

live

work

play

FY 2015 annual report



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Citizens of Tennessee:

Our agency has achieved great success during the past fiscal year, for which I am truly proud. Therefore, it is with great pleasure to share some of those successes with you in the following annual report for Fiscal Year 2015.

In this report, you will hear from the people who made the success happen, the people who have been impacted by our work, and the people whom we've partnered with to bring value to Tennessee citizens in ways we've never done before.

TDEC employees and stakeholders will tell you first-hand how we make Tennessee a more desirable place to live, how we've made TDEC a better place to work, and how we make Tennessee a great place to play. Whether it's protecting the air we breathe or the water we drink, making Tennessee State Parks a destination for Tennesseans and tourists, bringing energy efficiency to your home or office, or identifying and reporting environmental issues in your community – we make a difference.

But we cannot do this alone. Working together, we can protect, improve and promote Tennessee's natural resources to benefit all Tennesseans.

Thank you for joining us in this effort.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Bob Martineau
Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation



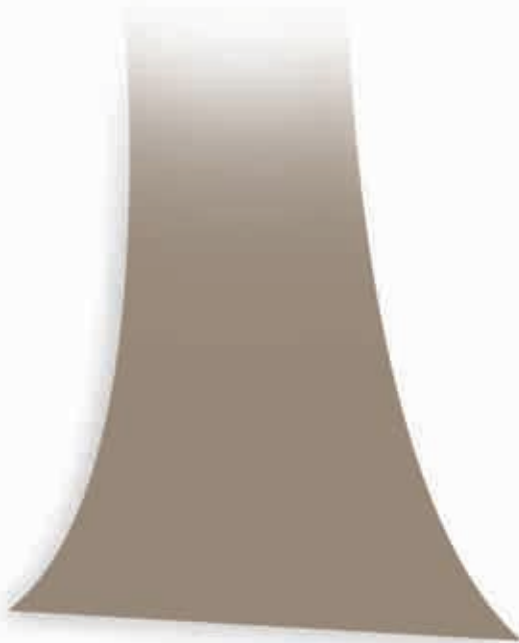
Governor Bill Haslam (L) with Commissioner Bob Martineau (R) during the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony.

TDEC's Mission:

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.

water lakes
watersheds
beauty brownfield action
Earth **effective** dedicated
progress **conservation** future
trails **environment** clean-up
protection customer-focused
Tennessee solid
TDEC fishing
geology
growth **efficient** visitors sustainability scenic
support stakeholders **parks** climate healthy
radiological air **data-driven** energy
generations natural
permits development remediation excellence golf
e-services recreation rivers archaeology
recycle assistance industry
green people





live

Enhancing the quality of life is the core of TDEC's mission. Whether protecting and improving the quality of our land, air and water or providing amenities that enhance the livability of communities, TDEC works every day to make Tennessee an even better place to live.





TDEC Ensures Long-term Environmental Protection

*Shari Meghreblian, Deputy Commissioner,
Bureau of Environment*



*Shari Meghreblian,
Deputy Commissioner*

Five years ago, TDEC set out on a mission to refine our regulatory system to maximize environmental protection through front-end compliance. Three primary actions comprise the bulk of our work in the Bureau of Environment:

BOE Toolbox for Environmental Excellence:

1. Issue quality permits
2. Provide outreach, education and assistance about requirements
3. Improve public participation
4. Increase overall compliance through inspections
5. Ensure fair and consistent performance
6. Create a level playing field for all

issuing permits, inspecting facilities and taking enforcement actions. We issue permits that comply with state and federal regulations and reflect the best data and science available. Our inspections assess how well an entity complies with its permit and the environmental laws that govern its work.

In FY 2015, environmental specialists at TDEC conducted 16,611 inspections – nearly 85 percent of those inspected were in compliance with environmental regulations. In a perfect world, we would like to see 100 percent of regulated entities reach compliance at the time of inspection, but as with most things in life, nothing is perfect. We issue notices of violation, administrative orders and set up compliance review meetings. Actions such as these resulted in return to compliance such that 98 percent of the 16,611 regulated entities were in compliance at the time of this report.

For those entities who during an inspection or an investigation are not complying with the laws and rules that govern their work and thus environmental degradation is occurring, we take enforcement action to hold them accountable. Through monetary penalties and legal processes, TDEC generally requires entities to correct the degradation and implement measures to prevent further degradation. While these mechanisms for compliance are necessary, and in some cases the most effective means of reaching compliance and protecting the environment, it would be inaccurate to measure the impact of our regulatory approach based solely on this

factor. But coupled with the improvement in the quality of our permits and the compliance rate of entities through the inspection process, we get a fuller picture of how we protect Tennessee's natural resources.

The long-term protection of our environment, we believe, can be ensured by utilizing our resources on the front end – through well-written permits and timely inspections – to help the regulated community comply with environmental regulations, as opposed to back-end enforcement. Formal enforcement is necessary in certain instances, but this approach, also known as our Bureau of Environment Toolbox for Environmental Excellence, prevents environmental degradation from occurring in the first place rather than a gotcha-style regulatory program where the environment is degraded and we wait in the wings to penalize an entity for those actions. This approach also promotes the long-term health of our citizens and protects our natural resources, helping prevent the gradual degradation of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the beautiful landscapes for which we take so much pride.

Living with Cleaner Air

*Steve Gossett, Eastman Chemical Company,
Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board Member*

Tennessee achieved a major air quality milestone this year: all Tennesseans now live where the air we breathe meets all federal ozone and fine particulate matter air quality standards. This status is known officially as “attainment” – something to be celebrated. Tennessee has been on this path for a number of years, starting with approval back in 2007 of three of only 14 “Early Action Compacts” approved nationwide by the EPA. In negotiating the compact, the state was able to avoid non-attainment designations for the Tri-Cities, Chattanooga and Nashville Metro areas due to effective partnerships TDEC formed with local governments and industry in those localities. More recently, in July 2015, the EPA announced it approved Tennessee’s request to redesignate Knox, Blount and Anderson Counties as attainment. Completing the story, we now have the data to verify that Shelby County’s air quality meets federal standards and expect the EPA to redesignate in 2016. These actions mark a significant milestone in Tennessee’s efforts to improve air quality after many years of nonattainment classifications for these counties.

As icing on the cake, when the EPA recently finalized its new standard for ozone on Oct. 1, 2015 at 70 parts per billion, and based on data from recent modeling efforts, all areas of the state would measure in attainment with the new standard. To what do we owe this trend? Fuels are cleaner than ever, our vehicles are cleaner than ever, and our manufacturing and electric power industries are cleaner than ever. Energy efficiency gains continue to compound and investments in new technology are wind in our sails. Effective state and local partnerships facilitate these outcomes. It is heartening to see these efforts paying off with reduced regulatory restraints.

Not only does this mean that the citizens in these communities have cleaner air, it also means they have access to more jobs. Attainment status allows the state to more effectively recruit businesses and industry. Our balanced, cooperative approach is delivering positive results for Tennessee, including a better environment and healthier lives.



Brandi Stimson with TDEC’s Division of Air Pollution Control checks air monitoring equipment in the field.

All Tennesseans now live where the air we breathe meets all federal ozone and fine particulate matter air quality standards.

Living with Cleaner Water

*Greta Hurst, TDEC Multi Program Coordinator,
Cookeville Environmental Field Office*

One of my proudest moments occurred this year in May, one that not only impacted me professionally, but also personally.

As a Multi Program Coordinator in our Division of Water Resources, I help assess the water quality of our rivers and streams in the Cookeville Environmental Field Office region. For almost 30 years, a section of Mine Lick Creek in Putnam County was deemed a threat to public health and not suitable for recreation. While all of Tennessee's waterways are important to me, this one is particularly important: it runs adjacent to my child's school.



Students from a school adjacent to Mine Lick Creek enjoy playing in the creek immediately after the deposing in May 2015.

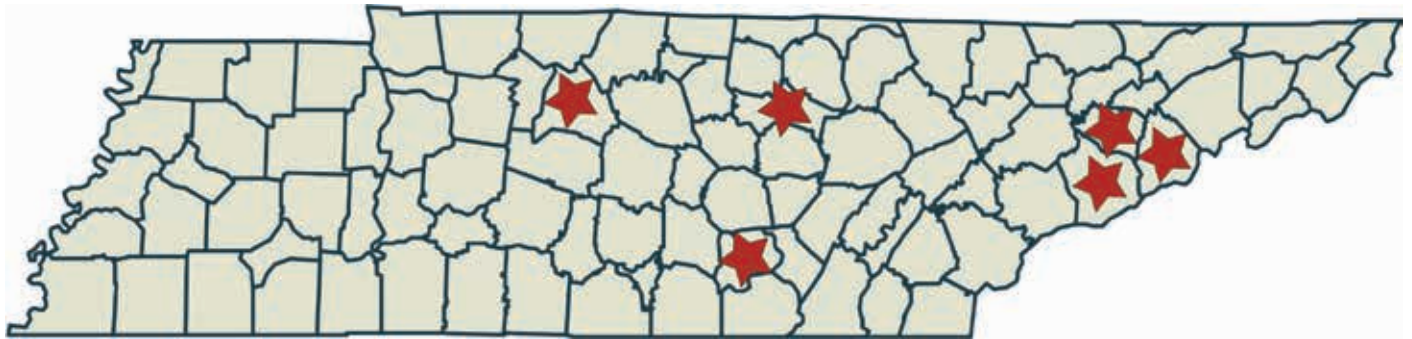
After 30 years of cooperative efforts by the local government, nonprofits, individual community members and TDEC, the chemistry and biology of the creek improved to the degree that the water is once again safe for recreation. And on a sunny day in May 2015, I watched the sign that warned of the creek's past hazards be lifted from the ground and my daughter and her friends ran into the creek to play in the water that I have worked diligently to improve and protect.

It is an honor to serve my state and my community and I will continue to work hard to protect our water quality for my child and yours.

After 30 years of cooperative efforts by the local government, nonprofits, individual community members and TDEC, the chemistry and biology of the creek improved to the degree that the water is once again safe for recreation.

Mine Lick Creek is one example of how water quality improvements are providing more waterways for our citizens to enjoy. Since 2013, TDEC, in coordination and partnership with various stakeholders, has deposited 33.4 miles of stream in five counties.

Locations of Water Quality Improvements Celebrated in 2015



Grundy County



Davidson County



Putnam County



Sevier County

April 2013

TDEC deposited 3.7 miles of the Little Fiery Gizzard and 1.9 miles of Clouse Hill Creek in Grundy County.

September 2013

TDEC deposited 1.5 miles of Leadvale Creek in Jefferson County. TDEC also deposited 5 miles of Johns Creek and 4.4 miles of Baker Creek in Cocke County.

April 2014

TDEC deposited 12.8 miles of the Little Pigeon River and branches in Sevier County.

December 2014

TDEC deposited 2.1 miles of Whites Creek in Davidson County.


May 2015

TDEC deposited a .5 mile segment of Mine Lick Creek in Putnam County.



work

In pursuit of Governor Haslam's mission, TDEC seeks to offer the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. Here are some of the ways in which we have improved and invested in our workforce to make us a more efficient and effective government agency.





Empowered by Our Work

Bob Martineau, Commissioner

In state government, reducing expenses normally means the loss of staff and/or services. But in July 2014, a team of TDEC staff members from the Offices of Policy and Planning, Sustainable Practices and Energy Programs, and staff from the Departments of General Services and Finance and Administration proposed to Governor Haslam a way to cut expenses with a different kind of reduction – reducing utility costs for state buildings by a projected \$54 million annually.

By working with the General Assembly, Governor Haslam, TDEC and our sister agencies, we secured funding for Empower Tennessee, an innovative program that will reduce the State's energy costs and power consumption. By measuring and controlling energy use and investing in energy efficiency and renewable power generation, we can cut expenses without cutting services. The first round of projects were announced in the fall of 2015.

Taking the philosophy of TDEC and implementing it throughout state government not only protects the environment, but also protects your tax dollars.



Bob Martineau, Commissioner

Promoting Education and Protecting the Environment: How Middle Tennessee State University and TDEC Collaborated to Get Results

Mike Krause, Executive Director, Drive to 55

In life, in business and in government, collaboration is essential. Mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers collaborate to make sure the dishes are clean, beds are made, bills are paid and groceries are on the table. Businesses work with advisors, contractors and employees to meet the needs of its customers. In government, collaboration is also important as we seek to meet the needs of our citizens now and in the future. When TDEC

partnered with Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to address water and wastewater workforce demands through TDEC's Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro, it was a great example of the collaboration and innovation that Tennessee needs in order to fulfill the Drive to 55, Governor Haslam's mission to get 55 percent of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by the year 2025.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the water supply and sanitation sector is expected to experience an employment growth rate of 45 percent in coming years due to infrastructure replacement, population growth, regulatory changes, security enhancements and customer demands. Having qualified candidates for these jobs is essential for protecting public health and the environment. TDEC and MTSU's partnership announced in spring of 2015 expanded individual opportunities and access to earning course credit and certifications through TDEC's Fleming Training Center and was designed to deliver the unique knowledge and skills required of water and wastewater system operators now and in the future. The program provides degree paths for both traditional age students preparing to enter the workforce for the first time and for adult learners who are already in the water and wastewater industries.

Thanks to this collaboration, students in various stages of their life and career will have more opportunities to earn a degree and professional skills for real world, in-demand jobs that improve and protect our environment and our quality of life in Tennessee.



Drive to 55 Executive Director, Mike Krause, speaking at the announcement event.

A Better Place to Work

*Britton Dotson, Environmental Fellow,
Division of Water Resources*

Until recently the only way for an individual to improve their pay or position within TDEC was to accept supervisory responsibilities. This singular professional track produced a very low staff to supervisor ratio, and often resulted in highly capable technical experts accepting a responsibility for which they were not equipped to do. This often produced miscommunication, limited opportunities for growth and development, and reduced employee engagement.

Over my 17-year career at TDEC, the concept of a dual-career track for professional progression was frequently discussed but never actually materialized. That was until TDEC's current administration worked collaboratively with sister agencies to overcome the obstacles. Just like a hospital has management staff that ensures the hospital runs as it should and other expert clinical or professional staff that provides the direct health care services, TDEC now has a dual career track. One track allows staff to advance based on development and enhancement of their technical skills; another track allows staff to advance using their management skills along with their technical skills.

Many of the staff members in the Bureau of Environment have technical backgrounds such as engineering, geology and biology. When considering these staff members' levels of job satisfaction and degrees of engagement, I can think of no better way for this administration to achieve positive results than to provide a career path that allows them to more closely focus on their interests.

Over my 17-year career at TDEC, the concept of a dual career track for professional progression was frequently discussed but never actually materialized. That was until TDEC's current administration worked collaboratively with sister agencies to overcome the obstacles.



TDEC's Britton Dotson discusses how the Dual-Career Track impacts employees and the citizens they serve.

I previously served as a Deputy Director and Director. However, with each step up the management career path, I found myself further removed from direct involvement with the very objective that brought me to TDEC: using science in support of ensuring the quality of the state's water resources. While supervisory roles are imperative to the Division's success, having staff that can solely focus on technical issues produces positive results in terms of program consistency, staff development and employee engagement.

When I transitioned to my current role as an Environmental Fellow, my first thought was: "Now I get to do what I had in mind all along". I personally appreciate the efforts of the many people who worked together to accomplish this achievement, and I am confident that it will benefit the Department and the citizens we serve well into the future.

Working to Change Lives

*Ryan Jenkins, Park Manager,
Henry Horton State Park*

Did you know that each citizen in Tennessee generally pays about \$7 a year to support the 56 State Parks and 85 Natural Areas that comprise more than 200,000 acres of public lands in Tennessee? I wanted to share with you how my park uses that \$7 per citizen to make a difference in the lives of our community members.

Working with the 90-plus staff at Henry Horton State Park, community leaders, the wonderful Friends of Henry Horton State Park board, and park volunteers, we initiated a variety of projects

and programs that further TDEC's mission by improving human health and safety and providing a variety of quality outdoor recreation experiences. Here are some of the ways we are trying to make an impact:

- **Healthy Park, Healthy Person** – With funding from Whole Foods and the Department of Health, we developed a community health program where participants earn Healthy Points by completing activities, taking classes at the Park or eating healthy meals at The Governor's Table Restaurant. Participants redeem the points for Park discounts or gift cards, or coupons donated by the community. We worked with local healthcare providers to develop Park Prescription pads; providers prescribe active time in nature at the park when exercise and a healthier lifestyle could benefit their patients.
- **Challenge Course** – With a grant from the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, we constructed a Low Ropes Challenge Course to use for team building activities and group events. Our staff members are trained course facilitators and we now offer half-and full-day adventures to improve team dynamics, create meaningful relationships and provide a positive outdoor experience.
- **Farmers Market and Gardens** – We boast two large gardens and a greenhouse for both community and Park use. One garden is free for the community's use; pick your plot and plant away! The second is Garden-To-Table; the fresh and healthy food grown is prepared and served in The Governor's Table Restaurant to expand healthy menu options. The food waste is then composted and used as fertilizer for the gardens, minimizing waste and improving yield. The Park also hosts a farmers market on Saturdays that features local produce from area farms. This provides a vital connection for producers to access consumers, supporting our local agricultural economy while providing access to locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to our community members.



Commissioner Martineau and Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill with new Henry Horton State Park Manager Ryan Jenkins.

Each citizen in Tennessee generally pays about \$7 a year to support the 56 State Parks and 85 Natural Areas that comprise more than 200,000 acres of public lands in Tennessee.

Henry Horton State Park is just one example of the great work Tennessee State Parks is doing in communities across Tennessee. I can honestly say that my counterparts in the other 55 parks are just as committed to their communities as we are at Henry Horton. I am honored to be a part of Tennessee State Parks, where I can work with people every day to improve their quality of life through conservation initiatives that promote and improve their health.

TDEC Financial Update: Where We Stand

Tom Eck, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Administration

TDEC's appropriation from the State of Tennessee's General Fund, which is made up of revenues collected by the State, was approximately \$88 million in FY 2015. The Bureau of Parks and Conservation accounts for 59 percent of the department's general fund state appropriations. This includes the operations and maintenance of all State Parks, the Division of Natural Areas and Recreation Education Services. The Bureau of Environment (BOE) accounts for 29 percent of the department's total state appropriations. The majority of BOE state funding is being used to meet our statutory Environmental Protection Fund which requires the state to fund portions of environmental programs along with collections from fees associated with users of the programs. Six percent is required to match the federal Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Fund grants to communities. Meanwhile, three percent of state appropriations fund the Tennessee Historical Commission, which is administratively attached to TDEC. Eight percent funds the department's Administrative Services, including Fiscal Services, the Office of General Counsel, External Affairs, Information Systems, etc. The last one percent is used to fund the Office of Sustainable Practices and the Office of Energy Programs.



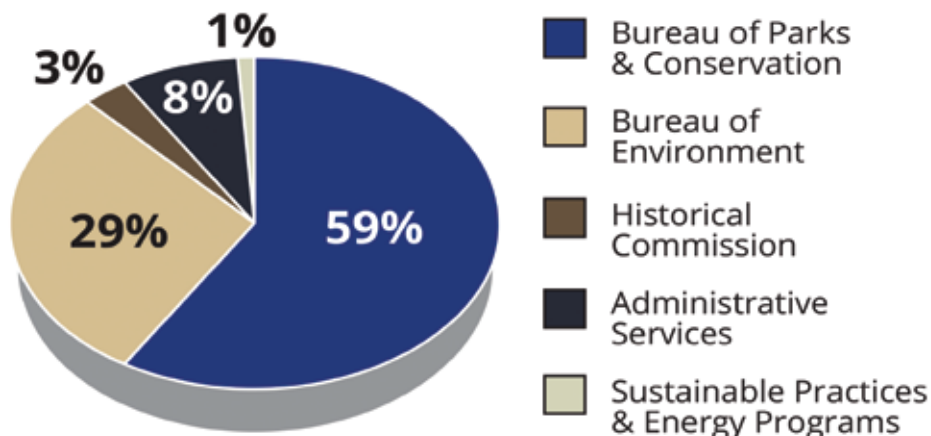
Tom Eck, Deputy Commissioner

Did you know that almost a third of TDEC's funding is generated by TDEC programs? The following are a few successes within our State Parks system where we have increase revenue that we generate from prior fiscal year:

- Cabins increased 23% or \$1 Million
- Camping increased 6% or \$260,000
- Restaurants increased 2% or \$180,000
- Facilities Rentals increased 13% or \$45,000
- Gift Shops increased 16% or \$16,000

These improvements are just an example of our efforts across the department to generate additional revenue while reducing operating costs. TDEC will continue to pursue innovative ways to cut costs and grow revenues through partnerships with community organizers and local businesses, leveraging funding resources and technical expertise from sister agencies and brainstorming creative ways to do more with less.

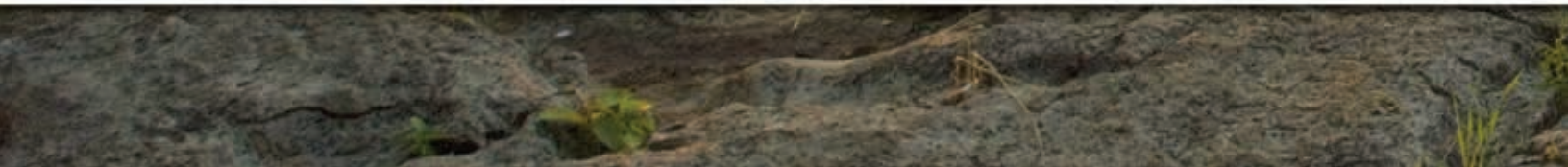
TDEC FY 2015 Budget

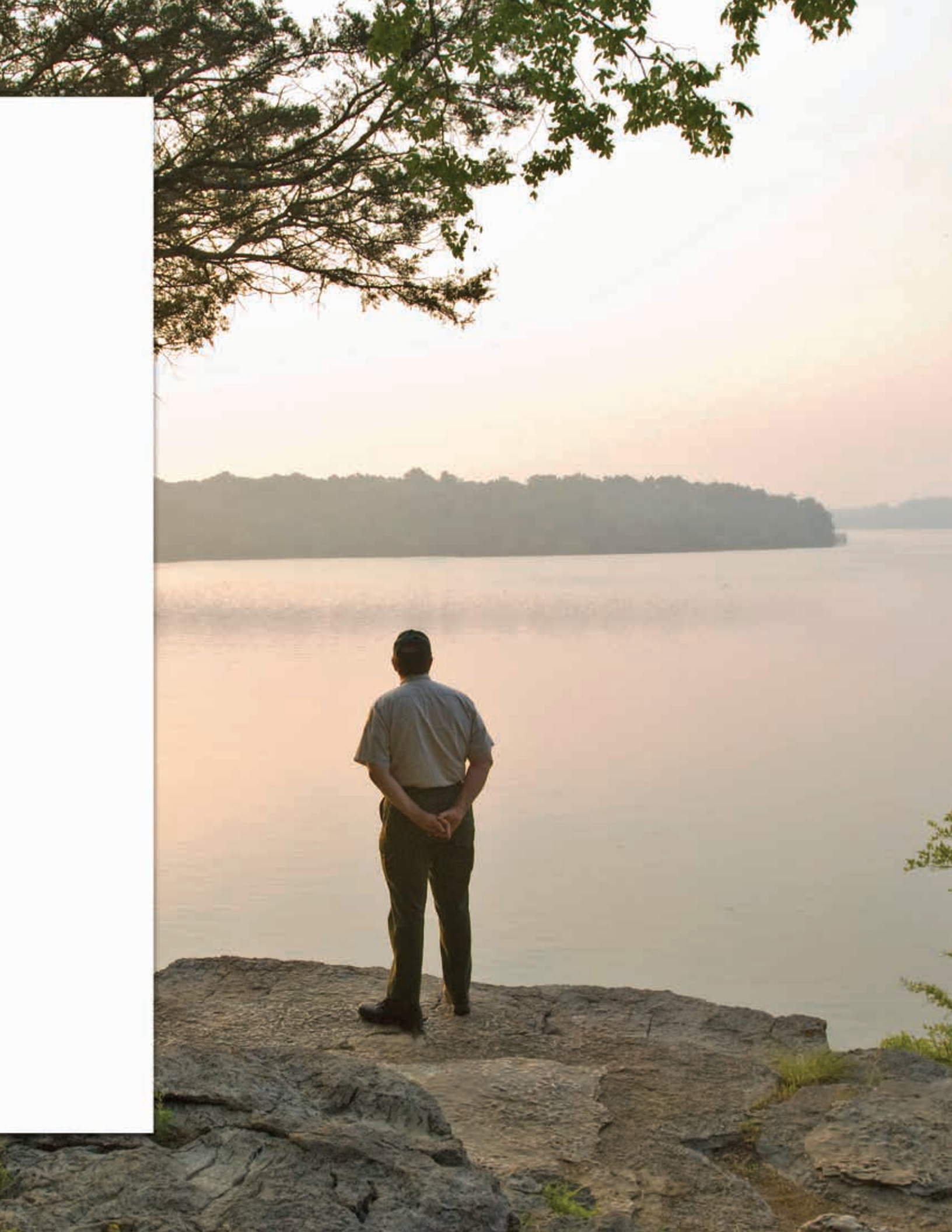




play

Getting individuals outdoors is shown to improve health and build understanding and advocacy for the protection and conservation of our natural, cultural and historic resources. As such, TDEC offers 56 State Parks and 85 Natural Areas as outdoor playgrounds that enhance our quality of life.





Tennessee State Parks Allow Citizens to Experience Nature in Their Own Way

*Brock Hill, Deputy Commissioner,
Parks and Conservation*



Brock Hill, Deputy Commissioner

As a native Tennessean and avid hiker, there is nothing better to me than experiencing the serenity of our state's landscapes by spending time outdoors. Whether I'm on a quiet trail at Cumberland Mountain State Park near my hometown of Crossville, or if I'm observing the many bird species at Seven Islands State Birding Park along the French Broad River in east Knox County, I enjoy the sounds, the views and the wildlife. That's the great part about nature – it will stand still for you. The world however, continues to spin. How people seek to experience nature continues to evolve, and we all experience nature in our own ways.

Tennessee State Parks has made significant strides in the past year to better meet the demands and interests of a changing population while staying true to our mission. We've continued to expand our partnership with the National Football League's Play60 Program to encourage kids to stay active, eat healthy and become more physically fit – all while enjoying one of our 56 state parks. As of June 2015, we have presented to 228 school programs and reached almost 120,000 students. Working in partnership with the Department of Health, we've established 12 middle school running clubs across the state and are hosting park-based running events drawing thousands of participants.

We've expanded our Junior Ranger Program, which is designed to offer children ages six through 14 hands-on opportunities to explore and learn about the natural world through an array of fun and creative activities. As of June 2015, we have held 1,127 Junior Ranger programs, with 46,410 in attendance. In the fourth quarter of FY 2015 alone, we held 29 Junior Ranger camps and graduated 719 kids.

With the help of Governor Bill Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly, we've been able to add playgrounds, renovate cabins and upgrade campgrounds. We've added new features to some of our parks, like a state-of-the-art zipline course at Fall Creek Falls State Park, that attract new audiences while also implementing new programs, like Healthy Park, Healthy Person at Henry Horton State Park, that strengthen existing communities.

While programs like NFL Play60 and partners like the Tennessee Department of Health are critical to our future success, we've also developed strategies that have transformed the way we connect with Tennesseans and the world. We've implemented a dynamic, responsive website at tnstateparks.com with in-depth information on each of our 56 state parks. Our online reservation system has streamlined the process of booking cabins, campsites and tee times, setting up meetings, or reserving wedding spaces. Our Facebook presence has attracted more than 100,000 likes, and our Twitter, Instagram and YouTube platforms continue to grow.

Tennessee State Parks have made significant strides in the past year to better meet the demands and interests of a changing population while staying true to our mission.

All of these factors have contributed to a better experience for potential park customers and avid park visitors of all ages. Come visit one of our parks and experience nature your way.


Optimism Surrounds Rocky Fork State Park Opening

Jesse Germeraad, Park Manager, Rocky Fork State Park

We were elated to open Rocky Fork State Park in the summer of 2015, but we are even more excited about the potential recreational opportunities and economic advantages that Tennessee's 55th designated state park could bring to its surrounding communities.

Rocky Fork is nestled in the scenic wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains of East Tennessee, and spans 2,036-acres of rolling, rugged terrain and winding mountain streams, including its namesake, Rocky Fork Creek. Designated as a Tennessee State Park in October 2012, the long-term recreation plans and infrastructure for the new park are in the planning and conceptual design stages.

Initial projects for the park include a visitor center, improved parking and accessibility, a ranger station, a campground, mountain biking and horseback riding trails, and a hiking trail system with access to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. As these projects come to fruition, we believe the park will ultimately attract Tennesseans and out-of-state visitors looking to experience nature and participate in outdoor activities – something we hope will have positive economic implications for the region.



U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander:
“Fishing here is as good as you’re ever going to find. But more importantly is the easy access to millions of Americans looking for a great American outdoors experience.”

Acquisition of the park was made possible with the cooperation and dedication of several government and nonprofit groups, including the U.S. Forest Service, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, the Conservation Fund, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Southern Highlands Appalachian Conservancy.

Pickett State Park, Pogue Creek Canyon Receive 'Out-of-this-World' International Designation

Ken Von Nieda, Friends of Pickett State Park President

Pickett State Park and Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area received an out-of-this-world, international designation in May 2015, when it became a Silver-tier International Dark Sky Park. Now known as Pickett-Pogue International Dark Sky Park, we are only one of two Dark Skies designated parks in the southeast. My group – the Friends of Pickett State Park – partnered with the local community, TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices, the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society, the Space Science Outreach at the University of Tennessee and the International Dark Sky Association to achieve this prestigious designation.

Why is the designation so important? Places experiencing natural darkness at night are rapidly vanishing in much of the United States east of the Mississippi River, an area home to much of the country's population. As a result, generations of today may not have the ability to see the moon light up the night sky, or the constellations they read about in their textbooks. This fact underscores the need to defend sites with dark night skies, for the benefit of wildlife and humans alike.

We took a number of steps to preserve our nighttime environment at Pickett-Pogue. Thanks to a Clean Tennessee Energy Grant from TDEC's Office of Sustainable Practices, we retrofitted our lights in the park to reduce light pollution. We added a new trail so that visitors can access a new portion of the Cumberland Plateau. We worked with Ranger Monica Hodge and park staff to develop a strong interpretive program and a variety of activities that would capitalize on the impeccable view of the night sky, including an annual New Year's Eve hike, a Junior Ranger Camp each July, an annual star party, and regular dark skies programming during peak visitor season in the summer.

We are so proud to have achieved this designation, and we can't thank TDEC enough for making it possible. When you have the chance, come visit the sights and sounds of Pickett-Pogue International Dark Sky Park – it will be an experience you won't regret.



TDEC is comprised of the following offices and bureaus:

DEPARTMENT WIDE OFFICES:

- Commissioner's Office
- Human Resources
- Office of Energy Programs
- Office of General Counsel
- Office of Sustainable Practices
- Fiscal Services
- Information Systems
- Office of External Affairs
- Office of Policy and Planning
- Office of Talent Management

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENT:

- Air Pollution Control
- Radiological Health
- Solid Waste Management
- Water Resources
- Geology
- Remediation
- Underground Storage Tanks
- West Tennessee River Basin Authority

BUREAU OF CONSERVATION:

- Archaeology
- Recreation Educational Services
- Natural Areas Program
- Tennessee State Parks

Contact Information:

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Bill Haslam
Governor

Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Commissioner
615/532-0106

Brock Hill
Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Conservation
615/532-0103

Shari Meghreblian, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Environment
615/532-0102

Tom Eck
Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services
615/532-0105

David Owenby
Assistant Commissioner for External Affairs
615/532-5281

TDEC Year in Review

ECOS President September

On Sept. 14, 2014, Commissioner Bob Martineau was elected and served as President of Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the first time a Tennessee Commissioner was elected to such a post.



North Potato Creek Clean Up November

On Nov. 19, 2014, TDEC joined the EPA, local officials, and Glenn Holding Springs to celebrate the completion of a 14-year clean up in the Copper Basin. For the first time, North Potato Creek now feeds into the Ocoee River without contributing metals and acidity that impact the water quality and without needing to be treated beforehand. No other mining site remediation project in the United States has accomplished this much in such a short amount of time.

TN Home for the Holidays December

In December 2014, Governor and First Lady Haslam featured Tennessee State Parks as their theme for their annual Home for the Holidays event at the Tennessee Residence. Tennessee State Parks staff, volunteers and Junior Rangers provided various decorations that highlighted the scenery of West, Middle and East Tennessee.



50K Tree Day March

TDEC served as a critical partner in the Tennessee Environmental Council's 50K Tree Day in March 2015, when 50,000 trees were planted across Tennessee to improve air and water quality. TDEC served as the distribution point for the trees. More than 120 TDEC employees participated in the day, planting more than 3,000 trees. To learn more, check out the Tennessee Wildside episode that features our work.



Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327400, 1,000 copies, February, 2016. "This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$1.79 per copy."

Launch of Park Mgr. Training May

On May 21, 2015, the first class of the Park Managers Technical Institute graduated. This inaugural class participated in an intense training program that better equipped current and future park managers to lead successful parks and programs.

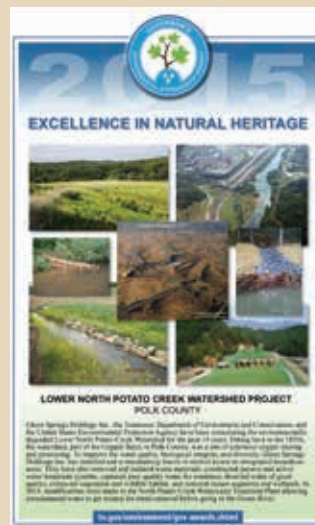


Kingston Clean Up June

On June 4, 2015, the EPA announced the formal completion of the 3rd and final phase of the comprehensive cleanup of the 2008 coal ash spill at the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant, the largest corrective action in Tennessee history. The clean-up was completed years ahead of schedule and \$44 million under budget. Long-term monitoring will continue, but the last five years of monitoring indicate that the river ecosystem has returned to pre-spill conditions, faster than the 10-15 years predicted.

Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards June

Governor Haslam and Commissioner Martineau recognized organizations and individuals for their commitment to environmental stewardship at the 29th Annual luncheon on June 23, 2015.



TN Promise Saturday July

In support of Governor Haslam's Drive to 55 Initiative, Tennessee State Parks hosted Tennessee Promise Saturday on July 18, 2015. More than 500 students fulfilled their community service requirements that keeps them eligible to receive free community college. Students built trails, cleared paths, installed bird houses, and cleaned up streams to improve their Tennessee State Parks and fulfill their community service requirement.



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

