



FINISHING GOVERNOR LEE'S CONSERVATION STRATEGY STRONG

Deputy Commissioner Brian Clifford

August 20, 2026

Conservation Wins



14 New State Parks

During the Lee Administration



22 Million

Annual visitors



\$1 billion investment

In infrastructure and visitor experience



\$254 million investment

In campground and historic cabin renovations



More Conservation Wins

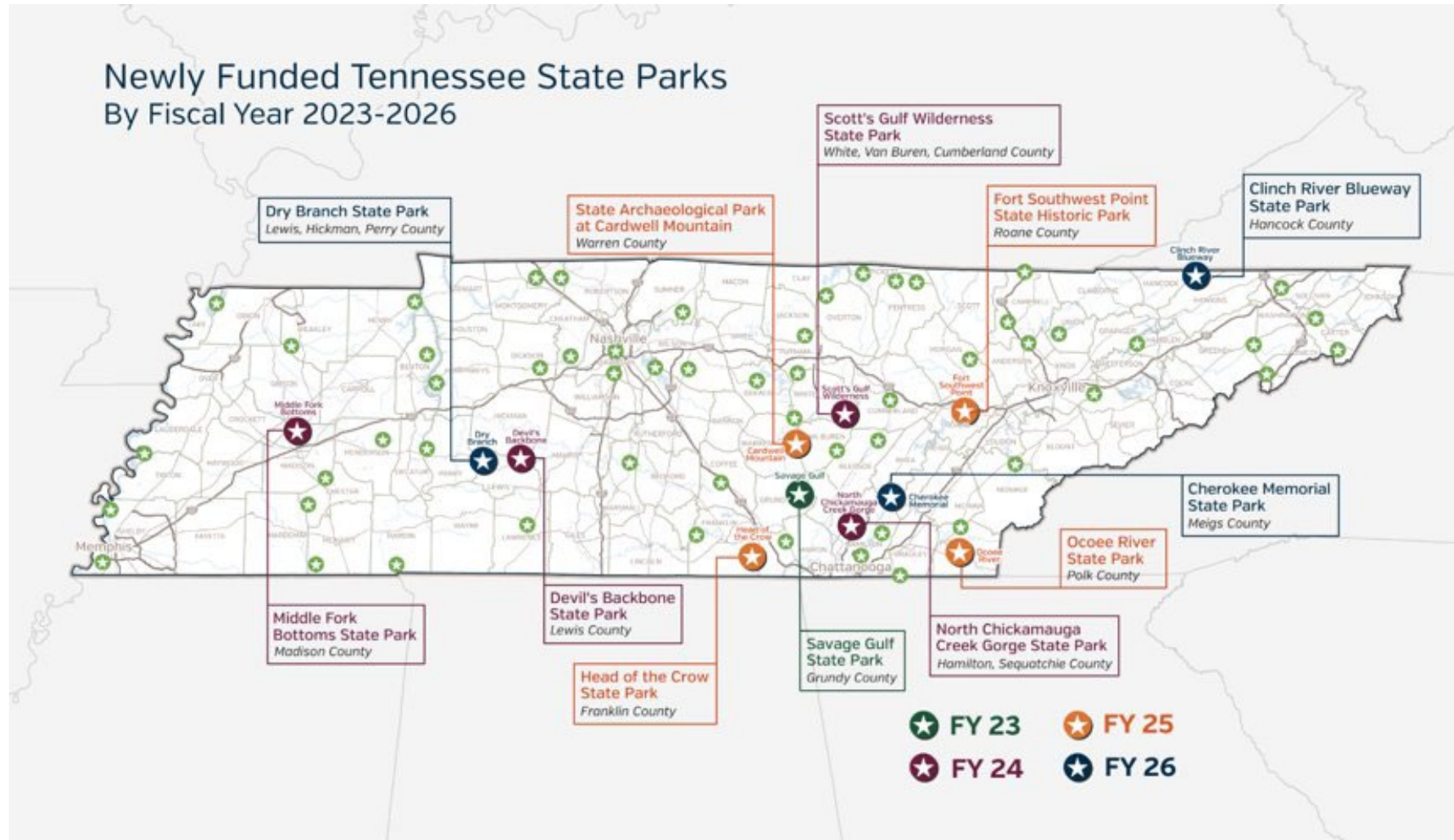


- **Rare species** recovery and restoration efforts
 - Cumberland Sandwort, shortleaf pine, rare orchid, and red cockaded woodpecker
- Demonstrated national leadership in **accessibility**
 - Adaptive equipment, trails, boat launches, and educational programming
- Fostered **collaboration** for critical areas like the Duck River watershed



What Comes Next?

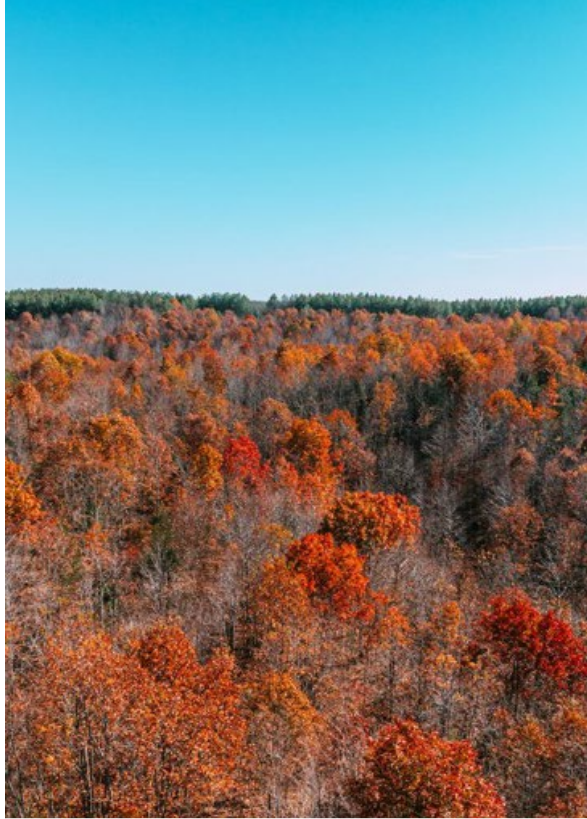
A Growing System of State Parks



Upcoming Park Dedications



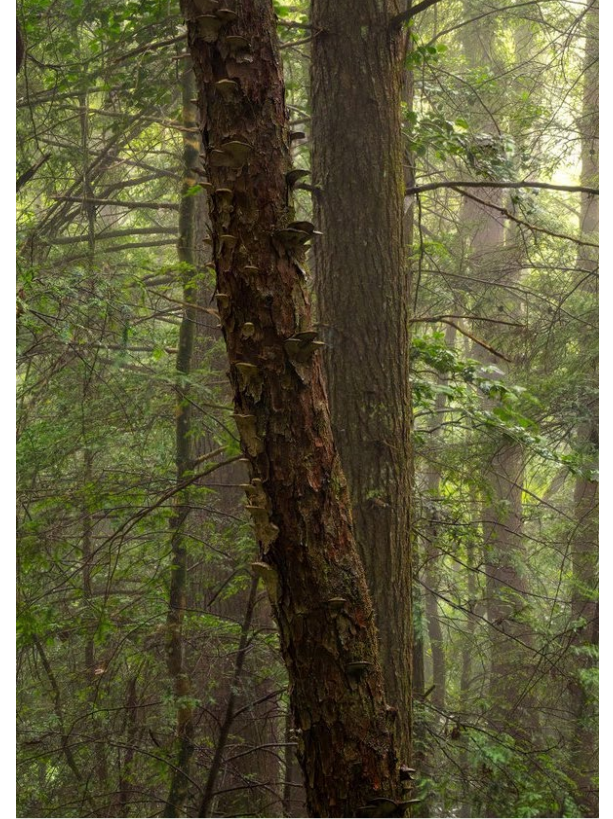
Clinch River Valley



Dry Branch



Buffalo River



Park 70

Outdoor Recreation & TN's Economy

Generates **\$15.6 billion** in Tennessee



Accounts for **114,070 jobs** in Tennessee

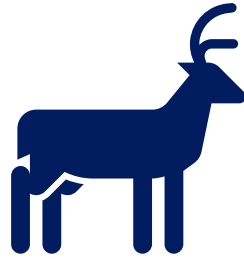


3.3% of all employees in the state



*Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce,
2024*

Top Industries Include:



- Boating/Fishing
- RVing
- Hunting/Shooting/Trapping

Motorcycling/ATVing
Equestrian

Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC)



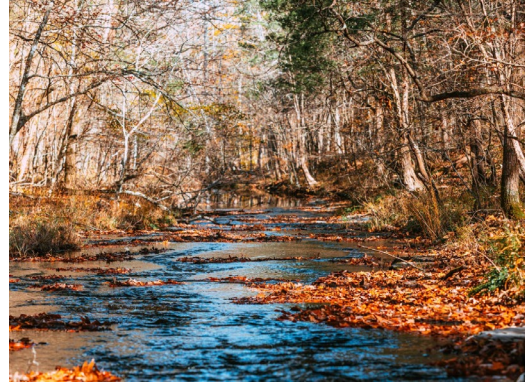
Mission: To advance conservation and expand access to outdoor recreation which improves the quality of life and economy across Tennessee.

OREC Grants



Local Parks & Recreation Fund (LPRF)

Funding for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and recreation facilities.



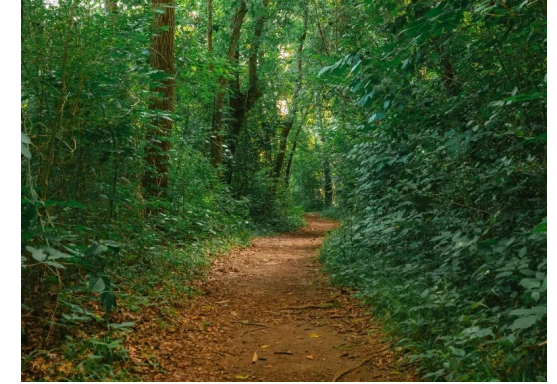
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Matching federal dollars to states for acquiring and developing public parks and outdoor recreation sites.



Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP)

Grants to communities currently without a comprehensive parks and recreation delivery system in operation due to lack of staffing and organization.

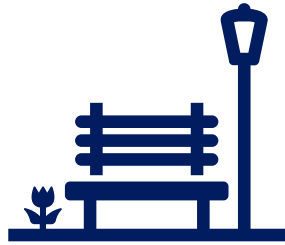


Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Funding for land acquisition for trails; trails maintenance, restoration, rehabilitation, and construction; and trail head support facilities.



FY26 Awards



\$18,985,470

Local Parks and Recreation Fund
(LPRF) to 14 communities



\$1,760,000

Recreational Trails Program
(RTP) to 6 communities



\$560,000

In planning grants to 10
communities



Questions?