



Naturally TENNESSEE

Preserve & Protect It

TDEC 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

[#naturallytn](#)

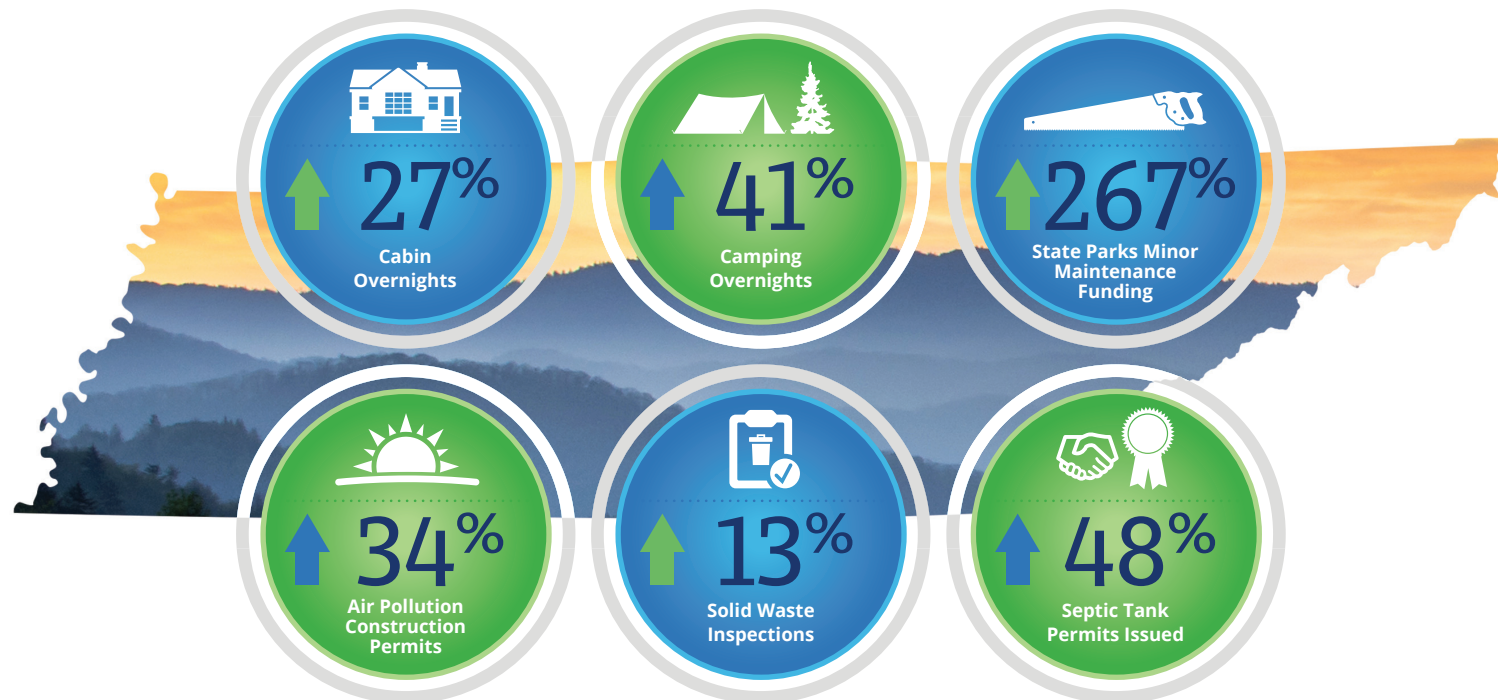
Dear Fellow Citizens,

This is a historic season for Tennessee. It's a time of record economic development and employment, tourist activity, and population growth. I'm proud to note our department supports this overall momentum, and this annual report details how TDEC is protecting Tennessee's environment, advancing conservation, and promoting outdoor recreation as part of Tennessee's progress.

The big picture impact of TDEC is clear. Tennessee State Parks hosted more than **36 million** visits and created an economic impact of almost **\$2 billion** in the past year. We have worked with the Governor's Office and General Assembly to develop the TN Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Plan that will invest more than **\$1.35 billion** from the American Rescue Plan into Tennessee communities' drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems during the next five years. This is in addition to the **\$109 million** from our State Revolving Fund awarded for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to benefit **22 different Tennessee communities** last year. Investing in these critical assets not only addresses our current needs resulting from aging infrastructure, leaking pipes, lost water, and sewer overflows, but our plan is making Tennessee communities ready for success in the future.

Along with these high-level results, TDEC is supporting Tennessee's progress in a variety of ways across our programs, people and projects. We are working harder and smarter across the department to meet the increasing demand for our services that comes with Tennessee on the rise. **You can see evidence of our work through the growth and results over the past five years in these activity areas:**

In the last 5 years:



TDEC's Executive Leadership Team at Cumberland Mountain State Park with Ranger Mark Houston, from left to right: Kelley Clemmons, Executive Assistant for Commissioner Salyers, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Environment Greg Young, Ranger Houston, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Operations, Strategy and Engagement Karen Simo, General Counsel Jenny Howard, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Parks and Conservation Greer Tidwell, and Commissioner David Salyers.

The General Assembly's historic investments in our state parks are already beginning to reap rewards. As maintenance backlogs are addressed, state-of-the-art lodges come online, and overnight stays reach historic volumes, economic impact on rural areas has soared. We hope communities continue to take pride in their local Tennessee State Park.

At the same time, strong economic activity has translated into increased activity within TDEC's Bureau of Environment. The Divisions of Air Pollution Control, Water Resources, and Solid Waste Management have issued record numbers of permits and inspected more facilities than ever. Despite this heavy workload, they have maintained a high standard of customer service. Some of Tennessee's most trusted companies have publicly praised TDEC for its solutions-based approach. **Customers large and small continue to return positive surveys evaluating TDEC employee performance, and satisfaction ratings hold strong at 93%.**

The quality of life we have in Tennessee requires a vibrant economy and a clean environment. TDEC is working smarter, not just harder, every day to fulfill its mission. I salute each citizen and our many partners who help us succeed. **I am proud to lead Tennessee's quality of life department and preserve and protect what is naturally Tennessee.**

David



David W. Salyers, P.E.

#naturallytn

Experience It

Access 2030 Is Growing Outdoor Opportunities for All

Tennessee State Parks have launched **Access 2030**, a plan to further engage Tennesseans with the parks both in physical accessibility and diversity in programs and activities.

Access 2030 began in January, establishing goals and identifying best practices for researching and collaborating with stakeholders and park staff on the needs for accessibility. Programming is designed to provide safe, quality, interpretive, educational, and recreational experiences for all park visitors.

Parks leadership recognizes access is not any one thing. Many reasons exist for people not visiting the parks. They may lack transportation, may not culturally identify with the interpretation or recreation offered at the park, may have disabilities that limit their enjoyment of parks, or they may not see themselves reflected in the staff or other visitors to the parks. Access 2030 addresses all these issues.

The Americans with Disabilities Act became law in 1990 and established minimums for accessibility. **Access 2030 seeks to grow beyond providing access to bathrooms and parking spaces, opening the door wide to welcome and invite anyone and everyone to feel that parks are places they can enjoy.** The Access 2030 plan has several objectives including removing physical barriers; developing a diverse workforce, including diversity through a Seasonal Interpretive/Recreators program; and developing new methods for inclusiveness.

The parks have also embarked on Telling Full Stories, an approach to research park stories, develop inclusive programs, and work with communities with various cultures. Examples in Telling Full Stories include addressing slavery, women's history, indigenous history, civil rights, equal justice, environmental justice, and labor history.

Another element of inclusiveness is developing programs for kids. The goal is for more children to grow up identifying parks as safe, welcoming places and develop an interest in them. The objective is to identify parks as places to learn, grow, and play. The Kids in Parks initiative, created by the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy, is designed to build confidence, reduce stress and anxiety, spur exercise, increase creativity, teach responsibility, and think analytically.

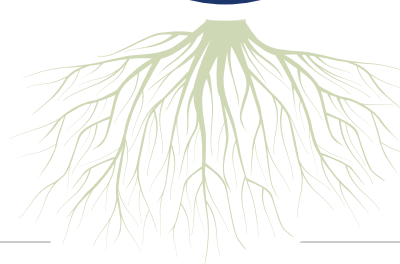
The parks will grow a culture of park use by teachers and students, implementing educational programs that will be assessed for future use. These steps will also support the goals of Access 2030.

Accomplishments in accessibility already include creating a new accessible assets map and receiving a grant to obtain all-terrain wheelchairs. The steps include forming Minority Advisory Committees and expanding recruiting efforts at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and affinity groups. The parks are also providing a mentoring process for the Seasonal Interpretive/Recreators program.

The parks are enjoying great success in the numbers of visitors, and they are dedicated to making sure people from all walks of life feel they are a part of that success.



1. **Remove physical barriers** so all guests have unique experiences
2. **Develop a parkwide Accessible Plan** to be implemented at Henry Horton State Park and serve as a template for other parks
3. Connect people to Tennessee State Parks' resources via technology in ways that **complement and expand interpretation** within and beyond the park
4. Provide safe, quality interpretive, educational, and recreational **experiences for all** park visitors
5. Identify and replicate **best practices** while establishing new methods for representing diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just dialogues
6. Reach out to historically marginalized communities with SIR recruitment efforts that **purposefully communicate a welcoming and supportive environment** and encourage people from all backgrounds to apply
7. Make the Bureau of Parks & Conservation **stronger** through a more diverse workforce



The Access 2030 plan has several objectives including removing physical barriers; developing a diverse workforce through increased intentionality in our Seasonal Interpretive Recreators (SIR) program recruitment; and developing new methods for inclusiveness.





Division of Remediation Addresses Legacy Pollution

TDEC's Division of Remediation is primed to capitalize on new funding to clean up and restore contaminated sites across Tennessee, increasing the strong momentum already found in the Division's work.

The 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$3.5 billion for remediation at Superfund sites across the country – those that involve some of the most contaminated locations – **and EPA has already committed over \$109 million to National Priorities List (NPL) sites in Tennessee.** Those funds include \$3.7 million for a former Custom Cleaners site in Memphis; \$4 million for the Smoky Mountain Smelters site in Knoxville; \$6.6 million for the Walker Machine Shop site in Collierville, and \$87.7 million for the Chattanooga Southside site.

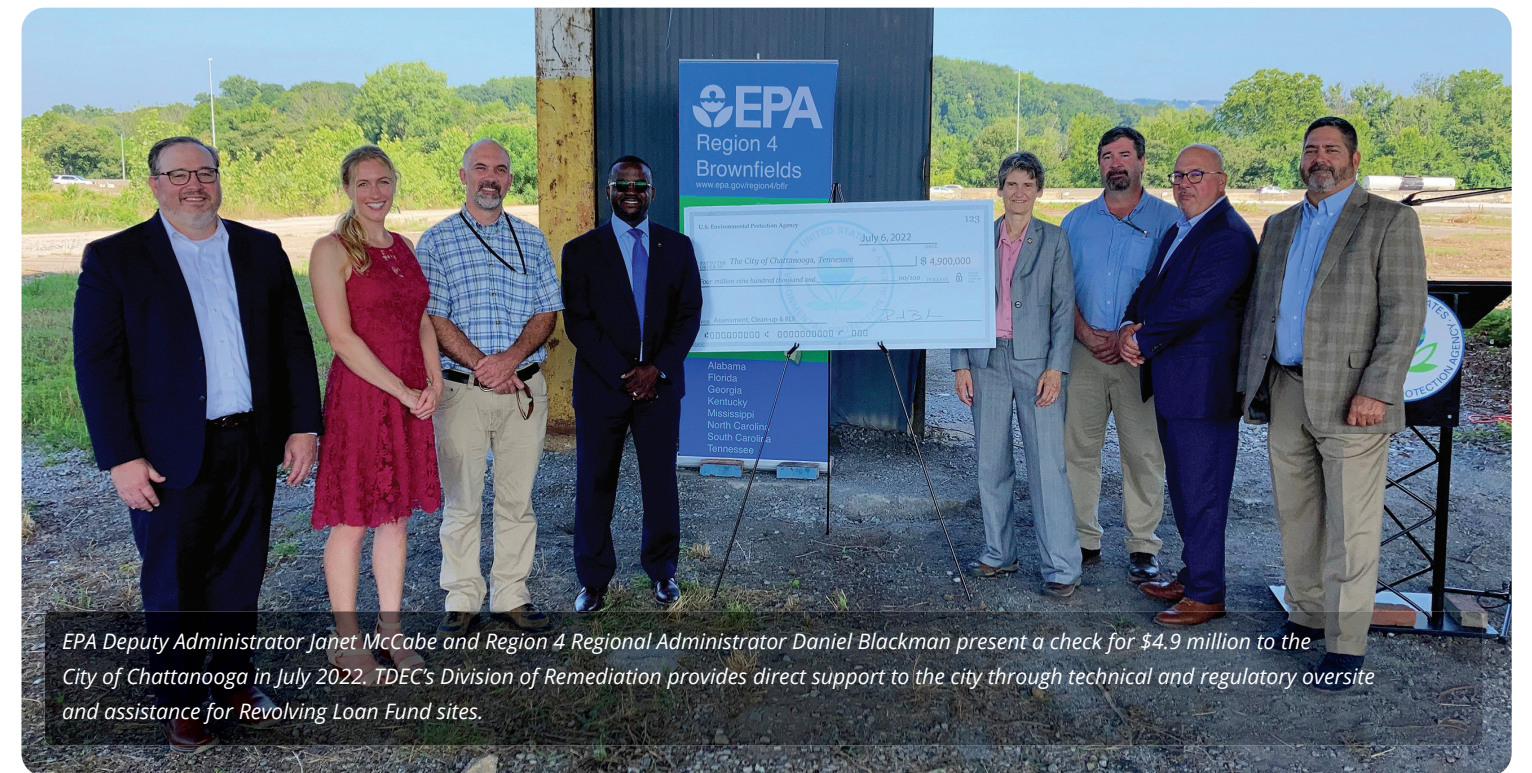
The Division of Remediation is also reviewing Superfund State Contracts, agreements between the Environmental Protection Agency and the state, for an additional \$70 million at the Velsicol Chemical site in Hardeman County and \$1.2 million for the Smalley-Piper site in Collierville.

Meanwhile, TDEC has launched its own initiative, **TN Clean, which leverages funding opportunities to review, prioritize, and remediate sites** that are listed on the state's Government Accounting Standards Board 49 report. The FY22-23 budget appropriates \$22 million to begin work on these sites, and the Division of Remediation recently hired a coordinator for the TN Clean program.

The Division's Voluntary Oversight and Assistance Program continues to work with industry, communities, developers, and others for the redevelopment or reuse of brownfields. Brownfield properties, which are abandoned or underutilized due to contamination or the perception of contamination, are in communities across the state and contribute to the economic, social, and environmental decline in these communities. The Division's program has been successful. In FY21-22, the Voluntary Oversight and Assistance Program issued 61 letters of No Further Action for projects that completed work under the oversight of division project managers.

The Division continues its focus on groundwater, an extremely valuable and finite resource in the state. Approximately 1.6 million people, particularly in West Tennessee, rely on groundwater as a source of their drinking water. The Division of Remediation identified several dry-cleaner-related solvents in groundwater in the Jackson area and continues to pursue remediation of such sites in that area and throughout Tennessee.

TDEC is committed to tackling all such issues, using new funds efficiently and working with communities to ensure the highest possible quality of cleanup and revitalization, all reflecting the Division's dedication to a clean, safe, and healthy Tennessee.



EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe and Region 4 Regional Administrator Daniel Blackman present a check for \$4.9 million to the City of Chattanooga in July 2022. TDEC's Division of Remediation provides direct support to the city through technical and regulatory oversight and assistance for Revolving Loan Fund sites.



Crews install a monitoring well in the Memphis Aquifer at the Custom Cleaners Superfund site in July 2022.

#naturallytn

Monitor It

Partnerships Are Key to De-Listings for Multiple Endangered Species

TDEC celebrated the delisting of Cumberland sandwort from the federal list of endangered species in April, another significant step in conservation and another example of strength in partnerships.

The achievement reflects the same sort of commitment that led to the historic delisting of the Tennessee coneflower in September 2011.

Cumberland sandwort is found in a small area in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky, and in 1988 it was placed on the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. At the time of the listing, only 28 occurrences of the plant were known. Cumberland sandwort is now found in 71 places, 66 of which are on federal and state lands.

Officials from TDEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service marked the delisting in a special event at Hazard Cave at Pickett CCC Memorial State Park in Jamestown.

Species No Longer Endangered in the State of Tennessee



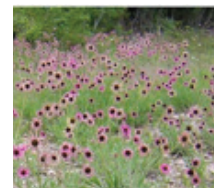
Snail Darter (*Percina tanasi*)
Removed in 2022



Cumberland Sandwort (*Arenaria cumberlandensis*)
Removed in 2021



Eggert's Sunflower (*Helianthus eggerti*)
Removed in 2005



Tennessee purple coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*)
Removed in 2010

First described to science in 1979 by Dr. Robert Kral of Vanderbilt University and Dr. Eugene Wofford of the University of Tennessee, the plant occurs at the base and ledges of sandstone cliffs or rockhouses in only four Tennessee counties – Pickett, Fentress, Morgan and Scott – and one county in Kentucky, McCreary.

TDEC botanists worked with botanists from the Big South Fork National Recreation Area, rangers from the state park, and volunteers to achieve the delisting. Other partners with Tennessee and Kentucky in the effort were the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, and Missouri Botanical Garden.

To ensure the species' viability, TDEC's Division of Natural Areas and partners will continue monitoring the species for five years under the guidance of a post-delisting monitoring plan, which defines thresholds of sandwort populations.



Officials from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) celebrated the delisting of Cumberland sandwort in April 2022.



Arenaria cumberlandensis





Task Force Commits Resources to Humphreys County

TDEC is firmly committed to the ongoing recovery for Waverly and Humphreys County after the August 21, 2021, floods that killed 21 people and destroyed many homes and businesses.

TDEC leaders are part of a comprehensive task force formed from various state agencies to address the diverse needs of the community. The group is assisting in both near-term and long-term support. This approach will not only serve Waverly/Humphreys County but will map a plan to protect communities facing flooding in the future.

Gov. Bill Lee called for the task force, designed to deliver timely, meaningful resources. TDEC Commissioner David Salyers is vice chairman of the group – formally known as the City of Waverly/Humphreys County Flood Recovery and Mitigation Task Force – chaired by Patrick Sheehan, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

A major disaster declaration was made for Humphreys County, resulting in applications for 84 projects with an estimated cost of over \$184 million. The declaration paved the way for resources, funding, and administrative support. Action thus far has included housing assistance, infrastructure repairs, debris removal, financial assistance for small businesses, and streambank stabilization. The task force focuses on resources available from government at all levels as well as nonprofit organizations. The storm also seriously affected Dickson, Hickman, and Houston counties.

Gov. Lee joined the community for memorial services in August 2022 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Humphreys County disaster. He noted survivors of events like this extraordinary flooding find themselves at the intersection of tragedy and hope. He committed personally, and on behalf of the state of Tennessee, to work determinedly toward the realization of that hope. TDEC amplifies Gov. Lee's promise, as we assure citizens of this hard-hit area that they are not alone and that the state has not forgotten them. The plan is to build back, smarter, stronger, and more resilient. *TDEC is committed to seeing the work endure.*



The Task Force met in person on December 16, 2022, to share subcommittee progress and determine new ways to collaborate.

Actions & Progress:

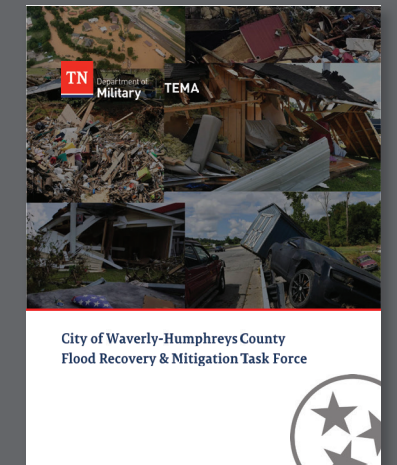
1. MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION: August 24, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEMA Public Assistance: 84 projects and \$184m FEMA Individual Assistance: 84 projects and \$7m Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance Low-Interest Disaster Loans from U.S. Small Business Administration 	2. Hydrologic modeling of Trace Creek	3. Emergency Watershed Program construction on Hurricane Creek Dam	4. Streambank stabilization recovery measures
	5. Watershed plan for Trace Creek approved and funded for development	6. Stream sensors placed in Waverly and near Gorman	7. Waverly selected to participate in Tennessee Downtowns program
8. Wastewater study for regional facility near I-40	9. Immediate housing recovery actions with THDA	10. Housing and Development Rebuild and Recover Grant, \$500k	11. Infrastructure improvements and repairs to local roads, guardrails and fences
			12. Debris removal from public property, right of ways, schools and streams

“While participants come to the Task Force with differing roles and responsibilities, we all shared a common focus: Let’s identify best opportunities and comprehensive solutions for Humphreys County to rebuild effectively and promote long-term resilience.”

– David W. Salyers, P.E.



Task Force members field questions and feedback from locals during the US Corps of Engineer's public meeting in Waverly on April 22, 2022



Flood Recovery and Mitigation Task Force Subcommittees

Economic Development
 Chair: Ted Moore,
 Humphreys County Economic Development Council

Education
 Chair: Richard Rye,
 Humphreys County Schools

Hydrology
 Chair: Joe Sahl,
 US Army Corps of Engineers

Infrastructure
 Chair: Preston Elliott,
 TN Department of Transportation

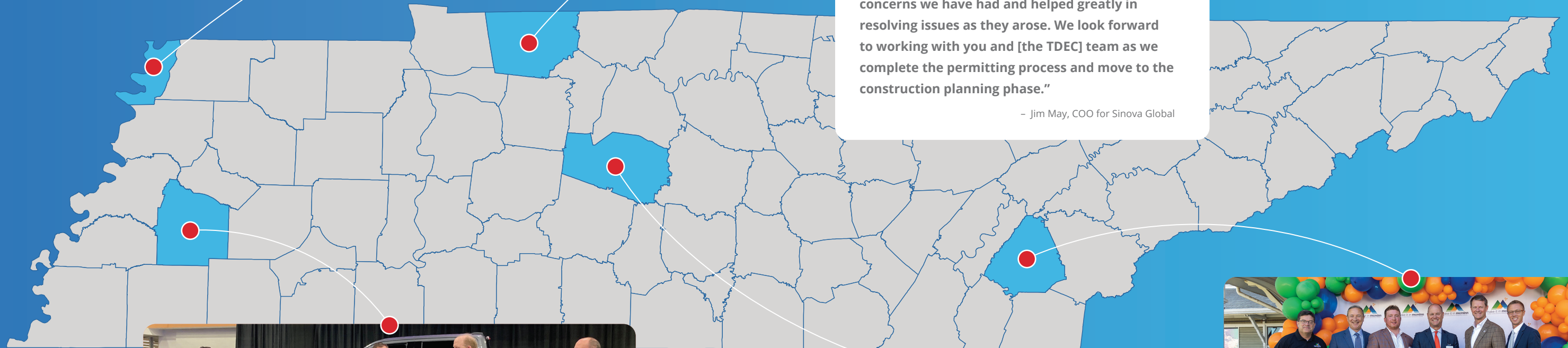
Long-term Recovery and Mitigation
 Chair: Chris Johnson,
 TN Emergency Management Agency

Public Private Partnerships
 Chair: Shelley Morris,
 The Nature Conservancy

#naturallytn

Support It

Tennessee Businesses Embrace Sustainability & TDEC



"I just wanted to send a note to you and the [TDEC] team to let you know how much Sinova Global and our team appreciates the work and continual follow up we received during the permitting process. You have been our go to sources for any questions or concerns we have had and helped greatly in resolving issues as they arose. We look forward to working with you and [the TDEC] team as we complete the permitting process and move to the construction planning phase."

- Jim May, COO for Sinova Global



"TDEC has been a great partner; not only a government regulator, over the years."

- Don Haynes, Environmental & Sustainability Manager for Florim USA



"Ford is so excited to have chosen West Tennessee as home for Blue Oval City where we will manufacture our next generation F-series electric truck. TDEC has been a fantastic partner in this process. We have been so impressed by their ability to move at the speed of business and they consistently display creative problem solving. We appreciate their expertise not only in the permitting and regulatory processes & regulations but also in assisting us with identifying sustainability initiatives to help mitigate environmental impacts. They do a great job of balancing their responsibility to enforce the laws and protect the environment while also being sensitive to business considerations for Ford."

- Gabby Bruno, Economic Development and Government Relations Director



"It's important that Tennessee has a program that supports our industry in sustainability! This program really encouraged us to be even more sustainable."

- Chase Vienneau, Winemaker for Arrington Vineyards



"Piedmont Lithium is proud to bring our new project to Tennessee. During our site selection process and since announcement, TDEC has made the process of understanding and progressing permit expectations seamless. The knowledge and expertise of the personnel in each department allows our growing team to work efficiently to ensure adequate permitting strategies and alignment on site development and future construction planning."

- Monique Parker, VP Environmental Health & Safety for Piedmont

#naturallytn

Visit It

Capital Investments Bring New Lodges and Restaurants Online

Tennessee State Parks saw an extraordinary year in capital projects, including opening two new lodges, made possible by continued support from the Tennessee General Assembly.

The parks opened lodges at Fall Creek Falls State Park and Paris Landing State Park, and a new restaurant and visitors center at Henry Horton State Park. The Lodge at Fall Creek Falls is an 85-room hotel with a conference center and full-service restaurant. The Lodge at Paris Landing has 91 rooms and a full-service restaurant and lounge, with indoor and outdoor dining. Henry Horton has a 6,381-square-foot restaurant and two-story visitors center. The projects enhance what were already highly popular destinations.

The Lodge at Fall Creek Falls is built for visitors looking for escapes in a natural setting. The rooms overlook Fall Creek Falls Lake, and all rooms feature balconies with views of the lake. The restaurant has indoor and outdoor lakeside dining with a total dining capacity of 174 people. The ballroom can be divided into two spaces and holds up to 256 people. Conference and meeting spaces are available inside the lodge and at several locations throughout the park.

The Lodge at Paris Landing offers many spaces to gather and relax, including fire pits, reading nooks, and living room areas. The design of the lodge is inspired by the setting of Kentucky Lake and the commanding views of the open water.

Henry Horton State Park welcomes visitors with a new two-story visitor center and spacious restaurant. The restaurant will seat 106 people inside and 52 people outside. A 32-seat area will be for private dining, and a lounge will hold 30 seats. The visitors center has a 1,154-square-foot exhibit and interpretive area and a conference room of the same size. It includes a gift shop, and offices account for another 2,100 square feet of the building.



THE LODGE AT PARIS LANDING STATE PARK



THE LODGE AT FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK



THE LODGE AT PARIS LANDING STATE PARK



HENRY HORTON STATE PARK VISITOR CENTER & RESTAURANT

#naturallytn

Maintain It

Record Maintenance Funding Improves State Parks Facilities

Tennessee State Parks are primed to make the most of the new State Parks Funding Act, which establishes a way for revenue from hospitality facilities to be set aside for future investment at the parks.

The General Assembly has been a strong supporter of the parks for more than a decade, and that support is now bolstered by the designated funding, where park surpluses will not go back to the state's general fund but be used for routine maintenance, major maintenance, and capital improvements for the parks.

Continued maintenance enhances the visitor's experience with timely upkeep and prevents large expenses down the road. It is part of a concerted effort to make sure state parks continue to be strong attractions.

To further align with timely maintenance, recent legislation changed a 36-year-old spending threshold defining major and minor maintenance. It changed the definition of major maintenance requiring approval by the State Building Commission by increasing the threshold from \$100,000 to \$250,000. While just signed into law in March, it is already helping tackle minor maintenance projects.

In addition to the recurring annual minor maintenance budget, for FY22 the legislature appropriated \$26 million for deferred maintenance projects and \$4 million for maintenance work around the Bill Dance Fishing Trail lakes. In the last two years, the parks have received over \$46 million in funding for traditional and deferred maintenance. Through FY22, the three regional maintenance offices have tackled over 1,664 projects from these funds.

Looking ahead to FY23, an additional \$257 million is appropriated to renovate historic cabins, improve park accessibility, renovate or improve 11 campgrounds, replace playgrounds in seven parks, and eliminate the deferred maintenance backlog.

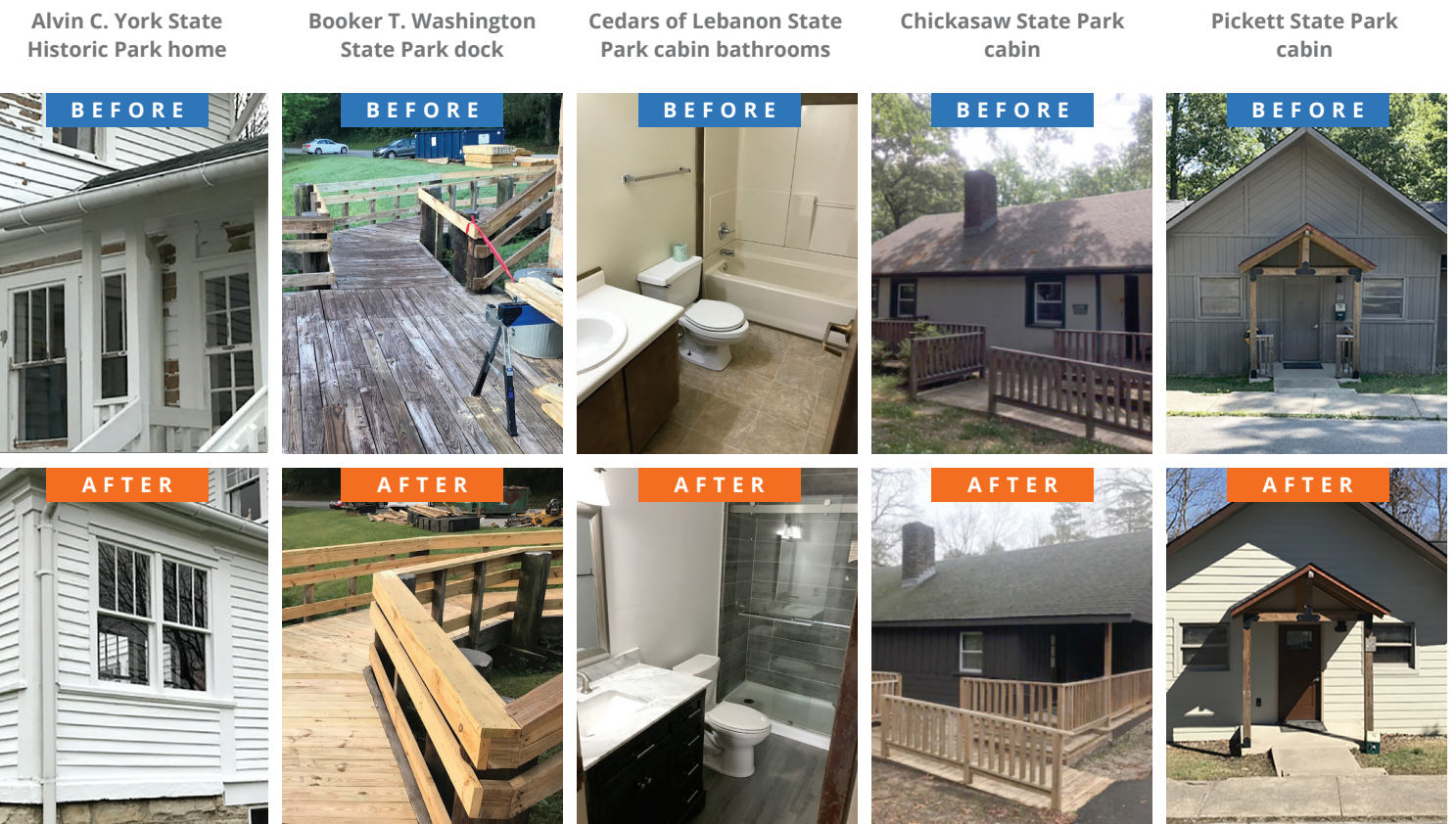
FY23 APPROPRIATIONS

\$257 MILLION



Several members of the General Assembly join TDEC staff on the annual Legislative Field Trip to visit Tennessee State Parks and experience improvements first-hand.

Facility Improvements





Infrastructure Grants Transform Rural Water Systems

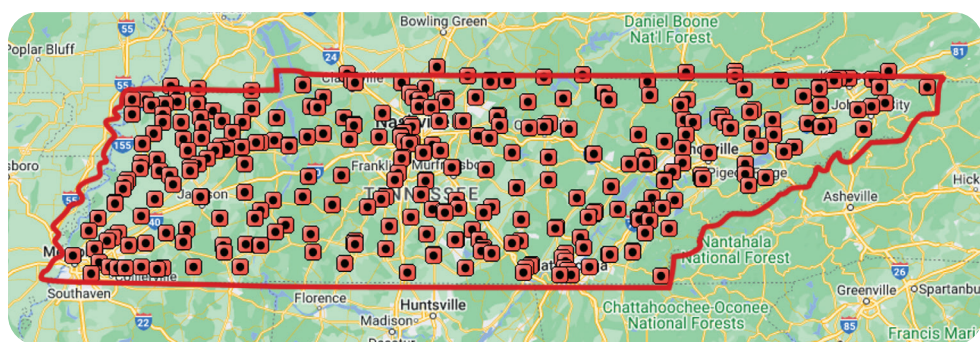
TDEC is awarding grants from its part of the funds from the American Rescue Plan. The ARP, which became effective March 11, 2021, is designed to help Americans recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were provided to state and local governments for a variety of potential uses, including improving water infrastructure.

Tennessee received \$3.725 billion from the ARP, and the state's Financial Stimulus Accountability Group dedicated \$1.35 billion of those funds to TDEC to support water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects in communities throughout Tennessee. Of the \$1.35 billion, approximately \$1 billion was designated for non-competitive formula-based grants offered to counties and eligible cities. The remaining \$269 million go to state-initiated projects and toward competitive grants.

While developing the Water Infrastructure Investment Plan to direct its funds, TDEC received approximately 300 unique public comments from 148 individuals or entities. The department engaged communities by holding virtual town hall meetings, webinars, workshops, and demonstrations. Now complete, the plan focuses support on projects to improve critical water infrastructure in small, disadvantaged, or underserved systems.

Applications for non-competitive formula-based grants closed on November 1, 2022. TDEC received 339 applications requesting approximately \$932 million to fund 1,091 different water projects across the state. All 95 counties utilized their non-competitive funds in some way, and 272 cities participated in the application process. The vast majority of projects proposed included planning, design and construction elements.

The demand for water in Tennessee will grow. The state's population is expected to double in the next 50 years. The necessary investment in Tennessee water infrastructure ranges from \$5 billion to \$15 billion between now and 2040. The Water Infrastructure Investment Plan is just one piece of a larger, multi-year investment in water infrastructure, including Community Development Block Grants, USDA Rural Development funds, and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Applications came in for a variety of water projects throughout the state of Tennessee

NON-COMPETITIVE GRANT REQUESTS

\$932,000,000

REQUESTED, represents 93% of non-competitive funding

339

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED

76 collaborative applications submitted

All 95

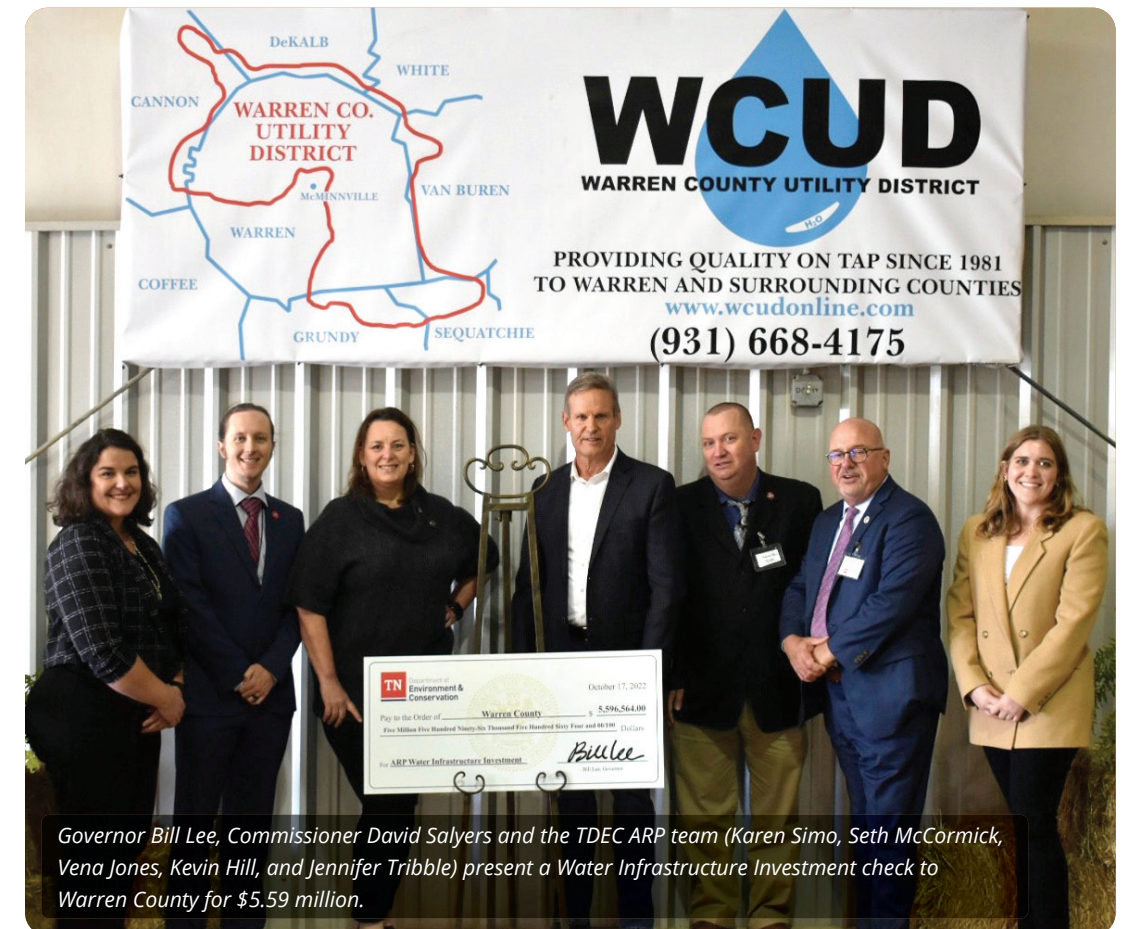
COUNTIES' FUNDING AWARDED

272 municipalities participated

1019

TOTAL PROJECTS

319 drinking water projects, 407 wastewater projects, 293 stormwater projects



Governor Bill Lee, Commissioner David Salyers and the TDEC ARP team (Karen Simo, Seth McCormick, Vena Jones, Kevin Hill, and Jennifer Tribble) present a Water Infrastructure Investment check to Warren County for \$5.59 million.



TDEC Commissioner David Salyers presents a Water Infrastructure Investment check for \$7.69m to officials in Greene County.



TDEC Commissioner David Salyers presents a Water Infrastructure Investment check for \$6.75m to officials in Sumner County.



Entrepreneurs Create New Market for Scrap Tires

In 2015, the Tennessee Automotive Association partnered with TDEC and the General Assembly to establish the Tire Environmental Fund. Tires are a serious issue as waste, but opportunities exist in the public and private sectors, including Tennessee State Parks, for recycling them.

TDEC awarded grants this year totaling \$2.3 million to five applicants as part of the Tire Environmental Act Program, where recipients apply matching funds and recycle tires in locations across the state.

The TEAP grants went to Tennessee Tire Recycling in Lebanon, the Hands-On Science Center of Tullahoma, Crumb Rubber Manufacturers of Tullahoma, Memphis Tire Recyclers, and Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns.

The grants were for items as diverse as establishing a recycling facility, purchasing equipment to aid in the recycling process, and creating a hard-surface trail at the state park. The tire program had approximately \$3.6 million available, and the grants left a margin to allow for unforeseen expenses as well as another round of grants next year.

The Tennessee Automotive Association partnered with TDEC and the General Assembly in 2015 to establish the Tire Environmental Fund. A flat fee is based on the number of a new vehicle's wheels. The fee then goes into the fund and used for projects creating or supporting uses for the waste.

Since 2015, the program has awarded almost \$4.5 million, and approximately 3.6 million tires – nearly 42,476 tons of scrap – have been diverted from landfills. The tires are repurposed for use in rubberized asphalt, tire-derived aggregate, tire-derived fuel, granulated rubber pavement, and other beneficial uses.

T.O. Fuller State Park Opens Nation's Longest Rubber Pavement Trail

A novel way to recycle tires was the creation of a new hard-surface pathway over 2.5 miles long at T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis. It is one of the longest rubber-bearing trails in the United States. The project collected tires illegally dumped in the area around the park – gathered by volunteers and local contractors – then transformed into crumbs by Patriot Recycling in Bristol. The material was brought back to the park for construction of the trail.

The Tire Environmental Act Program provided a grant of \$250,000 for the T.O. Fuller project, along with a special litter grant of \$200,000 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and a Federal Highway-Recreational Trails Program grant of \$280,000 from TDEC's Division of Recreation Resources. Workers cleaned up over 24,000 dumped tires, including those from passenger, commercial truck, and heavy equipment. The cleanup involved 450 registered volunteers and saw 10,000 tires collected in one day, an overall successful partnership between TDEC, TDOT, the City of Memphis, Shelby County, and Memphis City Beautiful.



TDEC reps from the Division of Stakeholder Engagement and Commissioner Salyers present a check from the Tire Environmental Act Program (TEAP) to Memphis Tire Recyclers.



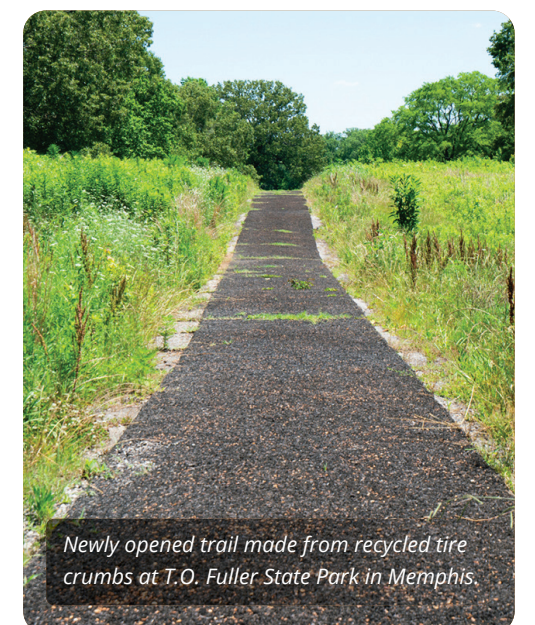
Inside the Memphis Tire Recyclers plant.



TN Tire Recycling Facilities & Grant Amounts



1 Tennessee Tire Recyclers in Lebanon	\$750k
2 Crumb Rubber Manufacturers in Tullahoma	\$1m
3 Memphis Tire Recyclers in Memphis	\$461k
4 Patriot Recycling Inc. in Bristol	\$1.88m
5 Silver Bait in Coalmont	\$750k
6 Friendly Environment in Shelbyville	\$721k



Newly opened trail made from recycled tire crumbs at T.O. Fuller State Park in Memphis.

#naturallytn

Explore It

Savage Gulf Becomes Tennessee's Newest State Park

Governor Bill Lee and TDEC Commissioner David Salyers in September announced the creation of Savage Gulf State Park, which sits in Grundy and Sequatchie counties, as the 57th state park in Tennessee.



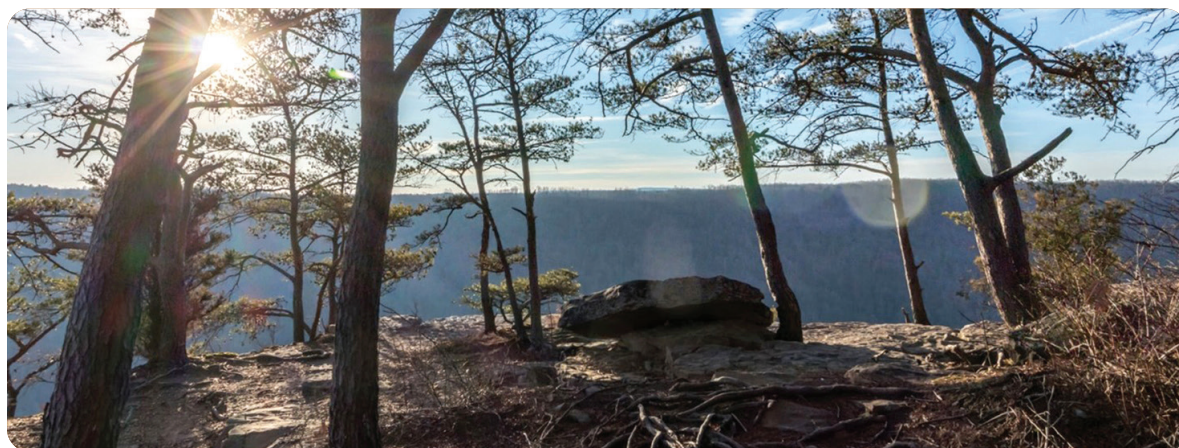
The park includes land formerly part of South Cumberland State Park, which had become too large to manage effectively as a single park. Before Savage Gulf, the most recent new state park announced in Tennessee was the Seven Islands State Birding Park in Kodak in July 2013.

Savage Gulf State Park is in one of the state's most scenic areas and includes the nearly 19,000-acre Savage Gulf State Natural Area, which is a National Natural Landmark. The site contains old-growth forest and spectacular vistas, including waterfalls and the Great Stone Door, an impressive cliff line overlooking Savage Gulf that gets its name from a top-to-bottom crack in the cliff, resembling a door left slightly ajar.

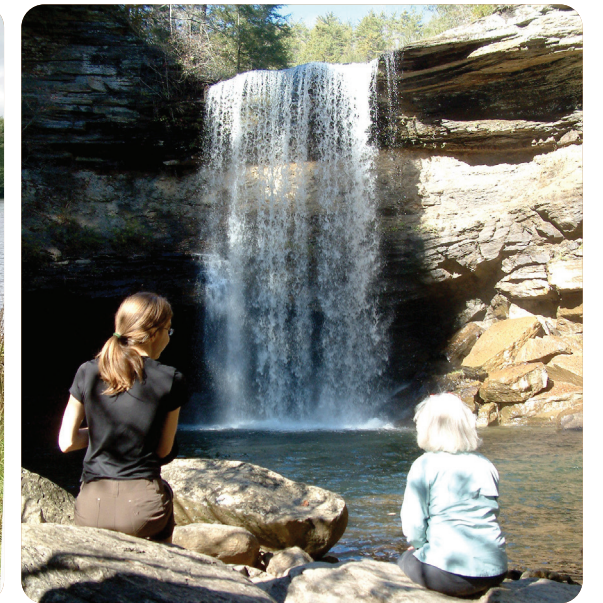
The park provides a boost for recreation in the region. It includes approximately 60 miles of hiking, and the bluffs at Stone Door offer visitors the opportunity to rock climb and rappel with seven designated routes. The park has nine backcountry campgrounds. The Stone Door trailhead offers restrooms, a ranger station, picnic area, and a pavilion.

While the original Savage Gulf area will continue to be maintained as a designated state natural area, the park includes the addition of a 744-acre developable area comprised of the former Shady Valley nursery and two recently acquired tracts. The Tennessee General Assembly provided \$30,380,000 for future improvements on this newly acquired property, including a visitors center, RV campground, and infrastructure to support new facilities. Current access points to the park will remain as they are for now.

Key partners in the creation of the park included the Friends of South Cumberland, the State Lands Acquisition Fund, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.



Deputy Commissioner Greer Tidwell, Grundy County Mayor Michael Brady, Friends President Trae Moore and parks staff dedicate the first Savage Gulf State Park sign.



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation exists to enhance the quality of life for citizens of Tennessee and to be stewards of our natural environment by:

PROTECTING

and improving the quality of Tennessee's air, land, and water through a responsible regulatory system;

PROTECTING

and promoting human health and safety;

CONSERVING

and promoting natural, cultural and historic resources;

PROVIDING

a variety of quality outdoor recreational experiences.



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation,
Authorization No. 327400, 500 copies, December 2021. "This
public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.00 per copy."



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**