



The Tennessee RiverLine Partnership is a diverse group of river advocates committed to building a shared vision for the Tennessee RiverLine and stewarding it toward implementation.

This growing partnership, comprised of tourism professionals, scholars, planners, agency leaders and non-profit directors, is driven by the support of the following entities for the Tennessee RiverLine vision:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE • TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY • NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • THE NATURE CONSERVANCY • TENNESSEE RIVER VALLEY STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL • MUSCLE SHOALS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA • SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE TOURISM ASSOCIATION • UT COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN • UT SCHOOL OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • UT CHATTANOOGA, INTERDISCIPLINARY GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY LAB • TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT • TENNESSEE STATE PARKS • CITY OF KNOXVILLE • BENESCH • TRIBAL CONNECTIONS CONSULTING • RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER (PADUCAH, KY) • TENNESSEE AQUARIUM

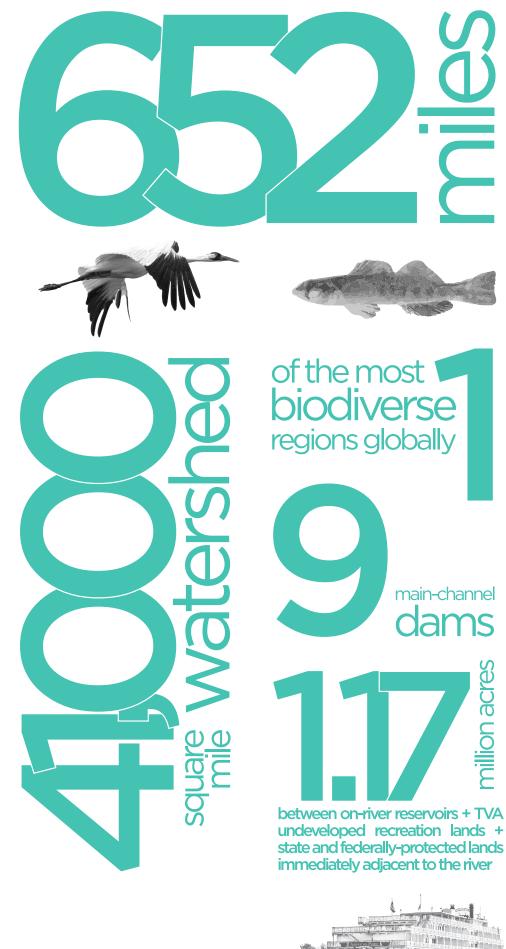
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million watershed residents

In Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky, the 652-mile reach of the Tennessee River touches 32 counties and dozens of cities, towns and rural communities:

KNOXVILLE LOUISVILLE FARRAGUT LENOIR CITY LOUDON KINGSTON ROCKWOOD SPRING CITY DAYTON CHATTANOOGA SIGNAL MOUNTAIN JASPER KIMBALL SOUTH PITTSBURG • ALABAMA • BRIDGEPORT STEVENSON SCOTTSBORO LANGSTON GUNTERSVILLE HUNTSVILLE TRIANA MOORESVILLE DECATUR ROGERSVILLE KILLEN FLORENCE MUSCLE SHOALS WATERLOO • MISSISSIPPI • EASTPORT IUKA • TENNESSEE • RED SULPHUR SPRINGS COUNCE CRUMP SAVANNAH SALTILLO CLIFTON DECATURVILLE PARSONS NEW JOHNSONVILLE CAMDEN BIG SANDY PARIS • KENTUCKY • MURRAY GRAND RIVERS CALVERT CITY PADUCAH





STORIES WORTH TELLING

The Tennessee River Valley is home to some of our nation's most important histories, modern accomplishments and ecological treasures.

For centuries, the banks of the Tennessee River were home to thriving communities of Native Americans. Tragically, the same river that sustained their towns and trading posts later carried Native Peoples from their homelands on the Trail of Tears water route.

The Tennessee River was a major actor in the American Civil War. An artery of the southern economy, the river later bade federal armies passage to the heart of the Confederacy, and its shores were host to some of the war's pivotal and bloodiest battles.

The landscape of the Tennessee River is also home the iconic, multi-functional infrastructures of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The initiatives of the TVA changed the course of world history and still today serve as a global model for integrated natural resource management that continues to shape the development and prosperity of an entire region.

There are more fish, insects, mussels, snails and other forms of life in the Tennessee River and its tributary waterways than there are in any other river system in North America. More than 100 species of freshwater mussels and 270 species of fish call the Tennessee River system home, including threatened and endangered species, as well as species not found anywhere else in the world.

The stories of the Tennessee River are stories worth telling.

A RIVER AT RISK

Rivers are the foundations of our communities, sustaining populations and economies that have sought to tame and harness them over time. The Tennessee River Valley has become one of the most desirable places to live, work and play in the country. However, the demands that communities place on the river threatens its future health and resiliency, and in turn, our own.

The Tennessee River is separated from the communities it sustains by physical and psychological barriers. These barriers limit the public's ability to experience the river and witness its beauty. As a result, the degradation of the river's banks and pollution from diverse sources goes unnoticed, compromising fragile wildlife habitats and the health of the ecosystems they support.

As our society and economy drift from their river origins, communities once intimately linked by the Tennessee River stand to lose their sense of connection to one another, to the river landscape and its heritage, and to their identity as part of something much larger: the Tennessee River Valley.

The great challenges of the Tennessee River's present offer great opportunities for its future. The Tennessee RiverLine inspires new thinking amongst generations of committed river stewards to unlock the river's latent potentials and renew our relationship with this valuable natural resource.

TENNESSEE RIVERLINE

A vision for a continuous system of paddling, hiking and biking experiences along the Tennessee River's 652-mile reach from Knoxville, TN, to Paducah, KY, that:



celebrates the beauty, diversity and history of the Tennessee River Valley

connects the people and communities of the valley to each other, to their river heritage and to the Tennessee River landscape



catalyzes new investments, economic opportunity, social health and ecological stewardship

A TRAIL LIKE NO **OTHER**

The Tennessee RiverLine is unlike any other trail system of similar length. It reframes the Tennessee River landscape, adjacent public lands and communities, and the adventure experiences that each offer, as a dynamic 1.2 million acre park.

By providing a framework of opportunities for all Tennessee River communities and land owners to enhance their relationship with the river, the Tennessee RiverLine is positioned as a strategic infrastructure of local and regional economic development, a quality of life amenity for enhanced public health and a strategy to build a multi-generational constituency of users advocating for and participating in the stewardship of the river's fragile ecosystems and biodiversity.

Initial reaches of the Tennessee RiverLine will be comprised of existing water trails, access points and other supporting amenities whose stakeholders agree to be identified as a part of the larger trail system. Over time, local investments in new infrastructures of public access, information and experience, as well as reinvestments in existing amenities, connect to provide a continuous and safe Tennessee RiverLine experience.



From Knoxville, TN, to Paducah, KY, the Tennessee River stretches 652 miles and touches four states: Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. Its 41,000 square mile watershed is home to more than 4.5 million residents, over half of which live in communities along its banks.

The Tennessee River, its tributary system and its contributing watershed form a diverse territory defined by celebrated and iconic landscapes. High mountains, rolling hills and gentle valleys, highland rims and coastal plains bid the river passage from its origin in East Tennessee to its confluence with the Ohio River in Western Kentucky.

A river of such splendor deserves to be seen and experienced by all. The Tennessee River, as one of North America's great rivers, merits the development of a great river trail.

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Solution In RiverLine.org



a vision for north america's next great regional trail system





Tennessee RiverLine Partnership