



JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER

More Than Just Recreation: TVA Has an Economic Impact on Communities

The amount of money TVA lake recreation contributes in economic development to the Tennessee Valley is truly a staggering number: \$11.9 billion annually. "From the TVA perspective we break things up into three categories, water-based recreation, such as fishing and boating; land-based recreation, such as hiking, biking trails and campgrounds; and stream access sites," said Clay Guerry, TVA Natural Resource Management.

Norris Lake has the most TVA public land east of Chattanooga, valley-wide TVA has 293,000 acres of public use recreation land, he said. Area fishermen know that the tailwaters of Norris Dam offer great trout fishing. The 13-mile stretch below the dam is listed by Trout Unlimited as one of America's Best Trout Streams. TVA is making some improvements near Miller Island to make it an even more enjoyable experience for trout fishermen. "It's a really popular area and we're working to expand that a little bit. We're going to repave a portion and put some steps down into the water to make it a little less slippery when you're in a pair of waders," he said.

"In the last couple of years we've done a lot of work to improve the trail system at the Loyston Point area. We started collecting data recently and found for the months December, January, and February, which is typically the lowest used recreation season, we saw about 1,500 trail users out there in just those three months. It's been really well-received and we're impressed with it," Guerry said. "That draws in people from outside the community and creates economic opportunity. We have lodging and a boat ramp there but we're starting to see people come in specifically to use that trail system," he said.

"Last year, we studied the economic impact of the reservoir-based recreation and that was just under \$12 billion, about \$1 million per mile. This year, we kicked off a study for the stream access sites in northern Georgia and western North Carolina. Next year, we'll move the study to the Powell and Clinch Rivers and then hopefully we'll look at land-based recreation to get the full picture of what TVA means to the region in recreation opportunities," Guerry said.

TVA partners with various state and local agencies to manage reservoirs, land, and stream access sites and also manages 80 recreation areas valley-wide. They have agreements across the Tennessee valley to help manage well over 200 recreation sites such as marinas and campgrounds.

TVA is also promoting what they call "TVAYcations," recreation opportunities for families to stay close to home but still enjoy an affordable yet fun vacation. "If you have someone who can't afford to drive to the beach or rent a beach house, if it's someone limited on time, or even if it's just someone who wants to stay close to home, we have plenty of options available," said Travis Brickey, TVA Senior Program Manager.

TVA has put together several vacation packages detailing opportunities in five regions of the Tennessee Valley - Heart of the Valley (which includes Norris, Melton Hill, Cherokee, Douglas, and Fort Loudon Lakes), Mountain Lake (the Ocoee River, Fontana, Chatuge, and Nottely Lakes), River Gorge (Raccoon Mountain, Nickajack and Chickamauga Lakes), River Shoals (Bear Creek, Guntersville, Wilson, and Wheeler Lakes), River Plains (Beech River, Kentucky and Pickwick Lakes), and the Valley Frontier (Fort Patrick Henry, Boone, Watauga, Wilbur, and South Holston Lakes). Each package gives a description of the various recreational opportunities from boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking, and even bird watching.



TVA also offers an old-fashioned folding road map with locations of TVA dams and reservoirs with recreation opportunities. "TVAcation" packages and maps are available at visitors' centers at all TVA dams or more information can be obtained at www.tva.gov.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Meets with the Public in Kingston

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission met with the public in Kingston on June 5th to discuss a draft conclusion that environmental impacts would be small enough to allow an early site permit to be issued for the Clinch River site in west Oak Ridge, where a small modular nuclear reactor could be built.

While in Kingston, the NRC staff discussed the agency's draft environmental impact statement on the early site permit application for the 1,200-acre Clinch River site, which is south of East Tennessee Technology Park (the former K-25 site) and east of State Route 58.

"The NRC is interested in the public's views on the agency's overall draft conclusion that environmental impacts would be small enough to allow the agency to issue the permit."

The NRC meeting was at Noah's Event Venue, which is at 1200 Ladd Landing Boulevard in Kingston. NRC staff described the environmental review process and the conclusions of the draft environmental impact statement. The Tennessee Valley Authority submitted the Clinch River application in May 2016 and provided follow-up information throughout the year. "The early site permit process determines whether a site is suitable for future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant," the NRC spokesman stated.

WRECC of KY Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Warren Rural Electric Cooperative, started in 1938 as a result of the federal Rural Electrification Act, is celebrating its 80th anniversary with several events in southcentral Kentucky.

WRECC's first board of directors signed articles of incorporation March 31, 1938, after collecting signatures from potential customers in Warren, Simpson and Edmonson counties.

Eighty years later, WRECC's service territory includes eight counties in southcentral Kentucky, more than 65,000 member-owners and more than 5,000 miles of transmission lines. Due to the region's growth over the years, WRECC is now one of the largest electricity providers in the Tennessee Valley Authority area.

Scott Ramsey, WRECC's president and CEO, said electric cooperatives are unique in that they are owned by their members. "We are taking this opportunity to celebrate our history and thank our members for their outstanding support over the last 80 years," Ramsey said.



Tyson Foods Groundbreaking in Gibson County

Before a larger than anticipated crowd gathered at the Gibson County Industrial Park, Tyson representatives held a groundbreaking ceremony.

Leaders of Tyson Foods, Inc., along with local and state officials, gathered at the future site of the company's new chicken processing plant in the Gibson County Industrial Park.

The approximately \$300 million project is expected to create more than 1,500 local jobs once the new complex begins operations, currently expected to be in late 2019.

Tyson Foods also announced it is providing Gibson County with a \$500,000 community grant along with plans for a local steering committee to decide how the money will be used. The steering committee will be comprised of community leaders and Tyson Foods team members.

The plant will produce pre-packaged trays of fresh chicken for retail grocery stores nationwide. It is expected to process 1.25 million birds per week, increasing Tyson Foods' overall production capacity by the same amount. The payroll and payments to farmers from the new operation, along with its purchase of grain and utilities, is expected to generate an annual economic benefit to the state of Tennessee of approximately \$150 million.

In addition to the numerous Tyson corporate and local representatives and staff from the Obion County plant, there were farmers, dignitaries and many well-wishers.



Taking a Walk Through History in Downtown Paris, TN

Downtown Paris is full of history and intrigue, but one of the most unique things about downtown is its ability to combine history and art with the Back Alley Paris Project. The Back Alley Paris Project started back in 2013 as a way to revitalize the alleys in downtown Paris and is now in its fifth year. The project features murals that tell stories about Downtown Paris throughout the late 1800s to early 1900s.

"We thought about the project as an outdoor museum and tourism project," said Kathy Ray, executive director of the Downtown Paris Association. "None of this would be possible without the support from our government officials and the community, especially former city manager Carl Holder."

Before the Back Alley Paris Project began, the City of Paris had begun working on restoring the alleys. Ray said that one of the problems the city had was that the alleys were paved, and every time there was a water leak, they would have to tear up the road to get to the leak. The city hired pavers to come and lay cobblestone which looks nicer and is functional, because if there's a leak it's easier to get to. Once the City of Paris finished their work, the DPA started to think of ideas that would utilize the newly finished alleys.

"Originally we thought of putting flower boxes in around the alleys, but that would put all of the maintenance and upkeep on the building owners," Ray said. "We decided that we knew that the alleys would be about combining history and art, and so we brought local artists in to paint murals in each of the alleyways. Each artist paints one alley, which helps keep the continuity of the murals."

The first phase of the Back Alley Paris Project on the south alley beside the Paris Downtown City Park features murals that were painted by Jane Griffin Baars. The murals depict businesses in downtown Paris in the early 1900. "For the Back Alley Project, we had to do a lot of research, especially since you can't paint historic brick," said Ray. "When we started Windows of the West Alley, we couldn't paint the brick because the brick is historic. But we did find that the windows weren't historic, so we were able to paint the windows which is where the idea of Windows of the West Alley came from. My husband, Larry Ray, did a lot of research on historic events that happened on the west side of the square, so that's what is featured in the west alley."

The Windows of the West Alley located behind Jack Jones Flowers & Gifts features four murals and a self-portrait painted by Dan Knowles and John Monroe. Each mural features a story listed below the mural about the history of the painting. "You can walk through the Windows of the West Alley and read the history of some of the events that happened on the west side of the square," Ray said. "In each of the paintings in the west alley you will find a woman in a red dress, a chandelier or a lighting fixture and Kilroy."

The fourth phase of the project is a mural painted by Knowles titled "Voyage Diachronique" (Journey through time) that focuses on what makes Paris special. "The mural has two focuses, the railroad in the 1800s which brought commerce to the community and the rural hardworking community that is Paris," said Ray. The outdoor wall mural features the history of Paris and the three courthouses that downtown Paris has seen from the log cabin courthouse to the brick courthouse that burned down and the current courthouse that Paris has. The mural also features historic places and events like the Battle of Paris, Camp Tyson, Lee School, Grove Tower and more.



“Dan Knowles painted it in the studio, which is a really new idea because all of the other murals were painted outside on the brick so we always had to worry about the weather,” said Ray. “This was a new idea, and it worked really well. We will continue to paint buildings, but we will also incorporate these murals into alleys that are historic and that we might not be able to paint.”

Ray said that those who want to view the murals from the Back Alley Paris Project can do so by downloading the Downtown Paris Association app and clicking on the Back Alley Paris Project, view pictures and take a tour of the alleys. The tour of the alleys also features actress Cherry Jones, a native of Paris, who reads each story that is featured in the Windows of the West Alley. The DPA, City of Paris and Lee Academy for the Arts partnered up for the Back Alley Paris Project, which was made possible by obtaining grants from the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Securing America from a Valley in Tennessee

What is Y-12? Even to most East Tennesseans, that answer is never quite clear. Long shrouded in secrecy, the Y-12 National Security Complex has received a variety of designations over its history.

Seventy-five years ago, Y-12’s original purpose was to serve as one of several vital components to World War II’s Manhattan Project. The enriched uranium that fueled the world’s first atomic weapon was produced there, next to the “secret city” of Oak Ridge built to house the thousands of scientists, engineers and workers throughout the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Throughout the Cold War, Y-12 supplied materials, machining, and other expertise vital to keeping the peace and avoiding global conflict, while partnering with scientists to pioneer medical isotope production and providing its world-class machining capabilities for national interests.

Today, Y-12 is a key component in the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Nuclear Weapons Enterprise. With a focus on more than just nuclear weapons, Y-12 has expanded its missions to include:

- Securing special nuclear materials and preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world;
- Taking much of the material that it once used to create weapons and creating feedstock for the U.S. Nuclear Navy’s reactors, or blending it down into fuel for commercial reactors. In fact, TVA’s Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant has operated since 2005 with material provided by Y-12; and
- Taking 75 years of experience protecting nuclear materials and teaching private business, education institutions and their local law enforcement how to protect their nuclear sources from terrorists.

The composition of the Y-12 site is changing to better accomplish its missions. Millions of square feet of obsolete buildings have been removed with a goal of reducing the active footprint at Y-12 by almost half in the next decade. In addition to Tennessee’s largest construction project — the Uranium Processing Facility — smaller, more efficient facilities are replacing the worn-out production, laboratory, and office spaces. The investments being made in Y-12 will ensure its ability to maintain national security now and in the future.



TVA, Oak Ridge and Huntsville 'helped transform our country,' says Senator Lamar Alexander

The 2018 Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit, which was held in early June in the New Hope Center at the Y-12 National Security Complex, celebrates three regional milestones:

- The city of Oak Ridge's 75th anniversary;
- Tennessee Valley Authority's 85th anniversary, and
- The 50th anniversary of NASA's Apollo 8 mission.

All three major events were highlighted in a single inspiring presentation made by U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander at the TVC Summit. "United States Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado came by my office a few weeks ago," Alexander recalled. "He said, 'If you fly anywhere in the world today and look down, you will see cars which first rolled off an assembly line developed by Henry Ford, lights made possible by Thomas Edison's lightbulb and you'll be flying at 30,000 feet in an airplane invented by the Wright brothers.

"We are celebrating the anniversaries of three important American undertakings that are a part of the story of America's science and technology success," he said. "Let's start with TVA," the senator said, "because without TVA, Oak Ridge and even our missions to the moon might have never happened."

Eighty-five years ago, Alexander recalled, when Congress created TVA the region lagged behind the rest of the country "in almost every indicator" schools, health and jobs. "Housing was substandard and illiteracy was twice the national average," he said. "The rural areas in the Tennessee Valley were not electrified only three in 100 farmers had electricity, and even fewer had running water. Senator Alexander recalled that President Kennedy, in his remarks at the 30th anniversary celebration of TVA, stated: "Some said it couldn't be done. Some said it shouldn't be done. Some said it wouldn't be done. But today, 30 years later, it HAS been done and there is still more for TVA to do. In short," said President Kennedy, "the work of TVA will never be over. There will always be new frontiers for it to conquer. For in the minds of men the world over, the initials TVA stand for progress and the people of this area are not afraid of progress." Senator Alexander said that over the last 85 years, TVA has brought more than electricity. "It has tamed the rivers, created lakes, cleaned up the air, and improved the quality of life in the TVA region. President Roosevelt not only helped bring TVA to Tennessee," Alexander said, "but he also helped create Oak Ridge."

Oak Ridge turned out to be one of three "secret cities" that became the principal sites for the Manhattan Project. As such, Oak Ridge needed a lot of power; the amount of reliable power that only TVA could provide. "Oak Ridge's accomplishments over the last 75 years would take all day to list, but it is safe to say that Oak Ridge leads the world in science and energy research, supercomputing, and is critical to our national security," said Alexander.

"In this region," Alexander said, "we also know how science and research have helped us get to the moon. Twelve human beings have walked on the moon, all Americans. Fifty years ago, Apollo 8 launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida. But the Saturn V rocket for Apollo 8, the rocket that supported mankind's first trip around the moon was developed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. That rocket," said Alexander, "was designed, built and tested by talented engineers in Huntsville, paved the way for 'One giant leap for Mankind' and supported all six Apollo missions that successfully landed on the moon."

"The Apollo missions not only successfully took man to the moon, but also led to discoveries that impact our lives today including the CAT scan, the microchip, and memory foam," said the senator. "The Space Race helped bring



American innovation into our hospitals, computers and homes. We have seen what has happened during the last 85, 75 and 50 years. Now let's build on that success and support the research necessary for the next 85 years!"

See ATVG Agenda and Registration below for the summer meeting July 18 and 19 at the **Cold Water Inn Tuscumbia, AL**



Association of Tennessee Valley Governments Meeting Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$40.00 for members and affiliates; \$95.00 for non-members

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Registration Fee for spouse is included/No additional charge

Company/Organization: _____

Full Address: _____

Make checks payable to: Association of Tennessee Valley Governments- P.O. Box 3578 – Clarksville, TN 37043

ATVG Report:

A quarterly publication of the Association of
Tennessee Valley Governments:

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ATVG is a 501(c) (4), not-for-profit, public interest
organization.

ATVG advocates for the interests of county and city/town
governments residing within the seven-state TVA region
and their partners in the public and private sectors.

*For details about ATVG's mission and program of work,
visit us on line at: www.atvg.org*