



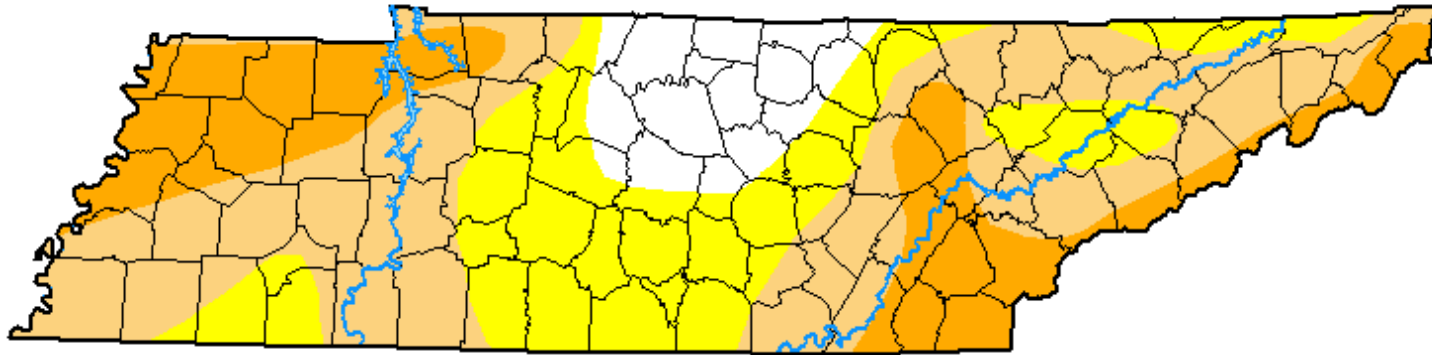
Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

*Tennessee State Library & Archives
Nashville, Tennessee
February 9, 2026*







Agenda

10a	Call to Order	Tara Pedraza, TDEC
10:05	Chairman's Report	Commissioner Salyers
10:15	TDEC Update	April Grippo, TDEC
10:30	Duck River Agency Update	David Money, DRA Executive Director
10:45	TVA Update	Amanda Turk, TVA
11	12/12 Alternatives Workshop Follow up	Craig Parker, Gresham Smith Partners
11:30	Study Presentation	Amanda Rosenberger, Ph.D.
12n	Lunch	
1p	2026 Partnership Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion	Commissioner Salyers
1:45p	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2026 Calendar	Commissioner Salyers
2p	Public Input Period	Tara Pedraza, TDEC
2:30p	Adjourn	Commissioner Salyers

TN Drought Monitor – 02/03/26



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Today: 60% of the state is in some condition of drought

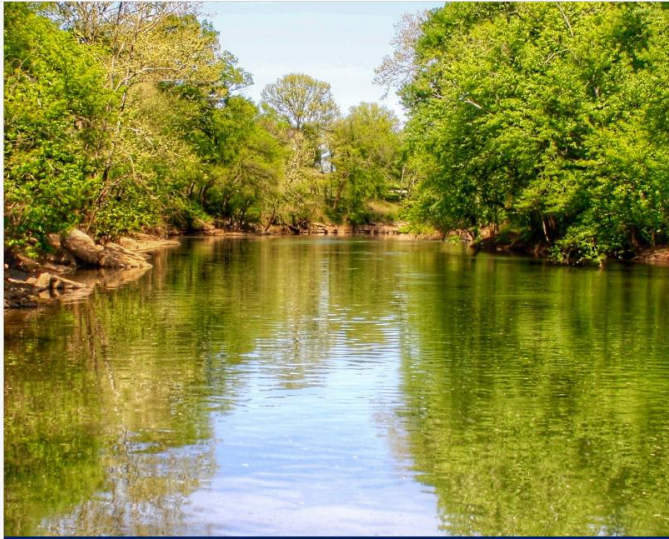
3 Months Ago: Less than 5% the state is in some condition of drought

6 Months Ago: No part of the state was in drought conditions

1 Year Ago: 50% of the state was in drought conditions

www.tn.gov/tnwildlandfire/resources/predictive-services/intelligence/drought-monitor.html

Interim Report & Recommendations



Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership Initial Report

November 20, 2025

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation



18 Initial Recommendations:

- Enhancing interagency coordination and organization to enhance planning, readiness and responsiveness in drought conditions
- Moving expeditiously on feasibility studies and design analyses for identified priority opportunities, including organization/governance forms and engineered solutions
- Accelerating deployment of information resources and decision support tools for leaders, citizens, and stakeholders in the region.
- Implementing effective water loss reduction strategies and water conservation practices, including leveraging community outreach, education channels and trusted source messaging.

Coverage of Interim Report & Recommendations

The Daily Herald.

ws | Sports Entertainment Opinion Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper Legals

NEWS

Duck River report focuses on drought prevention, does not recommend Columbia Dam



Jay Powell

Columbia Daily Herald

Updated Jan. 15, 2026, 9:32 a.m. CT



TENNESSEE | LOOKOUT

HEALTHCARE EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT POLITICS IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATES CASH FOR CLOUT

ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Tennessee River pipeline study among Duck River advisory group's recommendations

Raising Normandy Dam levels included, but building Columbia Dam not among recommendations

BY: CASSANDRA STEPHENSON - DECEMBER 2, 2025 5:00 AM



Duck River Symposium @ HHSP on 12/8



Workshop w/ Gresham Smith on 12/12

Duck River Drought Mitigation

Columbia Reservoir

Interbasin Transfer

Offstream Storage Reservoirs

Presented by: Craig Parker, PE and Becky Higgins, PE, CFM

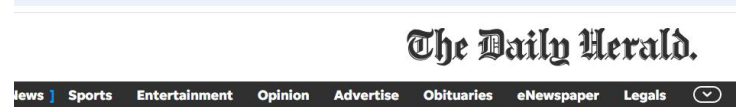


Columbia City Council Approves Rate Increase




Columbia utility planning project to increase its water supply from Duck River

Columbia Power and Water Systems is planning a project that would increase their intake from 20 million to 32 million gallons of water per day from the Duck River.



NEWS

Columbia City Council approves CPWS water rate increases in controversial vote

 **Jay Powell**
Columbia Daily Herald

Updated Jan. 9, 2026, 12:42 p.m. CT



Winter Storm Fern Response

NEWS

Duck River Utility Commission Issues Water Conservation Request

Published 4 days ago



Trending

- 1 Tullahoma City Administrator Sues City And BOMA, Alleges Breach Of Contract
- 2 Marvin Carson Found In Possession Of Child Pornography
- 3 Tullahoma To Add Temporary Traffic Light At Dangerous Intersection
- 4 Tullahoma Opens District By Sweeping Marshall County
- 5 After Investigation, Bedford County Schools Says Gun Threat Not Valid

Tennessee city warns of 'complete water system failure' without conservation

The city said that since the recent cold snap, water demand is over 1,000,000 gallons a day higher than norm



VULNERABLE PIPES

- EXTERIOR WALLS
- UNHEATED SPACES
- GARAGES & CRAWL SPACES
- BASEMENTS & UTILITY ROOMS
- POORLY INSULATED

FIRST ALERT WEATHER

15 COUNTIES REPORT ISSUES WITH DRINKING WATER

4:05 31°

WSMV 4

BART DURHAM INJURY LAW CLOSINGS 4 MAMA LERE HEARING SCHOOL: CLOSED THROUGH 01/29 - EDUCATIONAL AND CHILDCA

BOIL WATER ADVISORIES AFTER WINTER STORM

NEW THIS MORNING

- HICKMAN - CENTERVILLE, TURNEY
- HOUSTON - ERIN
- LEWIS - HOHENWALD
- MACON - LAFAYETTE
- PERRY - LOBELVILLE, LINDEN

NEWS 27°
2 abc 4:45

Planning Partnership Outreach

< Rotary Club of Shelbyville, TN's post



Rotary Club of Shelbyville, TN ·

Follow

Jan 14 · 🌐

We had a fantastic meeting today with guest speaker Chris White. He shared valuable insight into the Duck River project and what it means for our community moving forward. Thank you, Chris, for joining us!

👍 23 💬 🔄 4



Suggestion based on Chris White's recent experience:
Support a standard twenty- to thirty-minute presentation, with modules that can be selected and ordered as appropriate.

- (1) Principal water supply alternatives involving projects and the functional differences among them;
- (2) Storage and release strategy, including why river behavior and expectations differ from past decades;
- (3) Regionalization, its range and elements plus value;
- (4) Pipeline concepts, including Tennessee River and the first-phase work associated with a downstream Columbia intake;
- (5) Drought risks and drought management opportunities;
- (6) Natural resources features; including environmental constraints described in practical terms, what features of the river must be maintained and why, stated in a manner that an ordinary listener can understand without specialized training or predisposition.

2026 Legislative Session

TENNESSEE | LOOKOUT

HEALTHCARE EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT POLITICS IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATES CASH FOR CLOUT

ENVIRONMENT

Water wars continue with 2026 legislation concerning Duck River

Bill seeks to hamper state's regulatory power over river withdrawals

BY: CASSANDRA STEPHENSON - JANUARY 14, 2026 5:00 AM



Duck River

Watershed Planning Partnership



Where water,
community, and
conservation meet.

Studies

Chris White, Chair; Pat Marsh, Vice Chair

- Regionalization Feasibility Study (TDEC-April G.) – **Mayor Butt, lead**
 - Water Demand/Needs Analysis (TDEC-A. Grippo)
 - Ask TVA to Evaluate Raising Normandy Dam (will need GO approval)
 - Ask TDEC to Evaluate Pipeline to TN River (will need GO approval)
 - Ask TDEC to Evaluate Other Interbasin or Off-Stream Reservoir Alternatives
-
- **Chris White, Bedford County; Chair**
 - **Rep. Pat Marsh; Vice Chair**
 - **Mayor Sheila Butt, Lead for Regionalization Study**
 - **Jimmy West, TNECD**
 - **Sen. Joey Hensley**

Drought Management

Amanda Turk, Chair

- Develop statewide Water Management Council
- Drought Management Plan, including DRA
- TDEC should update its statewide drought management plan rules to require utilities to have water shortage response plans — including water withdrawal and water use reductions — that are activated during periods of drought or low river flow.
- Consider installing more gauges to measure flow, groundwater and water quality, potentially in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey to better understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water during low-flow periods.
- Create off-stream storage ponds near water treatment plants to capture and store water during high-flow periods, providing an alternative supply during droughts.
 - **Amanda Turk, TVA, Chair**
 - **Valerie McCormack, USACE**
 - **George Nolan, SELC**
 - **Andy Holt, TDA**

Water Loss

Water Loss (utility) + Education (individual, community)

Jonathan Hardin, Chair

- Establish Water Loss Reduction Plan
- Develop a water use efficiency plan to evaluate, promote and track efficiency practices.
- Promote water-efficient fixtures, smart irrigation, industrial reuse, green infrastructure, and other initiatives to reduce water use and demand.
 - **Jonathan Hardin, CPWS, Chair**
 - **Randal Braker, DRUC**
 - **David Money/Angie Brown, DRA**

Information Resources & Decision Support Tools

David Money, Chair

- Duck River Dashboard (DRA - David M/Angie B)
- TDEC Integrated Water Quality Monitor and Modeling (TDEC - April G)
- South Central TN Development District Duck River Watershed GIS Planning & Decision Making Center Pilot (SCTDD and TDEC)
- **David Money, DRA, Chair**
- **Valerie McCormack, USACE**
- **Amanda Turk, TVA**

Community Outreach/Education

Grace Stranch, Harpeth Conservancy, Chair

- Create and promote educational materials about the Duck River and watershed protection for multiple audiences, including recreational users, nonprofits, farmers and utilities.
- Create and promote a ready-to-use tool kit linking watershed issues like drought and land use to education and actionable steps.
- PPT for Partnership members for presentations, talks,
- Online Resources
- Event Presence
 - **Grace Stranch, Harpeth Conservancy, Chair**
 - **Horace Tipton, TWF**

Natural Resource Conservation & Recreation

Prof. Justin Murdock TN Tech, Chair

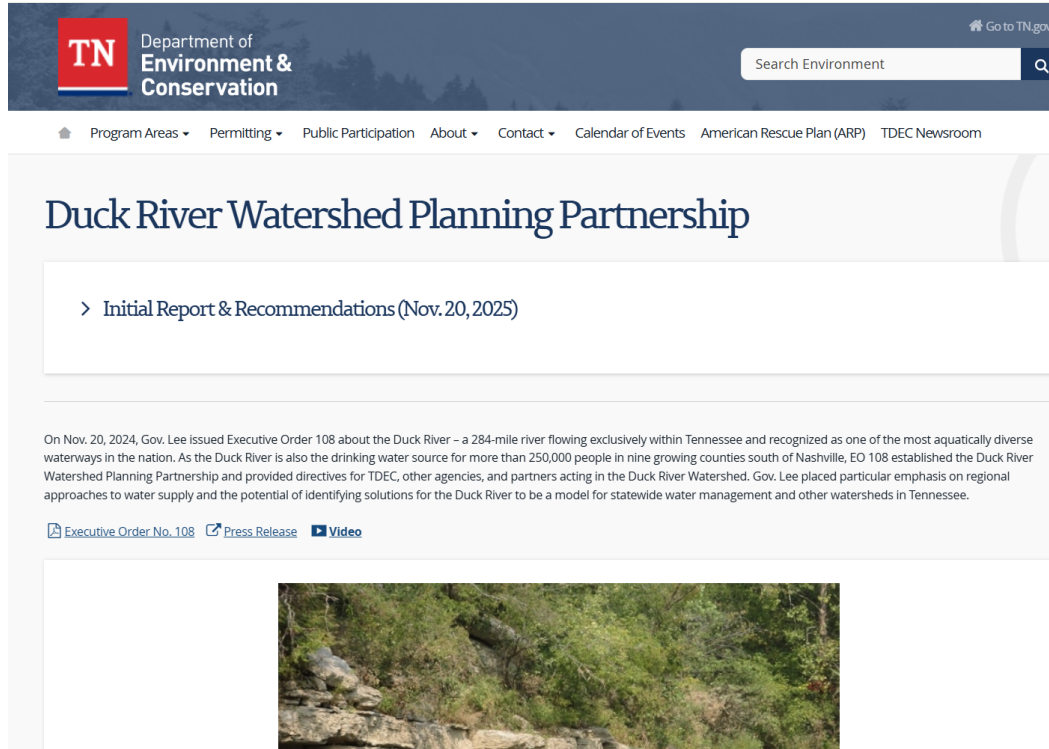
- Provide incentives to private landowners who pursue conservation easements and/or practice sustainable agriculture that protects the river's habitat and water quality.
- Invest in groundwater recharge, green infrastructure and rainwater harvesting projects.
- Create a wetland restoration fund to restore and expand wetlands in the Duck River watershed.
- Encourage local governments to consider adopting overlays creating permanent development buffer zones on each riverbank.
- Develop a watershed-wide growth plan.
 - **Prof. Justin Murdock TN Tech, Chair**
 - **Josh Campbell, TWRA**
 - **Dan Elbert, USFWS**
 - **Grace Stranch/Brian Alford, Harpeth Conservancy**
 - **Mark Thurman, TNC**

Looking Forward

- **Building out strong set of initial recommendations**
- **Evaluating Conveyance/Pipeline & Storage Alternatives**
- **TDEC's Comprehensive Water Withdrawal Permitting Pilot Project continues**
- **We're realizing real time benefits from activities now underway**
 - **TVA Normandy Dam Optimization is operational**
 - **DRUC installing a lower intake in Normandy**
- **Developing 1) updated water needs projections and 2) Regionalization Study in the next 8 months**
- **Continued development of a Habitat Conservation Plan**
- **Community engagement and watershed protection education.**

Touchpoints

Online Presence



The screenshot shows the website header for the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation. The navigation menu includes: Program Areas, Permitting, Public Participation, About, Contact, Calendar of Events, American Rescue Plan (ARP), and TDEC Newsroom. The main content area features the title "Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership" and a link to "Initial Report & Recommendations (Nov. 20, 2025)". A news article is displayed with the text: "On Nov. 20, 2024, Gov. Lee issued Executive Order 108 about the Duck River – a 284-mile river flowing exclusively within Tennessee and recognized as one of the most aquatically diverse waterways in the nation. As the Duck River is also the drinking water source for more than 250,000 people in nine growing counties south of Nashville, EO 108 established the Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership and provided directives for TDEC, other agencies, and partners acting in the Duck River Watershed. Gov. Lee placed particular emphasis on regional approaches to water supply and the potential of identifying solutions for the Duck River to be a model for statewide water management and other watersheds in Tennessee." Below the text are links for "Executive Order No. 108", "Press Release", and "Video". A photograph of a rocky riverbank with green vegetation is shown at the bottom of the article section.

tn.gov/environment/duckriverpartnership

Email at DuckRiver.Partnership@tn.gov

Duck River

Watershed Planning Partnership



Where water,
community, and
conservation meet.

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