



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Sevens Islands Wildlife Refuge, located on a peninsula of the French Broad River just before it joins the Holston River in east Knox County, features aquatic and riparian habitats supporting an impressive diversity of wildlife species while sitting along an important migratory path for birds; and

**WHEREAS**, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge provides river bottom fields with wildlife-friendly native grasses as food for quail and songbirds and expansive tree canopies as cover for more than 160 identified species of birds; and

**WHEREAS**, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge was donated to Knox County by the Seven Islands Foundation in 2001 and has since been managed as a wildlife sanctuary that features hiking, observation, and a demonstration area for land use and habitat management; and

**WHEREAS**, Knox County has decided to transfer the 360-acre Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge property to the State of Tennessee effective July 1, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge has the potential to develop watchable wildlife sites and trails while becoming the flagship for a statewide birding tour that will attract many visitors and generate valuable tourist revenue for the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge and its surroundings are distinctive land and wildlife habitat worthy of preservation for future generations to enjoy and admire; and

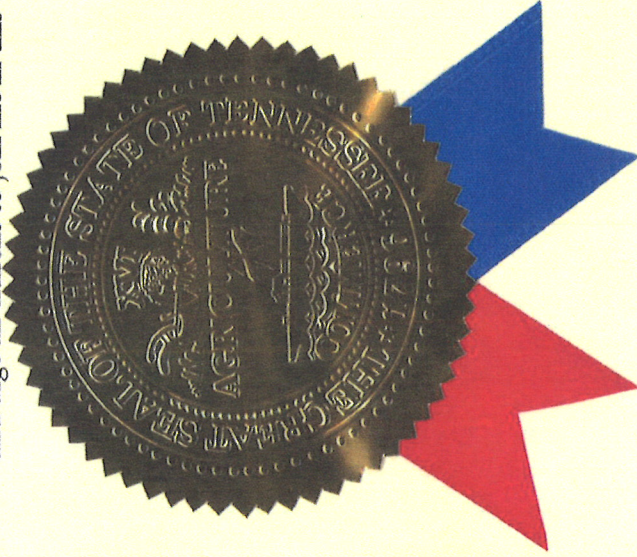
**WHEREAS**, the Seven Islands Foundation, the Legacy Parks Foundation, Knox County, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and numerous individuals and organizations have participated in the effort to conserve and protect Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee State Parks has the skill, ability, and commitment to manage and maintain this unique natural place as a scenic, accessible site for recreation and enjoyment;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim and establish the land possessed by the State of Tennessee at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge as

*Seven Islands State Birding Park*

and urge all citizens to join me in this worthy recognition of our state's newest state park.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-second day of June, 2014.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State