes in eastern North America.
- TVA will support the Wings of Winter Birding Festival that highlights avian biodiversity. The festival will include field trips to Stewart, Benton, and Humphreys counties in Tennessee and Lyon, Marshall, Calloway, and Livingston Counties in Kentucky throughout November and December.

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.



Aquatic Plant Management

PROJECT LEAD: STEPHEN TURNER

Invasive and nuisance aquatic plant species have continued to spread throughout the Tennessee Valley. Each year, TVA's Aquatic Plant Management Program addresses new introductions of such species to slow or stop them before they become established. TVA also focuses on management of established species near developed public access areas.

- TVA will continue to manage aquatic plants near developed, public shorelines throughout the Tennessee Valley on an as-needed basis. Additional efforts will support the management of new new introductions on Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Fort Loudoun and other Reservoirs as identified during the growing season.
- TVA will collaborate with other agencies to use triploid (sterile) grass carp to address new introductions of aquatic exotic and invasive plant species and monitor the effectiveness of the carp in Beech and Parksville reservoirs.

Guntersville Stakeholder Partnership

PROJECT LEAD: STEPHEN TURNER

Guntersville Reservoir has a long history with nuisance aquatic plants. The shallow reservoir supports more than half of the Valley's 40,000 acres of aquatic plant growth. In 2020, TVA will continue to provide support to the Lake Guntersville Stakeholder Board to control plant growth and to help the group build its capacity to manage aquatic plants.

Plant Camp

PROJECT LEAD: STEPHEN TURNER

TVA is hosting a multiday workshop, Plant Camp, for teachers in the Tennessee Valley. The program provides information and materials about invasive plants and animals that can have significant impacts on the Valley's delicate ecosystems as well as its economy. Educators can then pass this information to their students.



Invasive Vegetation Management

Invasive species can disrupt native habitats and interrupt recreational activities. This year, we're focusing on:

- Removing invasive vegetation, such as kudzu, on TVA public lands near Norris, South Holston, and Chickamauga Reservoirs to enhance public access and wildlife habitat.

PROJECT LEADS: RANDY SHORT AND MARK ODOM

- Treating invasive plant species within selected TVA lands, including Battle Creek, Big Ridge Habitat Protection Area, Charleston, and Little Cedar Mountain. Removing these invasives allows native plants, such as wildflowers, to establish themselves in the area and enhance visitors' experience.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK ODOM



Raptor Nesting

PROJECT LEAD: R.J. MOORE

Osprey, and other raptors, are striking birds, but they can cause problems when they nest or roost in the wrong places. These large birds are fond of building nests or roosting on tall, man-made structures, which can include major power structures and hydro facilities, as well as other TVA power assets. TVA is working with Mississippi State University and other partners to conduct research on raptor movement, dispersal, and nest fidelity to find ways to balance protection for these and other avian species while protecting TVA's power infrastructure and assets.

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.



Archaeological Site Stabilization Projects

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN DUNSMORE

TVA will implement stabilization projects on Watts Bar, Chickamauga, and Wheeler Reservoirs to protect archaeological resources.

Protecting Native American Heritage

PROJECT LEAD: TOM MAHER

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires TVA to inventory Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony and repatriate those items to their rightful owners.

- TVA will address concerns regarding human remains and funerary objects that are under TVA control or curated by other entities in Alabama and Tennessee.
- TVA will validate the inventory of cultural items excavated from archaeological sites in Kentucky Reservoir. This information will be used to repatriate these items to federally recognized Native American tribes.
- TVA will continue into year six of a multiyear curation rehabilitation project to improve TVA collections obtained from the Works Projects Administration Survey and curated at the University of Alabama.

Cherokee Removal Trail

PROJECT LEADS: MARK ODOM AND MARIANNE SHULER

TVA will continue to partner with the city of Charleston, local organizations, and agency partners to plan and develop the Trail of Tears segment located in Polk County, Tennessee. This collaborative effort supports tourism, local economic development, and cultural stewardship. Through background research and mapping, TVA will document the locations and routes for the Trail of Tears on TVA lands and waterways. This project will help us manage a very sensitive resource that is considered sacred by federally recognized tribes.

Thousand Eyes Outreach Program

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN DUNSMORE

TVA's Thousand Eyes Archaeological Site Stewardship Program is an outreach effort that trains volunteers to help federal and state agencies with monitoring and protecting archaeological sites in the Tennessee Valley. Volunteers participate in a two-day workshop and work with TVA archaeologists to monitor these sites for vandalism, looting, and environmental damage.

Archaeological Research Initiative – Phase 2

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN DUNSMORE

This is a multiyear effort to collect information on unique archaeological features that have been found on TVA land across the Valley. Previous efforts focused on using new technology to provide a more effective means to identify sensitive resources, collaborating with federally recognized tribes and other archaeologists to develop a plan to better interpret the features. This year, TVA will continue its collaboration to summarize the findings and craft a management plan for the features.

Native Plants Partnership

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN DUNSMORE

TVA cultural and biological staff and Native American tribes are establishing a partnership to support the identification, propagation, harvesting, and collection of approved plants in what were once the tribes' homelands in the Tennessee Valley. Culturally important plant resources, such as river cane, thrive in the Tennessee Valley. However, since tribes were relocated outside the Valley, these important plants have not been readily available to them. Through this project TVA and the tribes will explore options to improve the availability of culturally important plants.

Preserving the Past

PROJECT LEAD: ERIN DUNSMORE

TVA will conduct identification surveys of historic properties on TVA lands pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which calls on all federal agencies to pursue their missions in a way that preserves cultural and historical places and artifacts. Locations will be selected based on areas with a high probability for archaeological sites. TVA's Section 110 data provides an inventory of sites that the agency is required to manage in a manner that maintains their integrity.



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 most precious resource and the aquatic life it supports. These efforts are designed to protect and enhance the river system.



Supporting the Sturgeon

PROJECT LEAD: MARK ODOM

This is the fifth year of TVA's partnership with the Tennessee Aquarium and the Sturgeon Recovery Group. TVA's support makes it possible to increase the number of sturgeon that can be reared and stocked. It provides rearing and monitoring equipment and supports both sturgeon research and public outreach.

Tennessee River Aquatic Biodiversity Network

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

Each year TVA hosts the Tennessee River Basin Aquatic Biodiversity Network meeting to bring together state and federal agencies; national and local conservation organizations, citizen-based watershed associations, municipalities and community groups; businesses, and universities that share a common goal of preserving the aquatic biodiversity of the Tennessee River Basin.

Clinch/Powell Watershed Initiative

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA is working with partners to improve aquatic biodiversity in the Clinch and Powell watersheds. These watersheds in the northeastern part of the Tennessee Valley are frequently recognized for their importance in aquatic biodiversity and habitat.

Stream Monitoring

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

Since the 1990s, TVA has assessed fish and other aquatic species to determine stream health across the Tennessee River watershed. This year, TVA will conduct its annual Index of Biological Integrity monitoring to assess streams and rivers throughout the system. TVA is also in year six of its Stream Sentinel Monitoring program, which works with federal and state partners to monitor stream sites in the watershed. The project assesses and tracks potential biological, ecological, and hydrological responses of aquatic ecosystems over time.



Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA is working with more than 30 partners through the Little Tennessee River Native Fish Conservation Partnership to protect and improve aquatic species in the Little Tennessee River watershed. This year's work includes a feasibility study to reintroduce native mussels to the upper Oconaluftee River.

Paint Rock River Watershed Protection

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA will work with The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish and maintain a riparian buffer along the Paint Rock River in northern Alabama. Through the partnership, TVA will support the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center with its efforts to assess, monitor, survey, and reintroduce some of the most imperiled freshwater mussels in the Paint Rock River.

Snail Darter Assessment

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

This is year four of TVA's effort to monitor for snail darters in the Tennessee River watershed. Building on this monitoring effort, TVA will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy to develop a monitoring protocol to support removal of the snail darter from threatened status.

Tennessee Buffer Initiative

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

In 2015 TVA collaborated with partners to implement the Elk River Buffer Initiative and has been very successful

in establishing over 150 acres of riparian buffers. The buffer initiative was expanded to the Duck River in 2017 and this year TVA will continue to bring in new partners to expand the program across Tennessee.

Southeastern Hellbender Conservation Initiative

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

TVA will partner with other agencies to improve the habitat of hellbender salamanders in TVA priority watersheds.

Tennessee River Shade Your Stream

PROJECT LEAD: SHANNON O'QUINN

In partnership with the Mainspring Conservation Trust and several state agencies and organizations, TVA will continue to expand the successful Shade Your Stream program from North Carolina to parts of northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee.

Tennessee Valley Clean Marinas

PROJECT LEAD: RASHARON KING

The Tennessee Valley Clean Marina designation tells visitors that a marina cares – not only about their recreational enjoyment for today, but also about preserving the health of Valley lakes for generations to come. Marinas in this program are recognized by TVA for going beyond normal operations to protect the water resources they rely on to generate income. This year we will expand outreach and communications efforts to increase the visibility of participating marinas.





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!



Public Land and Recreation Access Investments

Providing quality recreation means maintaining the assets TVA already has as well as making new upgrades and improvements to the public lands under its care. Each year, TVA works with federal, state, and local partners across the seven-state region to support and fund recreation projects in the Tennessee Valley. This year, TVA plans to make the following upgrades at dam reservations, reservoir lands, and surrounding public areas:

Boone

Enhance the launching ramp and parking area and associated roadway to improve lake access during the summer season. Additional stabilization will be added to the ramp.

PROJECT LEAD: JONATHAN MCNUTT

Cherokee

Construct a new parking area on the dam reservation.

PROJECT LEAD: JONATHAN MCNUTT

Create approximately 6.5 miles of new multiuse trail on TVA's Noeton Tract on Cherokee Reservoir. To support the new trail, TVA will also work to improve access near the parcel's entrance and install a kiosk with trail information.

PROJECT LEAD: BRIAN STEWART

Chickamauga

Install new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access to the water at the day-use beach area, and maintain and enhance the kiosks.

PROJECT LEAD: HEATHER SELLERS

Fontana

Replace the interpretive signs at the tailwater overlook and designate two ADA parking spots in the parking area. At the headwater picnic area, TVA will designate ADA parking and repair the water fountain.

PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND



Fort Loudoun

Explore the design of an overlook at the Recreational Day Use area.

PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND

Guntersville

Work with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the City of Guntersville to expand the Claysville boating access. Work will include additional parking, a new launching ramp, and new courtesy docks.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

Kentucky

Construct a new modular restroom on the right bank of the tailwater to support public recreation at the area.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

Explore options to develop the Wildcat Hiking Trail, a small loop trail on the western side of the reservoir. This trail will abut Wildcat Campground and the Blood River Public Launching Ramp.

PROJECT LEAD: VERONICA BANKS

Muscle Shoals

Install new benches and replace trail signs throughout the reservation and complete other trail maintenance activities.

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

Norris

Resurface the highly popular Songbird Trail with asphalt, and seal and stripe three parking lots on the dam reservation.

PROJECT LEAD: AURORA PULLIAM

Nottely

Partner with Union County, Georgia, to install a bathhouse at Meeks Park.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

Redbud

Replace the launching ramp and courtesy pier on the dam reservation to improve lake and fishing access.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

South Holston

Work to implement a new trail along the industrial tract on South Holston.

PROJECT LEAD: RANDY SHORT

Sycamore

Replace launching ramp and courtesy pier on the dam reservation.

PROJECT LEAD: JIMMY LEMMOND

Tellico

Repair walkways and install safety barriers. Expand the parking area within the Recreational Day Use area.

PROJECT LEAD: KERI CHARTRAND

Tims Ford

Improve access to Damron Ridge, a 150-acre parcel of TVA land just north of Tims Ford Dam Reservation. The parking area will include an access control feature and will be located at the end of Evans Road.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK MORRISSEY

Watts Bar

In partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, repair a 150-foot section of the Roddy Access Road leading to the public boat launch ramp in the Whites Creek embayment on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County.

PROJECT LEAD: SCOTT LEDFORD



Scenic Floatways

PROJECT LEAD: DEREK SOUTH

- TVA will support water trail use by conducting routine maintenance of four stream access sites each at the Duck and Elk Rivers scenic floatways. This maintenance will include vegetation management, signage replacement, dangerous tree removal, parking area improvements, and erosion control.
- Along the Duck River Water Trail, TVA will expand the parking area, install a fence on the property line, and install access gates and animal-proof trash cans at the Dement and Three Forks access sites. TVA will partner with the city of Florence to develop a canoe access site near Highway 133.

Partnership Trails

Valley River Pedestrian Bridge

TVA will collaborate with the city of Murphy to construct a new pedestrian bridge along the Murphy Riverwalk Trail that will cross the Valley River.

PROJECT LEAD: KEMMY GARRETT

Chickamauga Day-Use Connector

TVA will explore the opportunity to create a connection from Chickamauga River Park to TVA's Chickamauga day-use area.

PROJECT LEAD: CLAY GUERRY

Campground Improvements

PROJECT LEAD: TINA GUINN

All six of TVA's dam reservation campgrounds are managed by the Recreation Resource Management (RRM) firm under a concessionaire agreement with TVA. Together, TVA and RRM will continue to make upgrades at the campgrounds and associated day-use areas.

Tennessee Valley Camp-Right Campgrounds

PROJECT LEAD: RASHARON KING

Through this program, TVA promotes the benefits of sustainable camping on TVA public lands and provides resources for owners to showcase their eco-friendly campground improvements and commitment to environmentally responsible practices.



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.



Dam Explorer Program

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA continues to work with local communities to plan and create 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 features. TVA will continue its work with partners interested in the Tellico and Fort Loudoun Dam Reservations, and explore additional opportunities.

National Geographic Tennessee River Valley MapGuide

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA collaborates with partners in its seven-state service region to promote the web-based National Geographic Tennessee River Valley MapGuide, which showcases the beauty and wonder of our natural resources and heritage, and promotes recreational opportunities across the Valley. The MapGuide is a great way to increase awareness and tourism in the Valley. This year's efforts will focus on supporting rural communities to improve their tourism economies.

Stream Access Use and Economic Impact Study

PROJECT LEAD: CLAY GUERRY

TVA and its partner will wrap up this multiyear study to determine the recreational visitation, expenditures, and annual economic impacts of stream access sites in Georgia, North Carolina, and east Tennessee.

Tennessee RiverLine

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

After initiating partnerships with five pilot communities, TVA continues to support the Tennessee RiverLine partnership, which engages Valley communities in developing and promoting a continuous, multimodal (paddle, hike, bike) system of outdoor recreation experiences along the 652-mile Tennessee River. The trail will use existing facilities when available and work with communities to determine the feasibility and benefit of creating new recreation supports – such as river access points, pavilions, trails, and camping areas on public lands – to create and enhance the continuous RiverLine.

Three County Trail Connector Corridor Study

PROJECT LEAD: CLAY GUERRY

TVA will study the feasibility and need to connect two state parks, one county park, marinas, the Norris watershed, and existing TVA lands and trails within Campbell, Union, and Anderson Counties in east Tennessee.

Memphis Playground

PROJECT LEAD: CLAY GUERRY

TVA will begin to develop a conceptual design and environmental review to support the creation of a playground in Memphis.



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.



Outdoor Store Partnerships

PROJECT LEAD: SUZANNE FISHER

This year TVA will focus on Paducah and Murray, Kentucky, and Paris, Tennessee, and partner with outdoor retailers to provide information on the best places in the Valley to hike, bike, and paddle. Through this initiative, TVA can increase awareness of recreational activities and opportunities at select TVA locations across the Valley.

Volunteering With TVA

PROJECT LEAD: SUZANNE FISHER

Through its Volunteer Program, TVA continues to expand its network of volunteers for maintaining trails, cleaning

up shorelines, preserving historic sites, and other activities. Volunteers can participate in Valleywide event days, including National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day, as well as Adopt-a-Trail and Adopt-a-Spot experiences. TVA provides the resources, materials, training, and support for volunteers to engage in fun and rewarding efforts that improve public lands.

World Water Monitoring

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

Through the TVA Science Kids World Water Monitoring Program, TVA engages elementary school children in science by providing water monitoring kits to selected schools and presenting in-class water-oriented

educational programs. During the summer months, TVA delivers the program to Boys and Girls Clubs, state parks, scouting groups, and other organizations.



Visitor Centers, Signs, and Displays

PROJECT LEAD: TIFFANY FOSTER

TVA values the people visiting public lands and is striving to improve their experience by upgrading visitor centers, creating interpretive signs and interactive displays, and sharing information about public lands and recreational opportunities.

Community Outreach Support

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

This initiative supports community programs related to environmental education and stewardship within the TVA service area and Tennessee River Watershed. Protecting and enhancing public lands and waterways takes strong community partnerships. All approved requests must align with TVA Natural Resources' objectives and provide clear public benefit.

TVA Explorer: River Trek

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

The TVA Explorer website is being created to provide school students an opportunity to explore TVA and the Tennessee River Valley from their desks. An interactive map of the Tennessee River Valley showcases stops along the river that give the visitor in-depth information about the flora and fauna living here and TVA efforts to protect and manage it.



Citizen Science BioBlitz

PROJECT LEAD: MELINDA WATSON

- The citizen science BioBlitz partnership with Discover Life in America uses expert naturalists and biologists to train volunteer participants to conduct biological inventories on TVA public lands. TVA will host these family-friendly events on its public lands, and will include opportunities to learn about the plants and animals in their natural habitats. These events will help increase awareness of TVA public lands and the natural resources entrusted to us.
- We will also use BioBlitz methodology and the iNaturalist app to extend our environmental outreach to schoolchildren and their teachers, helping them to discover plants and animals on their school grounds or in public parks.

Highlighting Aquatic Diversity

PROJECT LEADS: SHANNON O'QUINN AND KELVIN YOUNG

TVA increases awareness of the value of clean water, aquatic resources, and TVA's efforts to protect these resources through hands-on learning events across the region, including High School Fishing Outreach, bass tournaments, and various Kids in the Creek events.



Visit us at TVA.com

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 or call 800-882-5263 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET.