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October 2011 Edition

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[TDEC-RES WEBSITE](#)
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This month's issue features conservation efforts, our new Facebook page as well as some great events you should not miss!

Want to find greenways & trails in Tennessee? Visit the official website for Tennessee Greenways & Trails, www.connectwithtn.com and search by region to find the latest information on trail lengths, maps and level of difficulty. Don't see your trail information on there? We can fix that! Contact [Bob Richards](#) to learn how to make your information is available to all.

Information provided in this newsletter is taken from other sources and the Greenways and Trails Program strongly recommends that you go to those resources directly for the complete information about an activity or event. If you have ideas or suggestions to improve this newsletter, we welcome your input.

Note: You will need to refresh your browser for the latest information on the web links provided.

Happy Trails!

Recreation Educational Services - Greenways & Trails Program

GRANT OPPORTUNITY:**RTP Grant Applications Due October 28, 2011, 4:00pm CST**

The application deadline for the 2011-2012 Recreational Trails Programs grant cycle is **October 28, 2011, at 4 p.m. (CST)**. The RTP grant is an 80/20 percent match and the total grant amount per project awarded this year will be \$120,000.

To learn more about the RTP grant program, application and other recreation or conservation-based grant programs that may be available in the future, please visit www.tn.gov/environment/recreation.



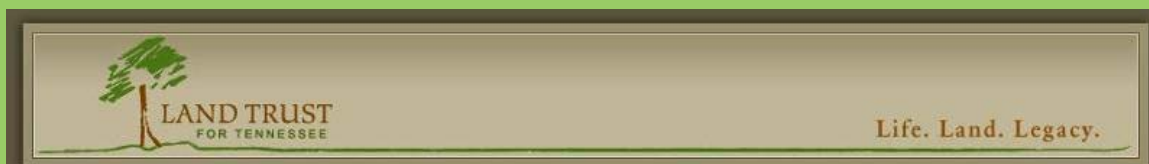
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TN Greenways & Trails - Now on Facebook!

Like us on Facebook and get the latest scoop on upcoming events, articles, featured greenways & trails across the state and more.

Need help highlighting your trails or events?

Post your information on our wall or email [Jeni Brinkman](#) or [Bob Richards](#) and we will spread the word!



Conservation Easement to protect view of the Caney Fork River

Click [here](#) to see the latest Conservation Easement placed on a 200 acre property that protects one mile of frontage on the Caney Fork River. The Conservation Easement was donated by Pat Brumfield and Howard Harlan and you can see the property between the 3rd and 4th bridge on I-40 East, just before the rest area.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

TN taking applications for energy block grants for communities.

Tennessee Department of Economic Development will be accepting applications for a third round of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grants to communities across the state to improve efficiency. For more information: <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/7850>

A Few Favorite Hikes in Middle Tennessee from the State Naturalist



A common question from visitors to the Tennessee State Parks Facebook page is "Where are some good hikes at state parks in Middle Tennessee?" State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath shares a few of his favorite 5-mile trails in middle Tennessee:

- Volunteer Day Loop at Long Hunter State Park is 4 miles with great views of Percy Priest Lake. www.tnstateparks.com/LongHunter
- Hidden Springs Trail at Cedars of Lebanon State Park is easy 5 miles thru the unique cedar glades www.tnstateparks.com/Cedars
- Merritt Ridge Trail at Edgar Evins State Park is a challenging 8 mile loop with great hilly terrain and views of Center Hill Lake. www.tnstateparks.com/EdgarEvins
- Montgomery Bell Loops at Montgomery Bell State Park with two 5-mile loops across beautiful clear streams, lovely lakes and outstanding forests. www.tnstateparks.com/MontgomeryBell
- Ray Branch Shoreline Trail at Tims Ford State Park is a moderate trail in the hills around Tims Ford Lake. www.tnstateparks.com/TimsFord
- Big Creek/Laurel Trails at Savage Gulf State Natural Area offer sweeping panoramic views of unbroken wilderness. Savage Day Loop at the Savage Gulf SNA is a 4.2 mile walk with a great overlook of the gorge and the falls. www.tnstateparks.com/SouthCumberland
- There are three easy-rated hiking trails at Henry Horton. The Hickory Ridge Loop is located near the campground and traverses habitats ranging from oak-hickory forest to unusual cedar glades. The Wilhoite Mill Trail follows the Duck River among second growth woods covering an early mill community. The Turkey Trail winds through rich woods and old fields. www.tnstateparks.com/HenryHorton

Got a Question for the State Naturalist? Click [here](#) to ask Randy. Please be patient for reply, because Randy is usually outdoors.

With more than 26 years of experience with Tennessee State Parks, Randy has served as a Ranger Naturalist at South Cumberland and Radnor Lake State Parks. He was appointed State Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks in 2007. A graduate of UT-Martin and former National Park Service Interpretive Specialist, Randy is one of the most sought after interpretive specialists in the southeastern United States.



TAKE IT TO THE ROAD!

Get off the beaten path and you might find some great trails along the way.

State officials recently announced the ninth of 16 self-guided driving trails in the Discover Tennessee Trails & Byways program. The trail spans 514 miles throughout Middle Tennessee, traveling through Cumberland, Davidson, DeKalb, Jackson, Putnam, Smith, White and Wilson counties. Dubbed the Promised Land Trail, it retraces some of the routes forged by the state's earliest pioneers. Visit <http://tntrailsandbyways.com/> to see all of the trails!



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION RELEASES "GREEN TIME FOR SLEEP TIME" REPORT...

Another reason to get kids outdoors - spread the word in your community!

Many U.S. parents are surprised to learn that their children suffer from persistent sleep deprivation - as much as two hours per day. There are numerous reasons: busy schedules, addiction to television and electronic games and lack of knowledge about the amount needed. The reality is American children are spending an average of 7 hour and 38 minutes per day staring at electronic media entertainment. Building some outdoor time into your child's schedule will help them get a better night's sleep and receive the associated physical, emotional and cognitive benefits...

Download the full report by visiting: <http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Be-Out-There/Why-Be-Out-There/Benefits/Green-Time-Sleep-Time.aspx>

In the News...

Conservation Award honors Nashville Mayor Dean:

(Tennessean)

WASHINGTON - Nashville Mayor Karl Dean received a conservation award in the nation's capital Thursday night for the open space plan that he unveiled in April. The plan places Dean on "the leading edge of conservation," said Larry Selzer, Chief Executive of The Conservation Fund, one of the groups that issued the award. Dean said his wife, Ann Davis, a "passionate environmentalist," encouraged him to form his Green Ribbon Committee in 2009. The Committee recommended creating the open space plan. Last year's flood underscored the need to add more green spaces and other permeable ground cover to soak up excess water. But Dean's greatest motivation for increasing the amount of land dedicated to green spaces, he said, is Tennessee's obesity crisis. ***"There is a direct correlation between the work that we do in greenways and parks and open space and getting our citizens, and particularly our children, to live healthier lives,"*** said Dean after accepting his award at the National Geographic Society. To read the rest of the Tennessean article, click [More...](#)

Bob Martineau, TDEC Commissioner speaks at TRPA Conference

A group of parks and recreation professionals from across the state got some encouraging words from the head of the state parks program. **Robert Martineau Jr., Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**, was one of the speakers welcoming the **Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association** during a program at the Krider Performing Arts Center Monday night (October 3). The group of more than 200 city, county, state and federal parks professionals arrived at Paris Landing State Park Sunday for three days of classes, networking, planning and playing. Martineau, who was on hand to officially welcome the delegates to the conference, said Gov. Bill Haslam wants to see Tennessee improve from its current status as one of the worst states in the union for overall physical fitness. Haslam talked throughout the campaign and in his inaugural address about improving the quality of life for Tennesseans, including their health and fitness. "I know you've all read the same newspapers I have, and the stories that we now rank in the bottom five in health and fitness," Martineau said. ***"You all, and we, have an opportunity to use our parks as a forum for that health and fitness message to really get out."*** [More...](#)

Rocky Fork project moves closer to completion

(Johnson City Press/Hicks)

ERWIN - The Rocky Fork project is one step closer to completion following a deal between the The Conservation Fund and the U.S. Forest Service. The Conservation Fund conveyed an approximate 1,400-acre parcel of Rocky Fork property to the Forest Service. The Forest Service used \$6 million in funding from the Land & Water Conservation Program - a program that gets its revenue from offshore energy development - to complete the conveyance. Since the first property conveyance in 2008, the Forest Service has acquired around 6,500 acres in Rocky Fork property using a little more than \$25 million from the federal Land & Water Conversation Fund. The State of Tennessee, through the Conservation Heritage Trust Fund, has also provided a \$6 million grant and \$3 million has come from private sources to allow most of the Rocky Fork area to be protected. [More...](#)

HELPFUL LINKS:

Tennessee Greenways and Trails: www.connectwithtn.com

There are 749+ greenways and trails in Tennessee that are listed on this website. To find a trail, go to the map of Tennessee, click on the region and then click on the name of the county. Scroll down and you will find the list of trails for that county. If you know of a trail that is not on the website, please pass that information on to Bob Richards at Robert.richards@tn.gov or call 615-532-0753. If you have trail news (new trail opening) or an event that needs to be listed, please pass the information on to Bob. Thanks for helping make this website the best it can be.

Tennessee State Parks: www.tn.gov/environment/parks

Learn more about Tennessee's award winning State Parks! This is the best source to find a park, plan your visit, make reservations and more!

Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association (TRPA): <http://www.trpa.net>

This website has a listing of ALL park areas in Tennessee - local, state and federal. Find the park nearest your home or work and increase your activity levels and improve your health.

American Trails - Economic Impacts of Trails: www.americantrails.org/resources/economics

This website has an extensive library of studies and reports relating to the positive economic impacts that developing trails have on communities, raising the quality of life of the community and providing positive economic benefits and new jobs.

TVA Recreation Lands Map: <http://recreation.tva.com>.

Locating the more than 1,000 recreation areas on Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs is now easier with the launch of a new website that allows visitors to find recreation areas by reservoirs or name. Website users can easily search for marinas, parks, boat ramps and campgrounds at this online resource.

Eat Well, Play More TN: <http://www.eatwellplaymoretn.org/>

"Eat Well, Play More Tennessee" is Tennessee's statewide nutrition and physical activity plan to reduce obesity and chronic disease in Tennessee by 2015. It is their vision to create an environment in which every Tennessean has the ability to make healthy lifestyle choices regarding nutrition and physical activity.

Calendar of Greenways and Trails Events

Please send your EVENT information to Bob Richards as soon as you are aware of the date for inclusion in the Greenways and Trails TIDBITS newsletter. It will be included in the TIDBITS as space permits. This newsletter is produced bi-monthly, or when there is enough information to distribute.

October 21-23, 2011 - Friends of State Parks Annual Conference - Paris Landing State Park

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/friends.shtml>

October 29, 2011 - Trail of Tears Walk - Fayetteville, TN

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=154749951238683>

November is National American Indian Heritage Month

November 5, 2011 - Trail of Tears Event - starts at 9:30 am on the Square - Lawrenceburg, TN
<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=173351502685679>

November 12, 2011 - Trail of Tears Walk and Motorcycle Ride - Pulaski, TN

ABOUT RECREATION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES...

The Division of Recreation Educational Services' mission is to create and protect parks and open spaces that provide recreation opportunities and conservation education. It is composed of three sections:

Technical Assistance, Funding and Planning Resources - Recreation Grant programs are administered under this section which includes Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Land Water and Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF). This section also includes the Parks and Recreation Technical Advisory Service (PARTAS) that provides technical and educational assistance to communities concerning parks and recreation services and development.

Land Management and GIS Resources provides important assistance in the acquisition and conservation of land for TDEC. This section oversees the State Lands Acquisition Fund and coordinates GIS services as they relate to land acquisition for the Department.

Greenways and Trails Resources provide assistance in trail design, trail sustainability, and planning to communities and trail organizations across the state.

If we can be of further assistance, please call us at 615-532-0748 or email: tdec.res@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation - Recreation Educational Services

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Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Authorization No. 327157. March 2011.

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